

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAY 11, 2026

## **Council Members Present:**

Diane Boscarino, Julie Brewster, Beth Brower, Pastor Scott Cady, Vinni Carey, Pamela Little, Robin Potwora, Greg Weingart

Zoom: Dana O'Brien, Jeanette Richard

## **Council Members Absent:**

Judy Ludwig

## **Others Present:**

None

## **Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Vinni Carey at 6:30 pm.

## **Devotions and Prayer –**

Pastor led with The Oxford book of prayer.

## **Celebrations, Appreciation and Thank You**

W/ELCA- Rachel Day, property for staining the building is ongoing, financial gift from Thomaston Church congregation proceeds from selling their building.

## **Privilege of the Floor – None**

## **Approval of Council Minutes**

**M/S/P** Diane, Pamela to approve the minutes of April 13, 2026.

## **Treasurer's Report**

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

Income looking good up by \$26,172. Sunday offering \$2600.00 Hilltop \$11,000.00. Easter \$1958.00 Holy Thursday \$424.00. Fundraisers starting to pick up. Income higher than budgeted. Paper goods and Electricity is higher than budgeted. The bad winter didn't help. \$20,180.00 in red.

Error in Balancing checking account - Past unreconciled funds, some deposits were deposited twice and checks not cleared. Past statements were not balanced. All has

been cleaned up however, leaving our checking account low. We had to borrow from saving for past payroll. We have a pay roll coming up. We can either use the \$30,000.00 donation from Thomaston church or take money out of investments. After discussion. Pamela made a motion- Use the \$30,000.00 donation deposit into operating, pay back saving, donate 10% split it among 6 organizations. \$500.00 to World hunger, Disaster relief, Friendly hands, Community kitchen, Harbor house, and Fish. They would receive \$500.00 a piece. We will put this on the Agenda for Part II meeting. Diane's second motion passed.

### **Pastor's Report – Scott Cady**

#### Pastoral Acts

- 2 home visits with communion
- 10 pastoral phone calls
- 4 pastoral conversations
- 4 burial/funerals

#### St. Paul's meetings, activities, classes, etc.

- 3 zoom Bible studies
- 4 in person Bible studies
- 7 choir rehearsals
- 1 worship and music meeting
- 1 IT meeting
- 3 regular worship services
- 4 confirmation classes
- 1 meeting re: baptism and membership
- 1 reading to Hilltop kids
- 1 contemporary choir rehearsal
- Meeting re: IT/microphones/sound mixing
- 2 Meetings to set up teleprompter
- Rachel's Day worship

#### Other

- 1 phone call re: land sale
- Meeting with a new hunger ministry "PBJ" I'll explain in person at our meeting
- 1 ecumenical grief support group at Trinity Episcopal

#### Discretionary Fund Balance \$836

Reflections I've begun to work on the Constitution again. After our last attempt, the Synod rejected it because we did not have a percentage of voters for a quorum for Congregation Meetings. A few things have happened since. 1. We looked more closely at our active members and found it is realistic to put a 10% number in there. 2. The ELCA adopted a new constitution for itself, the synods, and congregations. 3. The New England Synod has its new model constitution on the agenda to approve this coming June.

Assuming the Synod takes affirmative action, we can then refine our own document to sync with the new model constitution for congregations. I have that model and have gone through it comparing it to the one we submitted from 2024. There are many very small differences that are minor changes in wording that do not change the substance or meaning of the paragraph. We can leave those alone, or, with very little effort, tweak ours to copy theirs. We can put in our 10% quorum number. There are a few paragraphs we have in ours that are not required in the model. We can look at those and see if we really need them, and if we do, might they be better placed in the bylaws. There are at least two items in the model that we do not now do at all, so we need to talk about how to reconcile those. One is to elect Assembly Voters at our Annual Meeting, and the other is to have at least one Youth and one Young Adult member of Council. I'll check out these categories, but I think Youth is a confirmed person under 18, and Young Adult 18-30.

