

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER 10, 2025

Council Members Present:

Diane Boscarino, Beth Brower, Pastor Scott Cady, Pamela Little, Judy Ludwig, Dana O'Brien, Kathy Olkowski, Valerie Vega

Members Absent:

Vinni Carey

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Council President Diane Boscarino at 7:00 pm

Devotions and Prayer –

Prayer led by Pastor Cady.

Celebrations, Appreciation and Thank You

Letter of Thank you from Ron & Dixie Travis for all the hard work that council does. Pastor thanked everyone for the wonderful Pastor appreciation celebration.

Privilege of the Floor – None

Approval of Council Minutes

M/S/P Pamela Little, Val Vega to approve the minutes of October 13, 2025, as amended. Correct spelling.

Council reviewed the minutes from the two congregational meetings.

Pastor's Report – Scott Cady

Pastoral events:

- 5 pastoral conversations
- 1 home visit with communion
- 2 Nursing Home visits one with communion

St. Paul's classes, meetings, events, etc.:

- Men's Breakfast
- 4 zoom Bible studies
- 4 in-person Bible studies
- IT meeting
- Worship and Music committee mtg
- Potluck and praise

- 4 regular worship services
- 4 anthem choir rehearsals
- 4 Confirmation classes
- 3 contemporary choir rehearsals
- 3 Confirmation classes
- Trunk or Treat
- Fall Fair
- Christian Ed meeting

Other:

- 2 sessions reading to Hilltop
- 1 vacation day used
- Chamber of Commerce breakfast re: a new Exchange Club for the NW corner
- Griefshare group
- Nonmember wedding
- Reference letter for college application

Discretionary Fund balance \$79

Reflections

Our efforts in several areas are doing well. Fall Fair was well attended and brought in good income. Socktober was successful. Reformation food collection was great. Pledges are slowly incoming - please fill one out if you have not - and the average pledge is over \$70 per week. My new confirmation class is excellent and it's a pleasure to have a rotation of volunteers to sit with me so there are two adults in the room. A new volunteer has stepped forward to be on the healing rotation. The occasional sharing in worship is going well. The Bible studies are developing into mini communities of prayer and mutual support. The roof over the office is well underway. The conversation with TAFA is shaping up. The Girl Scouts are returning to our building. The Thanksgiving service has good support among several other churches. We have a request from someone who came to last year's Blue Christmas service to offer it again. While Norfolk UCC is offering one, it is on the 10th of Dec. If the worship and music committee wants to do one, we'd do it on either the 20th or 21st - the longest night. Griefshare - the grief support group offered at Trinity Episcopal - is small, but a real help to those who come. I am an adjunct leader there, attending 3 of the 13 weeks to offer a clergy presence. Puppitude is about to re-emerge for children's sermons on occasion, and will lead a story in January to celebrate Epiphany. Because we moved the Advent project to the week before Advent, I will be there for that as well. Robin and I are excited to form a fully functioning Evangelism/Outreach team early next year. We hope some of you might join. We will explore several ways to get the word out more effectively both about the Gospel of Christ, and invitation to come to St. Paul's. We're also reaching out this year to local businesses for donations for our needed repairs, stressing how connected we all are in serving our local community. The web page is coming along as part of that effort. I'm reading twice a month to the Hilltop kids to build up that connection.

Thank you all for all that you do and for your support of my ministry.

So far 28 members have turned in the stewardship forms. Suggested that ushers hand out the forms as people enter the service.

Treasurer's Report

If the debit card is used, a requisition **MUST** be filled out the same day it is used and given to the Bookkeeper so that accurate reports can be filled out.

Pamela Little presented the 2026 budget in detail, to the Council.

Beth Brower thanked Pamela Little and the Finance Committee for all the work they did on the 2026 Budget.

M/S/P Diane Boscarino, Beth Brower to recommend the 2026 Budget to the Congregation.

Use of Facilities

TAFAs- (Torrington area families for autism) still awaiting final approval of the Tebow Foundation for prom. Christina has been working on a more formalized plan for rental space for school program. The Prom will happen on Feb. 13, 2026, she needs the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, bathrooms, and a classroom.

Updates:

Council President, Diane Boscarino announced that Karen Ness had resigned from Council, effective immediately.

Land purchase- Borghsi has not heard from owners of land and will discuss more in the meeting. He is still looking into it.

Solar project- Financials have been approved. On the next step.

Insurance audit- We have to look into an electrical box. I have to send pictures of a few things and give updates of when things were purchased. An electrician and a supplier will be looking at the box.

