

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

APRIL 13, 2026

Council Members Present:

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

Zoom: Diane Boscarino, Beth Brower

Council Members Absent:

Others Present:

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Council President Vinni Carey at 6:32 pm.

Devotions and Prayer –

Pastor read a prayer about an ordination of Deacons.

Celebrations, Appreciation and Thank You

I would like to say Thank You to Lisa Bodnar for the beautiful Easter display on the Altar Easter Morning. She and her boyfriend Paul were at the church on Saturday setting up the display and then came back on Monday to break it all down. The lilies were put in the narthex for anyone to take to a shut in. I took 3 for Gloria Thibault, Betty Hilton and Sigrid Smitley. The other plants will be put in our gardens when the weather permits.

Thanks to Pamela and Paula for the great job they did leading the service last Sunday.

Thanks to Alex for helping rake the grass/leaves for Honor Society community service. He's looking for more hours.

Privilege of the Floor – None

Approval of Council Minutes

M/S/P Greg Weingart, Pamela Little to approve the minutes of March 9, 2026.

Treasurer's Report

M/S/P Julie Brewster, Dana O'Brien to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, pending audit.

We are trending okay, our year to date expenses are still exceeding our income. Our income is increasing; our expenses are less by almost \$18,000. So, there is a deficit of approximately \$13,000.00 This is mostly electricity, hopefully this will be less once the weather warms up.

Hilltop is ahead of their budget by almost \$10,000. And registration is going strong for next year.

Took a little hit on investments. Accounts that were incorrectly restricted by Wells Fargo, 3 of them have been corrected. Our investment advisors have recommended that we move our funds away from Wells Fargo.

M/S/P Pamela Little, Judy Ludwig to move St. Paul's investments from Wells Fargo to the Barnum Group.

Pastor's Report – Scott Cady

Pastoral acts

- Funeral planning with a member
- 9 pastoral phone calls
- 6 pastoral conversations
- 3 funerals
- 1 home visit with communion
- 1 home visit to pray for a member's deceased sister
- 1 hospice prayer for dying member

St. Paul's meetings, classes, and events

- 3 zoom Bible Studies
- 3 in person Bible studies
- Reading to Hilltop kids
- 3 regular worship services
- 5 choir rehearsals
- 2 coffee hours
- 1 confirmation class
- Worship and Music meeting
- Empty Bowls event
- 1 Lenten mid-week potluck and devos
- Evangelism Meeting
- Special Congregation meeting
- Follow-up meeting with Diane post congregation meeting
- Maundy Thursday worship
- Good Friday Worship

Other

- 1 meeting with Ecumenical Grief Support group at Trinity Episcopal
- 4 days vacation, including 1 Sunday

Discretionary Fund Balance \$1045

Reflections - Holy Week and Easter were great. I've heard several very positive comments about the services. Thanks to all who helped in any way and to all those who attended. And thanks to all who helped yesterday, especially Pamela and Paula.

If you did not hear, we have received a donation that will support a 6 week ad campaign for tv and other media. We'll be developing that over the next weeks. Your input can be helpful here. These messages must be brief and to the point as well as being able to grab a viewer's attention and leave a positive vibe. If you have any suggestions for the Evangelism team to achieve this, that would be great. Also, your input about the timing would be helpful. In general, we're thinking of using the spots to highlight some special time to draw people to St. Paul's. I don't know if we can have a finished promo for you to review by Mother's Day (May 10) or Memorial Day (May 25) or if we should prepare something for late summer to invite people into a new program year. This church has so many appealing aspects to its life and mission that are still not well enough known. This ad campaign can help. I'd also like to encourage any of you to help out this summer with either the Farmer's Market table, or the concert series. Thanks for all you do. In Christ, Pr. Scott Cady

New members class, Pastor put together a packet of information, and will be picking a date, probably on a Saturday for people showing interest, and new members who would like to join.

Pastor will be away the week after Thanksgiving and the week after Christmas, plus various dates in the summer.

Diane asked about visitations, she will give a list to Pastor of people who need a visit.

When Pastor is on vacation, Diane would like to know who is covering for him.

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

Tai Chi Sessions, Pastor questioned why is she coming to us, if she has worked at other places. Pamela questioned the fact that it would be on a Tuesday morning and create a distraction to Hilltop. Diane doesn't think noise would be an issue. A suggestion was give her the first 4 weeks free to see if there is any interest. Then we would charge \$25.00 a week. She needs to have insurance, and that St. Paul's is not liable. Diane will put together something similar to Toastmasters and send it to council and then send it to her.