Once we as a Council have an agreed document, I'll meet with Chris Files, a pastor who screens these things, and go over it before we bring it to the congregation for a vote. With his ok, we can set a date for a congregation meeting to approve. I don't find this work taxing, but I'd also welcome anyone else to assist if you feel moved.

On another note, I have set a new member class for May 23, Sat 10-12. Any of you are welcome to come, either for a refresher in Lutheranism, or to introduce new members to some of the Council and share a few thoughts on your own enthusiasm about St. Paul's

Pastor went over his report. The pastor gave details on the PBJ event. After discussion Jeanette will look into if the organizations could receive the sandwiches being made and will report back next month.

### **Updates:**

1. Land Sale - no word, Pastor will give Alan B a call for an update.
2. Solar- an upgrade to electrical panels solar company hired an electrician to evaluate. Greg will also get his brother to look at it. Greg will have more info next meeting.
3. Cell Tower -Diane has made a few calls to company's Fred R gave. The executive committee will meet with Beth and companies. When we hear back, we will bring info back.
4. Website Update - website is good. We are trying to go with our own website through the realm. Hilltop will remain with Andrew.

### **Old Business:**

Safety- Greg asked if we have a procedure for when there is an intruder in the building. He feels we need one.

Greg wanted to make sure that Hilltop has the Ferpa and HIPPA regulations in order. Pamela assured that they were looked into and all is in place.

### **New Business:**

Hilltop Art Show Incident- A Church member was rude to the Hilltop director when she went to move her car, and then he came into fellowship hall and was rude by pushing the divider with no concern for the artwork displayed or the magician performing on the other side. This was done in front of parents and children. Greg and Vinni will speak to the individual.

\$30,000 Gift - Discussed in treasure report. See above.

Stewardship- Diane asked that we don't bother with putting a committee together and everyone just take a task. She will go over suggestions and get back to everyone.

Council Members @ Events - Vinni asked everyone to please try and be present for church functions and fundraisers. The council agreed we will make sure to discuss upcoming events and try to make sure at least a few council members attend. Jeanette mentioned that there was not a good attendance from church members at the Penny auction.

We discussed the picnic on June 20th. Council will provide meat, rolls and paper goods. The pastor will apply for a Thrivent card. Pamela and Vinni will do shopping and ask for donations. We will ask Rachel to put a sign-up sheet out in Narthex and Pastor will announce from the pulpit

### **Committee Reports**

#### **Administration – Liaison: Vinni Carey**

So, the next couple months are crazy for me. Between Freyja coming home from school and Max graduating from HS I will be taking some days off. I would like the following days off and apologize for the lateness of some requests. May 13, we will be going to Binghamton to gather Freyja. Pastor said it was fine to take off. I will need May 29, June 4-5, June 18, 19 are the other days. That is 6 days and will use a week of vacation time. I also have a doctor appointment Tuesday the 19th at 10 am. I will come to work, go to docs and come back.

I have been asked by KidsPlay if we could add a newsletter article:

*KidsPlay Children's Museum in Torrington is seeking supplies for their Maker Space exhibit. Please consider donating your empty paper towel and toilet paper tubes, empty tissue boxes, or cardboard egg cartons to give children the opportunity to make fun creations from reused materials. KidsPlay also accepts new or gently used craft supplies. Please drop off any supplies to 61 Main Street in Torrington during the Museum's business hours.*

I would rather have a bin in the Narthex, and I will deliver to my friends that work there.

Farmer's Market contract has been sent for the 2026 season.

I need a volunteer to write the acknowledgements, Liz Falls has been doing them, but she has a lot going on right now and would like to be replaced. Acknowledgements are sent to people who give money to various funds in memory/honor of someone. It is a sporadic task that happens usually when someone passes that request donations to be made to St. Paul's. If anyone know someone with nice handwriting and would like an easy volunteer position, send them my way!

