

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

January 19, 2026

Council Members Present:

Diane Boscarino, Julie Brewster, Pastor Scott Cady, Vinni Carey, Pamela Little, Dana O'Brien, Robin Potwora, Jeanette Richard, Greg Weingart

On Zoom – Beth Brower, Judy Ludwig

Council Members Absent:

Others Present:

Valerie Vega (secretary substitute)

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Council President , Diane Boscarino, at 6:56 pm

Devotions and Prayer –

Led by Pastor Cady

Celebrations, Appreciation and Thank You

Thank you to all new council members for joining, and for all past council members for serving.

Linda Arigoni sent us a thank you for the gift card to W/ELCA for the fruit basket to Jim Mazzarelli.

Everyone that helped with the switch of Paula's office (rm 12) to office space, Sunday school rooms and Christian Education closet.

Data Hal for cleaning up the IT cabinet in the office.

A **BIG** thank you to all committees and volunteers this past year.

Navajo Lutheran mission sent us a thank you.

Thank you to Greg's brother who was here all day working on a ton of stuff, for fixing drain heating cords with electric plugs, emergency lighting top of fellowship hall stairs and top of stairs in middle of fellowship hallway, emergency exit light switch removed, and light in downstairs storage.

Privilege of the Floor –

Robin - Introduced the Evangelism Committee (she has a folder for everyone with all the information)

- They had their first meeting - they are requesting approval by Council for a flyer to be handed out on Sunday and to introduce themselves on a Sunday. Additionally, they want to hand out a survey for the congregation to fill out. Council gave the ok to hand it out once the picture of Pastor has been changed to his Hilltop picture and it was suggested that the first names only be under the picture of the committee members IF the members were in agreement to having their names under their pictures. *The pictures from the flyer will NOT be on the website.
- The first survey that they are proposing will have up to date info. on people and what kind of programs would they be interested in. Vinni thinks the survey looks very familiar to the Commitment sheet that was passed out in the fall. Pastor agreed and said that that survey information is strictly “in house.”
- The information gathered from the proposed survey would be in a web based program.
- The committee would like to have business cards available in the Narthex for people to be able to pass out to friends and people they meet. They also thought it would be great to have them out at the Farmer’s Market as well.
- Robin discussed their idea of having an advertising campaign for the church with Comcast. This is all in the last page of the handout - the thought is that it could reach a greater area with Comcast with streaming, tv. The idea is to do a program for 6-8 weeks starting on Ash Wednesday. They would create a commercial with some pictures, narrated by Pastor (whatever they structure for the dialogue). The cost would be \$3000 (no production cost). Council Pamela noted that there is no money budgeted for this at this point. Pamela recommends that they would have to do a fundraiser to raise the money for this. This would need to be discussed more about the idea and how we get to the point to do it and pay for it. Diane noted that any commercial would have to come through the Council first. Radio advertising is also a possibility, and it is about \$329 per week for 13 weeks.
 - Julie brought up a podcast alternative to piggyback off of the weekly services that are streamed already. It might be a way to do it. Judy will talk to Curt to get some information about how a podcast works.

- Robin presented a quick intro to another idea with an audio system so that people who come into the Farmer's Market hear a message that is broadcast
- Robin also asked if we would be open to having a sponsor for each commercial or podcast. For ex. Smith's Funeral Home. It would need to depend on the sponsor and if it follows the By Laws.
- Robin has been encouraged to attend the next Finance meeting on 2/4 at 6:00 to present her ideas.
- The first ½ (flyer, intros, and survey) are a "go." The 2nd ½ needs more discussion.
- The committee is also requesting numbers of people using the website and also how many people are contributing members. This will enable them to see if their ideas (once put in motion) are bringing in more people/interest/participation.

Election of Council Officers

President - Nominations

Diane nominated Vinni, Judy seconded the nomination. No other nominations were on the floor.

Judy made a motion to close nominations, Pamela 2nd

Vinni accepted the position if voted in.

Pastor requested a single unanimous ballot if no objections

Pass

Vice President - Nominations

Judy nominated Diane, Vinni 2nd

Diane accepts the nomination.

No other nominations were on the floor.

Pastor requested a single unanimous ballot if no objections

Pass

Secretary - Nomination

Pamela nominated Judy, Greg 2nd

Judy accepted the nomination

No other nominations were on the floor

Pastor requested a single unanimous ballot if no objections

Pass

Treasurer - Nomination

Pamela will continue on as treasurer

No other nominations on the floor.