Updates:

1. Land Sale – the congregation agreed to either \$800,000.00 or \$900,000.00 depending on the proposal. Diane spoke with Alan and let him know of our decision. He will get in touch with the doctors. Waiting to hear from him. One member of the Fitzgerald family lives locally and the suggestion was made to have a face to face with this person. Pastor will follow up on that.
2. Cell Tower – Pamela said that Fred Rakyta came to finance to discuss this. He gave them more information about cell tower leases. The Executive committee will follow up and contact these companies for more information and bring it back to finance and council. Vinni will coordinate with the Executive committee and come up with a date.
3. Constitution – Pastor is working on it.

Old Business:

Part II date – June 20, 2026, Picnic, 3:00 – 5:00 with concert following at 5:30 – 7:00, with committee reports on table for people to read. Committee Reports to Rachel by May 29, 2026. Help will be needed to set up, clean up.

Part I Budget Meeting date – Finance will present the budget to council on Nov. 9, 2026, need 4 weeks to notify the congregation, have Congregational Budget and election of council meeting on December 17, 2026, at 6:30 pm. Budgets need to be to the bookkeeper by Oct. 16, 2026.

New Business:

1. Revisit Liaison Assignments – Vinni wanted to make a couple of changes. close
2. Service Streaming Issue was discussed. Facebook occasionally inserts ads during service. We have no control over this. YouTube is a much better streaming service, members will be encouraged to watch the service there, instead of on Facebook.

Committee Reports

Administration – Liaison: Vinni Carey

Deceased members: Glenn Hornfischer

Report:

Reminder I am off this coming week. Someone may want to check my messages periodically in case people are calling about the dinner. How to check from out of the office:

Call Church when voicemail answers Press #6 * 115

Password is 8371

Follow prompts to listen to messages

Once done hit * until you are backed out of the system.

Jeremy was here Friday morning and installed my new computer. He switched my old computer to the spare desk. I am up and running on Microsoft 365. He was here for 3 hours.

Nothing but the numbers

March 2026	Attendees	Last Year	Season
1	89	63	2 Lent
8	92	141	3 Lent
15	107	98	4 Lent
22	104	92	5 Lent
29	130	101	Palm Sunday

OL = online only * 7 am =7 noon=22 service=20

March 2026	YouTube views	Facebook Views
1	33	223
8	22	108
15	36	131
22	33	128
29	27	57

Altar Guild – Liaison: Jeanette Richard

I would like to say Thank You to Lisa Bodnar for the beautiful Easter display on the Altar Easter Morning. She and her boyfriend Paul were at the church on Saturday setting up the display and then came back on Monday to break it all down. The lilies were put in the narthex for anyone to take to a shut in. I took 3 for Gloria Thibault, Betty Hilton and Sigrid Smitley. The other plants will be put in our gardens when the weather permits.

Christian Education – Liaison: Pamela Little

1. **Bishop Piphos visit:** He shared that he truly enjoyed the cards the children made for him.
2. **Children’s Church:** Final session for this program year will be May 3 (Rachel’s Day). The lesson will focus on why we celebrate Rachel’s Day and will connect to that Sunday’s worship service. *Note:* May 3 is also Teacher Appreciation Day.
3. **Sunday School (last day):** May 17. We will make windsocks, enjoy a special snack, and (weather permitting) go outside to fly the windsocks.

4. **Sunday School schedule (2026–2027):** A parent meeting is planned to discuss a possible start-time change.
5. **Vacation Bible School (VBS):** Dates are August 3–7, 2026. The kit has been received and includes snack and craft ideas. Additional staff/volunteers are needed.
6. **First Holy Communion:** Training class is Saturday, September 12, 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. Ceremony is World Communion Sunday, October 4, 2026. Children receiving First Communion: Stevie DiStefano, Olivia Mackiewicz, and Avery Rosenbeck.

Action items

- **Paula:** Email parents about the May 1 meeting (6:00 p.m.) to discuss possibly moving Sunday School to before the worship service.
- **Committee:** Provide Big Y pizza for the May 1 parent meeting.
- **Committee/Confirmands:** Ask confirmands to help occupy any children present during the May 1 parent meeting so parents can focus on the discussion.
- **Paula:** Order the VBS banner and mascot (Miss Sarge).
- **Committee:** Recruit additional VBS staff/volunteers.