Nothing but the numbers

| <b>April 2026</b> | <b>Attendees</b> | <b>Last Year</b> | <b>Season</b>   |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 2                 | 40               | 40               | Maundy Thursday |
| 3                 | 61               | 47               | Good Friday     |
| 5                 | 153              | 138              | Easter          |
| 12                | 85               | 110              | Easter 2        |
| 19                | 103              | 65               | Easter 3        |
| 26                | 101              | 81               | Easter 4        |

OL = online only

| <b>April 2026</b> | <b>YouTube views</b> | <b>Facebook Views</b> |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2                 | 13                   | 60                    |
| 3                 | 54                   | 75                    |
| 5                 | 57                   | 238                   |
| 12                | 32                   | 146                   |
| 19                | 30                   | 167                   |
| 26                | 15                   | 73                    |

**Altar Guild – Liaison: Jeanette Richard**

Altar Guild definitely could use more volunteers.

**Christian Education – Liaison: Pamela Little**

**Congregational Care – Liaison: Robin Potwora – No Report**

**Concert Committee – Pamela Little**

### 1. Concerts

- Four (4) out of five (5) concerts are set. June 20 -South Road, July 25 – Acoustic Steamer, August ?, September 19 – Still Pickin'

- October is the only month open at this point

## 2. Torrington Concert Series

- Will S. will send them our dates and times.

## 3. Budget

- Christine will apply for a Thrivent card

## 4. Sponsorship

- A few sponsorships have been received but we need more. Committee members will be following up on possible sponsors.

5. Discussed need to get more people to attend. We will use social media and place flyers around once we have all dates locked in. Pastor will announce the first concert will be 6/20 with the church picnic immediately before from 3pm – 5pm.

**Next meeting:** June 3, 2026, 7:30 p.m. (Zoom)

## Eucharistic Ministry – Liaison: Pamela Little

| <b>Eucharistic Minister</b> | <b>Congregation Member Name</b> | <b>Visited</b>      | <b>Date</b>            | <b>Took Communion</b> | <b>Comments/Concerns</b>                   | <b>Request Pastor al Visit</b> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bonnie Schaff               | <i>Gloria Thibault</i>          | <i>Yes</i>          | <i>4/2, 4/9, 4/16,</i> | <i>Yes</i>            | Gloria was ill the last two weeks of April |                                |
| Jeanette Richard            | <i>Betty Hilton</i>             | <i>Not visited</i>  |                        |                       | Jeanette was away                          |                                |
|                             | <i>Sigrid Smitley</i>           | <i>Not visited</i>  |                        |                       | Jeanette was away                          |                                |
| Pamela Little               | <i>Helen Winzler</i>            | <i>Yes</i>          | <i>4/15</i>            | <i>Yes</i>            | We had a nice visit                        |                                |
|                             | <i>Audrey Marquard</i>          | <i>Yes</i>          | <i>4/23</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 Robin, Pastor, Irene, and Tony on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Finalized Welcome to Torrington envelope. Discussed production meetings with Comcast representative Cathy Moore. Explored the idea of producing our own commercials. Rehearsal with Pastor using teleprompter for website Home page video

welcome introduction. Correspondence with Rev. Chavez regarding ELCA churches joining forces in a regional advertising campaign

**In development:** Production of the advertising commercial. Working on reintroducing the Congregational Care Committee. A regional advertising campaign with the ELCA. Printing Welcome to Torrington initiative envelopes.

**Achievements:** Working with Rev. Chavez of the Synod on an advertising campaign for churches throughout New England.

**Farmer's Market – Liaison: Julie Brewster – No Report**

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

**Fellowship – Liaison: – Dana O'Brien – No Report**

**Finance – Liaison: – Julie Brewster**

The Finance Committee met on May 6, 2026, approved the April 8, 2026, minutes, and Pamela reviewed all the reports.

Margaret finished cleaning up the old unreconciled debits and credits. The concern is there were deposits recorded twice as well as uncleared checks that needed to be researched. Due to the balancing error, it resulted in us having a smaller balance than we thought.

Currently expenses are outpacing income. At this time, we have had to utilize savings funds to meet payroll, and Pamela recommends either using the newly received donation of \$30,000 to pay that money back and having a cushion going into the summer months or taking at a minimum \$30,000 from investments. This will be discussed at the council meeting on Monday night.