Diane/Jeannette/ Pass

Pastor requested a single unanimous ballot if no objections

All new officers will need to make an appointment at the bank to go change the signature cards.

Approval of Council Minutes

M/S/P Pamela/Vinni to approve the minutes of December 2025.

Greg, Beth, & Jeanette abstained

Pastor's Report – Scott Cady

Pastoral Acts

- 3 nursing home visits with communion
- 6 pastoral phone calls
- 1 funeral
- 6 in person pastoral conversations
- 1 baptism

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

- 4 zoom Bible studies
- 4 in person Bible studies
- Worship and Music meeting
- 1 online worship service
- Men's Breakfast
- 5 anthem choir rehearsals
- Annual Meeting
- Pageant rehearsal
- 5 regular worship services (one with baptism)
- Blue Christmas worship
- 2 Christmas Eve services
- 1 Evangelism Committee meeting
- 3 confirmation classes
- Christian Ed meeting
- 2 Meetings with Diane
- Christmas de-decorating
- 1 coffee hour

Other

- Introduced CT Yankee Chorale at concert
- Final meeting of grief support at Trinity Episcopal

- 1 visit with local UCC colleague

Discretionary Fund Balance \$140

Reflections As we begin 2026, we have many opportunities. Lent is early, and we'll have our normal mid-week devotions and simple meals. I hope this sets us up to renew monthly Potluck and Praise gatherings. I'd love to see many of you step up to help lead those with as much support as you need.

Responding to a concern voiced at the Annual Meeting, 2 Synod staff will preach here between now and Easter. Mark Lingle, who supports congregations in this area is one, and Bishop Piphon is the other. It will be good to hear from them.

Partnerships with TAFA, the CT Yankee Chorale and some of our ecumenical friends are yielding good results in various ways.

Puppets are making a slow but exciting return for occasional Children's sermons.

The new Evangelism Committee is off to a great start, and notably, mostly made up of people who are recent arrivals volunteering their efforts.

We'll need a new coordinator for the Farmers' Market table this year.

We have some new worshippers who want to join and some new volunteers. I've now heard from folks who want to be added to the rotation of ushers, assisting ministers, healers, and worship slides.

And last, but not least, there is you. Every time there is a new addition to Council there are new opportunities for ideas and collaboration that boosts the mission of the church. Let's be creative and excited as we move ahead together. Yours in Christ, Pr. Scott Cady

Highlights

- Boscarino baptism 😊
- Synod staff will be coming on the 1st Sunday of Lent; Bishop will come on Palm Sunday No payment required because it's part of their duties
- Puppets were great. Megan Clavette is interested and willing to help out again as will Max. Thanks to Philip for all the set-up of staging and sound.
- Pam Ewing does not want to coordinate the Farmer's Market again this year. We will need a new coordinator. Julie is willing to step up and organize the schedule of volunteers and make sure the box of stuff is organized and ready to go.

Treasurer's Report

Highlights

- Income budgeted for 2025 \$349,719 Income actually brought in for 2025 \$420,726
- Expense budgeted for 2025 \$471, 249 Actual expenses for 2025 \$447, 211
- Fundraisers, special offerings, and committees helped!
- Nothing was taken out of investments again this year. Investments are growing. Ended the year with investments at \$865, 082. For reference we ended 2023 investments down to \$679, 145 and we took out money from investments to pay our bills.
- It was decided at the January Finance meeting that the Summary report will no longer be run because all of that information is on the P & L. It was redundant.

M/S/P Greg/ Dana/ Pass to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, pending audit.

Jeanette abstained.

Use of Facilities

Diane - Unico request, Diane left a message with Michael at Unico and has not heard back from him.

Empty Bowl fundraiser March 19th. We usually charge a donation amount. We don't charge them a fee because we don't know how it will go.

It was decided to continue to do it by donation again this year.

They will set up on 3/18, event and clean up on 3/19/26.

Updates

Land purchase- no update Greg will make a phone call to see if we can make the church property "commercial" to help the other property become commercial property. He will contact Alan and see who he needs to contact in town.

Solar project- no update - Greg reports they are working on final plans with the town. There are 3 different options they will give to the town. They feel there will be no problem getting it passed. Weight barring passed. They are doing the final electrical now.