Concert Series – Liaison: Pamela Little

1. Concerts

- Monthly concerts will run June–October, 5:30–7:00 p.m. Only June 20 is booked (South Road).
- Committee members will contact bands to fill the remaining dates (3rd Saturday of the month, July–October).
- Bands to be contacted: Adalaide Punkin (Sept or Oct), Driving Iris (July or Aug), and Blue Rhythm. Other possibilities: Potter’s Field, Robert C. Fullerton, Thunder Road, Ebbas, Stay Tuned Band, and Maximum Dosage.
- Artist payment: \$250–\$400 per performance, depending on number of members.

2. Torrington Concert Series

- Their concerts are held on Thursday nights, so there is no conflict. They have our concerts listed on their website. Will S. will send them our dates and times.

3. Budget

- Current savings: approximately \$1,600. Additional funds are needed to cover bands, advertising, food costs, etc.
- Christine will apply for a Thrivent card

4. Sponsorship

- Will created a new rate sheet (emailed; needs printed copies for the church) and a spreadsheet to track which businesses still need to be contacted.
- Committee members selected businesses they will approach for sponsorship.

5. Advertising / Audience Growth

- Will S. will create ads for WAPJ and WZBG.
- We will advertise on our website and Facebook page.
- Mark Rose suggested outreach to the Sullivan Senior Center.
- June Seiser is repainting the sign and preparing South Road advertising.
- Will is exploring “Concert Tonight” flags to put out the morning of each event

6. Snacks / Food

- Will S. will check whether the hot dog vendor is interested.
- The committee will sell chips and water.

Next meeting: May 6, 2026, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)

Congregational Care – Liaison: Robin Potwora

The Congregational Care Committee has been called on to do so far this year to provide a ride for the daughter of one of our members, and the mission was accomplished. Working on reintroducing the Congregational Care Committee.

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>3/12, 3/19, 3/26</i>	<i>Yes</i>		
Jeanette Richard	<i>Betty Hilton</i>	<i>Not visited</i>			Jeanette was away	
	<i>Sigrid Smitley</i>	<i>Not visited</i>			Jeanette was away	
Leah Seleman	<i>Eleanor Klonoski</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>3/31</i>	<i>Yes</i>	Leah reported they had a nice visit.	
Pamela Little	<i>Helen Winzler</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>3/18</i>	<i>Yes</i>	We had a nice visit	
	<i>Audrey Marquard</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>3/19</i>	<i>Yes</i>	We had a nice visit	
	<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 Potwora

Meetings: In-person EC meeting with the Pastor, Sandy, Irene, and Tony on March 28th. Meetings with the Pastor, Allan Borghesi, and Cathy Moore. Email communications with EC members. Our next scheduled in-person meeting is on April 24th.

In development: Production of the advertising commercial. Working on reintroducing the Congregational Care Committee. A regional advertising campaign in cooperation with the Synod on behalf of the ELCA. Printing for the Welcome to Torrington initiative.

Achievements: Secured our first sponsor, Allan Borghesi, for a six-week advertising campaign.

Liaison: The Congregational Care Committee has been called on to do so far this year to provide a ride for the daughter of one of our members, and the mission was accomplished. The Social Concerns Committee’s Chair, Christine Dickerson, only goes into operation at Thanksgiving.

Other: When a poster is created for each committee, we can have Andrew add photos to an auto-play carousel on the About page. Why hasn't the website’s About page been updated to include the current members?

Farmer’s Market – Liaison: Julie Brewster – No Report

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

Fellowship – Liaison: – Dana O’Brien

April 18, Saturday, Spring fellowship Dinner "Chicken Lombardy". Tickets available on Sunday before or after Service and in the office through the week.

Finance – Liaison: – Julie Brewster

The Finance Committee met on April 8, 2026, approved the March 4, 2026, minutes, and reviewed monthly financial reports, with Margaret to correct coding and resend updated reports.

Fred Rakyta provided an overview of the process for a potential cell tower lease sale; the committee will ask the Executive Committee to investigate and compare tower consultant companies.

Under old business, the congregation's guidance on a potential 4–5 acre land sale was noted (target range \$800,000–\$900,000 contingent on rezoning/land action across Kennedy Drive), Hilltop accounts were clarified as unrestricted with funds consolidated into Hilltop savings, and the evangelism advertising request was fully funded by a \$3,000 donor. Counters signed confidentiality forms, and the Executive Committee will be asked to revise versions for office staff. The committee discussed QuickBooks Desktop versus Online (noting functional benefits and an estimated cost of ~\$3,500/year vs. ~\$2,500/year, with expected Desktop payroll cost increases).