Community fundraising letter - Pastor, Diane and Pamela met and Rachel will start sending out letters this month. Pamela and Diane will help stuff letters. There are approximately 100 businesses that will receive the letter. Rachel will keep track of which businesses donate.

Cell tower- waiting on info from Jo Ko

Website- needs a few more corrections is almost complete.

Old Business:

Committee working relationships- agendas, people’s opinions, etc.- on going

Finding new council members and officers- opening

Emergency line - new protocol will happen in Jan after election of new officers

New Business:

Congregational budget agenda and budget –

M/S/P Beth Brower, Pamela Little to approve the agenda for the Dec. 18, 2025, Congregational Meeting.

Review liaisons and chairs take back to committees-

Mobile food truck request- someone asked Diane if they could park their food truck and give out food, in our driveway, she needs more information. They contacted Diane, they are waiting for paperwork from the city, and she will bring the information back to council.

Items in fireproof safe- Diane is looking at what information is in the safe. What can be disposed of and what needs to be kept. Pastor will contact the Lutheran Historical Society to see if any of the information is of historical value. Once the safe is organized, she would like to have it moved to the lower storage unit.

Response to letters sent from Council.

Committee/Organization Reports

Administration – Liaison: Diane Boscarino Report:

Sorry for the late report, last week was a whirlwind! I am happy to announce that as of December 1, I will be a City Councilwoman for the City of Torrington. Chris Ed computer is in and getting set up with data transfer from DataHal. We are actively taking orders for delivery of Thanksgiving meals provided by the Columbus Club, so it is a busy phone time.

October 2025	Attendees	Last Year	Season
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5	153	62	Pent 14/1st Communion
12	61	66	Pent 12
19	96	72	Pent 19
26	114	84	Reformation

Altar Guild – Liaison: Beth Brower

The St. Paul’s women will help the Altar Guild by putting together a Thanksgiving display on the altar, along with the Altar Guild. Alison Lepage and Marion Christopoulos did it for years. Display will be filled with fruits and veggies that will then go to the Soup Kitchen on Wednesday morning. So, not only will it be lovely, but it will then help feed clients of the Community Kitchen.

Christian Education – Liaison: Pamela Little

We met last Monday and decided on a Christmas pageant. I ordered the “One Rehearsal Christmas Pageant” book on Tuesday, and it arrived on Thursday. We will be doing our Advent Family project a week early on Christ the King Sunday so Pastor can have Thanksgiving weekend off. Michelle Skibesky got a Thrivent Action Team grant for supplies. The congregation is invited to participate.

We have a couple of little girls who really want to sing in church. A couple of parents are “all in” in hopes of doing something. Worship & Music will discuss it this week at their meeting.

Congregational Care – Liaison: Kathy Olkowski – No Report

Eucharistic Ministry – Liaison: Pamela Little

Eucharistic Minister	Congregation Member Name	Visited	Date	Took Communion	Comments/ Concerns	Request Pastoral Visit
Bonnie Schaff	<i>Gloria Thibault</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>10/2, 10/10, 10/23</i>	<i>Yes</i>		
Pam Ewing	<i>Eleanor Klonoski</i>	<i>Not visited</i>				
	<i>Betty Hilton</i>				Pam agreed to call Betty and set up a time starting in November	
Leah Seleman	<i>Renate Reise</i>	<i>Not Reported</i>				
Pamela Little	<i>Helen Winzler</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>10/23</i>	<i>Yes</i>	We had a nice visit	
	<i>Ernie Marquard</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>10/28</i>	<i>Yes</i>	Audrey and Ernie both took communion	

	<i>Denise Gammon</i>	<i>Not visited</i>				
Need someone to visit	<i>Wallace Gangell</i>	<i>Not visited</i>				
Need someone to visit	<i>James Wolfinger</i>	<i>Not visited</i>				
Cynthia Rose	<i>Midge Rosenbeck</i>	<i>Not Reported</i>				

Evangelism – Liaison: Dana O’Brien – No Report

Family Ministry – Liaison: Diane, Val, Pamela, Judy– No Report

Fellowship – Liaison: –

No report this month since we haven’t had anything going on. Next effort will be the Super Bowl Chili, Grinder, and Chef Salad sale in early February. For several years, all of the proceeds of our dinners/sales has gone into the general fund.

Finance – Liaison: Val Vega – No Report

Garden of Memories – Liaison: Vinni Carey – No Report

Grants – Liaison: Pamela Little -

Hilltop – Liaison: Pamela Little

Registration 2025-2026

- T/Th 2 7
- MWF 3&4 17
- M-F 17
- M-F SR 14 + 1 (2 days)

Maintenance & Repairs

- Getting ready for the Insurance inspection. The list was very thorough, and most items were inexpensive and easy to get. Opening up the pad locks proved challenging!