Insurance audit- waiting on solar to see if they will replace circuit breaker boxes

Community fundraising letter- update from Diane - didn't get much from the letters that were sent out but a few businesses/individuals from Facebook gave money. There was at least one check for \$1500. There was about \$2000 from Facebook posts generated. Although the letters didn't bring in as much money, they did spread the word about what we do here.

Cell tower- Diane forwarded information from Jo Ko to Greg and Council. We are still waiting for references. Diane sent information to everyone. Diane has not followed up with him. He is having a hard time getting references because his company has changed names. Greg will be contacting him and will ask for references. The contract will have to go to a lawyer if we take that next step.

Items in fireproof safe- Everything is in the fellowship hall just waiting on the safe to be moved to downstairs storage. Diane hopefully has someone with a machine to bring a safe to where it needs to go.

Website-

update from Judy-Rachel having access to post emergency closing etc.

Judy reported that as of December Andrew has done everything he was asked to do. They are looking for feedback from people to see what people think of the website.

Vinni met with Rachel about the website. All Rachel does is upload bulletins and the newsletter. Vinni wants to know why she can't have access to put on emergency notices - loss of power/closing/etc. Judy will talk to Andrew about getting Rachel access.

Pamela mentioned that it's hard to read the date because of the color of the font.

Robin thinks it would be nice to open the home page and see the video. Judy has the video Dawn created. She will meet with Philip to get that on there. Also, the video of the rental spaces will go on the home page. Pastor will make a video /YouTube on the home page as well. Judy will bring this up to IT next week.

Pamela asks if every time we ask Anderw to put something on the website like putting in a flyer does he charge us. It seems that he doesn't charge but if it is reworking a webpage that takes longer, he would charge us. He charges us by the hour - he adds up the minutes it takes him.

TAFa-Autism group- February prom needs volunteers

Diane reported that the event is scheduled for 2/13 with a snow date 2/20 - There is a QR code you can scan to volunteer. They are looking for volunteers and security people. They are thinking there will be about 100 people here. It is a special needs

prom for special needs kids 14 and up. Julie thinks her daughter-in-law might be able to volunteer as a 2nd hair/makeup person. Julie will talk to her and point her to the link to volunteer. QR code is the place to go to see what volunteers are needed. Security might not be on the list yet. Ralph will volunteer to do security, and we need a few others as well. (3 more people?)

Old Business:

Constitution- Did we get approval- next step - Pastor reports that it was NOT approved by Synod due to our quorum being the people at the meeting. In By Laws, we put in for a special meeting we needed a certain number for a quorum. Synod does not like that we did not have a quorum number. We have looked at our numbers, and we think we CAN get about 15% of our members to be a quorum. Pastor will get the latest revisions from the National Constitution, and we will fold it all together and resubmit.

Committee working relationships - on hold

Finding new council members - one year term openings. - There are still 2 one year term openings.

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

Pastor gets the first call, then currently bounces to Paula, and then to Diane. New protocol will be President, Vice President, Treasurer, then Secretary. Many of the calls that come in are NOT true emergencies. If it is a true emergency, the person will get in touch with Pastor ASAP.

The move of Chris Ed room- completed Chris Ed storage is upstairs in Room 12. Suggested to bring the 2 classrooms from downstairs upstairs because of the low number of students and teachers. It will be better for the church, students, and teachers for safety to have everyone upstairs. There needs to be 2 teachers in every classroom and that hasn't always been happening. Having the classrooms upstairs they can have the doors open and help each other out.

Insurance- Diane has gone to 2 other companies to get quotes for insurance per the constitution. Went to Zach (Allison's son) and Ashley Jones Lightwell Insurance (only does churches). Zach's company is similar to the kind of company we have now. Diane said Ashley would like to do Privilege of the floor in February. Mark Rose would also like to do Privilege of the Floor in February as well.

New Business:

Fire marshal visit- Narthex changes in set up were due to the Fire Marshal's visit, there was a whole list for Greg (lighting, light switch, etc.). Also, in the upstairs storage the stuff on the shelves there needs to be 24" between the stuff and

the ceiling. This needs to be fixed. The other things were completed (by Greg's brother).

Assigning new liaisons- See below

Part II meeting date- TBD - do this at the next meeting

Christmas service time- some people were not happy with the 2nd time (4:00) but it was well attended and the people who complained came! People who work had a hard time getting there.