New business included meeting with alternative financial advisors due to unexplained account restrictions; Pamela and Julie were tasked with selecting an advisor, and Pamela will meet with Julie. Margaret reported a QuickBooks reconciliation issue with unreconciled transactions dating back to 2019 and is researching and cleaning it up. Insurance quotes were moved to the May agenda. Next meeting is scheduled for May 6, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.; the meeting adjourned by approved motion.

Garden of Memories – Liaison: Beth Brower – No Report

Hilltop – Liaison: Pamela Little

1. Registration 2026-2027

T/Th 2	5
MWF 3 & 4's	11
M-F Full Day	14 (waiting on 3 for paperwork)
M-F ESCT	7+ 5 (paperwork sent)

Tours have been happening.

Barbara reports that she has been giving tours and emailing information. She has a good feeling that all spots will be filled soon.

2. Maintenance & Repairs-

- Congratulations to Casaundra on her 2 year anniversary as custodian for Hilltop.
- New rugs were installed back in March and are beautiful. Funds from fundraisers were used to pay the cost.
- The state returned and inspected the playground on Monday, 4/6/2026. We passed due to using the outdoor classroom as a playground for the 2 yr olds. We will be discussing the possibility of added a smaller playground next to the current one for the 2 yr olds.
-

3. Continuing Education-

- On Friday, April 10th, Hilltop's liaison for ESCT (Early Start CT formally known as School Readiness) will hold an in-house workshop on early literacy
-

4. Fundraiser

- The Hilltop Bingo fundraiser was a big success, raising over \$3800. Hilltop donated the appropriate 25% to the operating fund.
- The Art Show is scheduled for 4/24 from 5:30 p.m. – 7 p.m. Each class will have an auction basket and donate to the raffle gifts. Please come out and see the children’s artwork and help support Hilltop
- Hilltop is selling flower baskets once again for Mother’s Day. Orders are being accepted now through Wednesday, April 29th, and will be delivered May 6th.

5. Staff

- Staff members have been given the annual review forms of the Director to be filled out and returned to the Advisory committee chair by May 1, 2026.
- The director will be meeting with each staff member over the next two months for their annual review.

Next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 4:45 p.m. via zoom

IT/Website – Liaison: Judy Ludwig

The church’s Domain Name was removed from Ender Designs and is now owned by St. Paul’s. DataHal spent 3 hours on 3/17/26 doing network upgrades. The IT committee did not meet in March. The next meeting is Thursday, April 16, 2026.

Property – Liaison: Greg Weingart, Julie Brewster (Back-up)

Did not meet last month. Next meeting April 15, 2026.

Puppettude – Liaison: Judy Ludwig

Thanks to Freyja, Max, and Rachel Harrel, and Joe Boscarino for providing a Palm Sunday puppet message during the children’s sermon.

Safety – Liaison: - Vinni Carey – No Report

Scholarship – Liaison: Judy Ludwig

Scholarship applications are due back no later than April 30, 2026.

Social Concerns – Liaison: Robin Potwora – No Report

Soup Kitchen – Liaison: Jeanette Richard – No Report

Stewardship – Liaison: Pastor Cady – No Report

St. Paul's W/ELCA – Liaison: Jeanette Richard

April 25, Saturday, The Naugatuck Valley Conference of Women will be held at the Lutheran Home of Southbury. The program is titled "Angels Among us". All woman are encouraged to attend.

May 3, Sunday, is Rachel's Day. The women of the church will lead this service.

May 8, Friday evening, Welca will be holding a Penny Auction in the fellowship hall. Lisa Bodnar is the organizer of this event. Many hands are needed to help out.

July 18, Saturday A one day craft fair will be held. June Seiser and Wendy Iannelli are organizing this.

Oct. 22-24 Thurs - Sat. will be the New England Women of the ELCA Biennial convention held at Camp Calumet. The theme is "Worthy of God's Grace". All women are encouraged to attend.

Worship & Music – Liaison: Pastor Cady – No Report

Other Discussion

Pastor closed with Prayer

Adjourn at 7:33 pm

Next meeting will be June 15, 2026, at 6:30 pm.

Judy Ludwig, Congregational 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

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