Staffing

- Our new substitutes have been able to shadow a couple of days and fortunately, we have some days that we need them in advance. It’s working out nicely. Christina has agreed to stay on in the 2’s for the year.

Early Start CT (ESCT) updates 2025/2026

- I am happy to report that all the ESCT spaces are full!

- The new ESCT program is taking up a lot of time with paperwork and meetings via zoom and in person. (You don't realize how much work the intermediary did!)

Other business

- Hilltop will have a "Pink OUT" day, Oct 24th to support breast cancer awareness. One of our new teachers, Brianna, is a 2-year survivor!
- Hilltop Professional Development was held on Oct 10 with an in-person workshop provided by OEC and facilitated by Ed Advance.
- Annual Picture Day is Nov 12th. Only one day this year a new company Lifetouch
- Classroom "Fall" Celebrations will take place Oct 30 and Oct 31.
- Barbara will represent Hilltop at St. Paul's Trunk or Treat event Oct 26
- Barbara will represent Hilltop at the St. Paul's Craft Fair Nov 1. Shout out to all who donated items! It is greatly appreciated.
- Fall fundraiser- Nutmeg Spice Co. Sale begins Oct 15th – Oct 31
- Family Thanksgiving Feast is scheduled for Friday Nov 14. Planning with staff this week. This year will be more of a family "potluck"
- Bingo is scheduled for March 6th.

IT/Website – Liaison: Judy Ludwig

We had an IT Audit done by DataHal and they will be getting back to us with a report on possible upgrades. The new ChrisEd computer has arrived and DataHal is migrating the information from the old one to the new one. The website is coming along, still have little items that need to be tweaked/corrected. Current bulletins, newsletters, council minutes, (Rachel is posting them), and live streaming videos on YouTube are up and running.

Property – Liaison: Diane Boscarino/Pamela Little – No Report

Puppettude – Liaison: Judy Ludwig – No Report

Safety – Liaison: - No Report

Scholarship – Liaison: Val Vega

Sharing Garden – Liaison: Kathy Olkowski – No Report

Social Concerns– Liaison: Karen Ness – No Report

Soup Kitchen – Liaison: Beth Brower – No Report

Staff Support – Liaison: Judy Ludwig– No Report

Stewardship – Liaison: Pastor Cady – No Report

St. Paul's W/ELCA – Liaison: Vinni Carey

Wayne Yurgalevicz are providing one with some other dinner items.

Our Fall Fair was very successful. We had wonderful participation not only from our women but also from the congregation. As always, the Scandinavian Almond cakes were a huge hit. The 31 theme baskets were also very popular. However, the crafts are what made the most money. Since late winter/early spring a small group of women met each Wednesday to work on crafts! Best part of it is that we have formed a Sisterhood that is unbreakable! One of our newest members attended every single Wednesday so we have gotten to know Linda Hamm really well! Thanks to everyone who helped in any way.

After our meeting on 11/24, the next event will be the following Monday, December 1st, when we will be decorating the nave and Chrismon tree. All are invited to help. We will follow that with an Advent/Christmas celebration and Yankee Swap. We will have a light supper, and everyone is invited to bring a wrapped gift with a value of \$10-\$15. Your participation will be appreciated.

Use of Facilities – Liaison: - Diane Boscarino, Rachel Harrel

TAFA- (Torrington area families for autism) still awaiting final approval of the Tebow Foundation for prom. Christina has been working on a more formalized plan for rental space for school program. The Prom will happen on Feb. 13, 2026, she needs the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, bathrooms, and a classroom.

Worship & Music – Liaison: Pastor Cady – No Report

Other Discussion

Prayer and Dismissal

M/S/P Val Vega, Beth Brower to adjourn at 8:52 pm

Next meeting will be December 8, 2025, at 7:00pm.

Judy Ludwig, Congregational Secretary

Council Terms

2025

Judy Ludwig
Kathy Olkowski
Val Vega
Vinni Carey

2026

Dana O'Brien
Vacant
Vacant
Vacant

2027

Diane Boscarino
Beth Brower
Pamela Little
Vacant

2025 council meeting dates

**1/13/25, 2/10/25, 3/10/25, 4/14/25, 5/12/25, 6/9/25, 7/14/25, 8/11/25, 9/8/25, 10/13/25,
11/10/25, 12/8/25**