Pastor likes the morning service (45 people came). He suggests putting a survey out now while people are remembering the times and how it worked for them and again later in the fall. Robin said Irene can set up a survey. Pastor will get a survey going.

History Day- Diane would like to go through the History stuff at a later date. Judy suggests we make that part of the next Part 2 meeting.

Synod request from member in budget meeting- Bishop and rep visit covered in Pastor's report. Diane is asking that they be put on the calendar in the office

Committee Reports

Administration – Liaison: Vinni

Deceased members: Dennis Nalette

Baptized: New Members:

Report:

December was the normal busy month that it usually is. No issues to report for that month.

The Community Kitchen of Torrington would like to hold their Empty Bowls Fundraiser here again this year. The date will be March 19th if approved. They would like to pay us by donation like in years past, but if you must set a fee, they understand. The form is attached. They will have a verification of insurance to us prior to the event.

December 2025	Attendees	Last Year	Season
7	113	67	Advent 2
14	110	91	Advent 3
21	111	121	Advent 4
24 - 10 am	45	53	Christmas Eve
24 - 4pm	85	86	Christmas Eve
28	66	57	Christmas 1

Altar Guild – Liaison: Jeannette

Christian Education – Liaison: Pamela

On January 4th, we celebrated Epiphany and invited folks to bring items for a shower for Jesus, just as the wisemen for Jesus all those years ago. We will collect clothing such as sleepers, Onesies, tee shirts, top & pants, diapers/baby wipes, socks and booties, blankets, hats, mittens, books, toddler toys, new stuffed animals, baby food, formula, and snacks (nothing expired, please!). They will be delivered to Two Hearts Pregnancy Center here in town.

The committee is going to try to get some sort of family meeting together more toward spring to get a consensus about when we should be planning SS for next year. We thought a family night would be a perfect way to have a discussion and perhaps snacks or a light supper. Stay tuned.

The SS teachers on our committee expressed interest in staying with the same curriculum they have worked with this year. Both are published by Augsburg Fortress, the ELCA’s publishing house.

We set the dates for VBS 2026. The dates are August 3-7, 2026, and we hope to do something on “Creation.” Please save the date on your family calendar. These dates will be announced to both Hilltop ELC and St. Paul’s SS. We will get it put out on the website and in the newsletter.

Congregational Care – Liaison: – Robin

Eucharistic Ministry – Liaison: Pamela Little

Eucharistic Minister	Congregation Member Name	Visited	Date	Took Communion	Comments/Concerns	Request Pastoral Visit
Bonnie Schaff	Gloria Thibault	Yes	12/4, 12/12, 12/18	Yes		

Pam Ewing	<i>Eleanor Klonoski</i>	<i>Not visited</i>				
	<i>Betty Hilton</i>	<i>Not Visited</i>				
Leah Seleman	<i>Renate Reise</i>	<i>Not Reported</i>				
Pamela Little	<i>Helen Winzler</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>12/4</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>We had a nice visit</i>	
	<i>Ernie Marquard</i>	<i>No</i>			<i>Visit was canceled by Audrey due to illness</i>	
	<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: Robin – No Report

Family Ministry – Liaison: Diane, Pamela, Judy– No Report7

Fellowship – Liaison: – Dana

“Soup”er Bowl of Caring weekend is coming up on February 7/8. Our Super Bowl Grinder/Chili/Chef salad Sale is on the 7th with prep being done on the 6th. Please support our efforts and order your family’s treats today! We are collecting non-perishable foods continuously but please make a special effort to bring foods in that weekend. This is in response to the nationwide effort called the “Soup”er Bowl of Caring to tackle hunger in our own communities.

We are blessed to have two new members of our team, Linda Hamm and Kathy Olkowski. We always welcome more help!

Our spring fellowship dinner will be held on Saturday, April 18th. It will be our popular Chicken Lombardy, rice pilaf, veggie, salad, bread, dessert, etc. affair! Please watch for tickets. For several years now, money raised, minus expenses, is put right back into the church budget to offset deficits.

Finance – Liaison: – Julie – No Report

Garden of Memories – Liaison: Beth – No Report

Hilltop – Liaison: Pamela Little

1. Registration 2026-2027— will open this week for church members and Hilltop Families. Open to the public Feb 2, 2026. Tours by appointment.
2.
 - T/Th 2 0 + 1 new request from a sibling last year.
 - MWF 3's 12 possible returns
 - M-F Full Day 17 possible returns
 - SR 10 possible returns

I have received emails requesting information on registration for 26-27 school year. I requested our website operator (Andrew Soncha) to add the new forms to the website this week.