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Under old business

Potential 4–5 acre land sale there is no update, Solar/Roof project permits should be approved per Stephen Smith of the Solar company by next month which is the deadline before having to resubmit financial information.

Cell tower buyout – executive committee to meet, however Diane is making phone calls to various consultants provided by Fred.

Decision was made to work with Zach Dugas, Barnum Group. He will contact Chris Benjamin to transfer the investments. Pamela did report that the account ending in 0056 is still restricted.

QuickBooks Balance Issue/QuickBooks Desktop – See under monthly reports regarding the QB balance issue. Committee agrees to switch to QuickBooks Online this month prior to our QB desktop renewal.

New business included

Insurance quotes – Pamela provided a comparison of four (4) quotes for insurance.

Committee is performing a comparison prior to the finance meeting in June.

\$30K donation from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Thomaston – Pamela informed the committee we received \$30,000 from the Thomaston Lutheran Church. This money came from the sale of their church. All agreed it was extremely generous.

**Garden of Memories – Liaison: Beth Brower – No Report**

**Hilltop – Liaison: Pamela Little**

**IT/Website – Liaison: Judy Ludwig – No Report**

**Property – Liaison: Greg Weingart**

1-repaired siding at main entrance

2-restained front of church and working around building

3-fixed loose molding in narthex

4- temporally re sealed skylight in sanctuary

5- working on different lift for bulb replacement

6-cleand fins of refrigerator in kitchen to see if it helps with cooling issue

**Puppettude – Liaison: Judy Ludwig – No Report**

**Safety – Liaison: - Vinni Carey – No Report**

**Scholarship – Liaison: Judy Ludwig**

The Scholarship committee is reading the applications and will be meeting to select scholarship recipients.

**Social Concerns – Liaison: Robin Potwora – No Report**

**Soup Kitchen – Liaison: Jeanette Richard**

We have two dedicated soup kitchen teams that serve alternate months, I would like to see a few more people step up to be subs in case one of our regular members cannot be there.

**Staff Support – Liaison: Vinni Carey – No Report**

**Stewardship – Liaison: Pastor Cady – No Report**



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

Welca had their Penny Auction on Friday night 5/8 in the Fellowship Hall. Roughly 90 people attended. The ticket sales brought in \$1276, 25% of that will go to the church general fund and the balance will be used for the Angel Project later in the year. A fun time was had by all that attended. A special thank you to Lisa Bodnar for all her hard work in organizing and setting up. She and Rachel did a stand-up job in calling the numbers! It was like being at a comedy show! My only complaint is there were very few of our church members there. The ones that were there were mostly selling tickets and acted as "runners to deliver the gifts". I would have liked to see more people from the church actually participating in the event.

## **Use of Facilities – Liaison: - Diane Boscarino**

We had our first tai chi class, and it was well attended. Pastor Cady came up and introduced himself which was well received. We had one problem with parking for the funeral but managed it well.

Toastmasters is going well.

## **Worship & Music – Liaison: Pastor Cady**

We met April 16 at 6pm. We accepted March minutes and reviewed prior services. Both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday had excellent attendance. We planned for Rachel's Day, with the WELCA women in charge of the service. We looked at May 10 - Mothers' Day, May 17 - last Sunday School and the use of Ascension Texts and hymns, May 25 - Memorial Day, so some recognition on Pentecost, and Sunday July 5 to recognize the 4th the day before.

We'll restart Potluck and Praise on May 14 at 6 pm, hoping to resume it monthly. Christmas Eve surveys are coming in slowly. I have 27 so far but the evening times of 4, 5, and 6 are neck and neck. We received a gift of 120 With One Voice hymnals which we can use for our summer worship. We'll sing Make Me An Instrument of Your Peace on Mothers' Day instead of just speaking it. And we'll change the location of healers to avoid walking over wires. Also, we decided to try having a healer available every Sunday in May to see if that is helpful.

Prayer and Dismissal

Adjourn at 7:38

Diane Boscarino taking minutes

## **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