3. Continuing Education- We will hold our January Staff meeting and professional development on Friday, January 16 from 12:15-3:00pm. Our workshop topic is Creating Trauma Sensitive Classrooms.
4. School Portraits commission. \$150 or more. Not calculated as of yet.
5. Our NAEYC annual report was submitted in December.
6. I must reach out to the Fire Marshall for our annual visit.
7. Our staff enjoyed a Holiday Celebration dinner at the Mizu 21 restaurant on Friday, Dec 12. Thank you to the Advisory Committee for providing the funding.
8. We received an 8% increase in ESCT funding. We are using these funds to have a third teacher in the classroom on MWF. Casaundra is filling that position now.
9. We are planning a “100” day of school celebration with a special snack. Feb 9th
10. We will have a Valentine/Friendship Celebrations on Feb 12th & 13th.
11. Art/Literacy/Auction Family Event is scheduled for Friday, April 24th 5-7pm
Student artwork displayed with Auction items and raffle baskets. Each member of staff will submit an Auction or raffle item.
12. Bingo Fundraiser March 6th teachers will be asked to share on FB (each classroom will donate a raffle basket)
13. New Early Start CT contract will be available in June 2026 for the 2027-2028 school year.
14. Federal Jury duty –Barbara was called for Jury duty in early February. She is trying to get a waver.

Barbara has been having trouble lately with things not working (IT). We need to let her know when things will be done / fixed so that she knows what to expect. The printer is an example of something that wasn't working and throwing her off.

IT/Website – Liaison: Judy Ludwig

The wiring cabinet behind Rachel's desk was cleaned up and a new switch was installed by DataHal, (Jeremy donated his time) new wi-fi access points were also installed to improve wi-fi access in the building.

Property – Liaison: Greg – No Report

Puppettude – Liaison: Judy Ludwig

Thank you to Max Harrell and Megan Clavette and puppet friends for presenting an Epiphany message during the Children's Sermon.

Safety – Liaison: - Vinni – No Report

Scholarship – Liaison: Judy – No Report

Social Concerns– Liaison: – Robin – No Report

Soup Kitchen – Liaison: Jeanette – No Report

Staff Support – Liaison: Council, Vinni– No Report

Stewardship – Liaison: Pastor Cady – No Report

St. Paul's W/ELCA – Liaison: Jeanette

The Chrismon tree came down on January 7th followed by a light supper and fellowship.

Next up is our Game Night and snacks on Friday (snow date of 1/30). Bring a game or cards of you wish and a small snack to share. We will meet in the Parlor.

Painting with June is on Monday, February 23rd at 6:30pm. We will be painting a daffodil, blowing in the wind. A sample picture will be on display in the Narthex. Please sign up ahead of time.

Angel Project

Phew! It is over! Angel Project is finished for another year, but this was my last year as chairing it. I will help next year to help whoever we can find to take it over. Person would be much younger (ideally!) who has patience and time. It is a two-month commitment that involves many phone calls, organizing, publicizing, helping to secure Thrivent grants, etc. We try to do a Palm Sunday Candy Sale and Lisa has been generous to donate part of the proceeds of the tag sale to the AP, so we have a bit of a cushion.

Use of Facilities – Liaison: - Diane Boscarino - No Report

Worship & Music – Liaison: Pastor Cady – See Pastor’s report

***The committee asked if we should have a special offering the day that the Bishop is here. Everyone was in favor of having a 2nd offering that day.**

Other Discussion

Prayer and Dismissal

M/S/P Jennette/ Dana, to adjourn at 8:33

Next meeting will be February 9 at 7:00pm.

Valerie Vega, Substitute Secretary

Council Terms

2026

Dana O’Brien
Robin Potwora
Vacant
Vacant

2027

Diane Boscarino
Beth Brower
Pamela Little
Greg Weingart

2028

Julie Brewster
Vinni Carey
Judy Ludwig
Jeanette Richard

2026 Council meeting dates

Vinni will go over these to make sure they are all ok.

**1/19/26, 2/9/26, 3/9/26, 4/13/26, 5/11/26, 6/15/26, 7/13/26, 8/10/26, 7/14/26,
10/12/26, 11/9/26, 12/14/26**