

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

JUNE 15, 2026

Council Members Present:

Diane Boscarino, Julie Brewster, Beth Brower, Pastor Scott Cady, Vinni Carey, Judy Ludwig, Dana O'Brien, Robin Potwora, Jeanette Richard, Greg Weingart

Council Members Absent:

Pamela Little

Others Present:

Call to Order

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

Devotions and Prayer – Pastor opened with prayer.

Celebrations, Appreciation and Thank You

From Pamela Little: Give a special thanks Pam Ewing for helping behind the counter yesterday during Rachel's party and, June Seiser, Linda Rosa, and Wendy Iannelli for helping Pam and I clean up.

Pastor thanked everyone who made Rachel's party wonderful.

Privilege of the Floor – None

Approval of Council Minutes

M/S/P Diane Boscarino, Greg Weingart to approve the minutes of May 8, 2026.

Treasurer's Report

M/S/P Judy Ludwig, Diane Boscarino to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, pending audit.

Pastor's Report – Scott Cady

Pastoral Acts

- 1 bereavement home visit
- 9 pastoral phone calls
- 2 funerals
- 10 pastoral conversations

- 1 visit to Hartford Hospital and 2 to Charlotte Hungerford
- 1 pre-baptism meeting
- 2 home visits

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

- 4 zoom Bible studies
- 5 in-person Bible studies
- 8 choir rehearsals
- 1 Potluck and Praise
- Car show/Bike blessing
- 5 regular worship services
- 2 coffee hours
- 1 final Sunday School project
- Cell tower zoom meeting
- Men's Breakfast
- 2 Search Committee (Exec Comm) meetings re: Secretary hiring
- IT meeting
- Worship and Music Committee meeting
- Planning meeting for Annual Meeting part II
- Evangelism meeting
- Christian Ed meeting
- 2 Interviews for secretary position
- Zoom meeting with Cassandra Chavez, synod staff person for outreach, re: evangelism
- 1 pre-baptism meeting
- Rachel's party

Other

- 1 meeting with Allan Borghesi re: land sale
- CT Yankee Chorale concert
- Naugatuck Valley Clergy zoom text study

Discretionary Fund Balance \$657

Reflections: Busy month. There are 3 items I'll mention to keep you all up to speed.

1. The Synod did pass its new constitution at the Assembly. So now I can take some specific language from that to update ours. For example, it defines "Youth" and "Young Adult" for the purposes of getting people on Council or sending them to Assembly. I will still have some questions about the newest Model Constitution for Congregations that I will need to run by someone at Synod to understand. For example, some of the numbering of paragraphs has changed, and does not seem to me to flow in any logical order. I'll find out whether we need to pay attention to such details.

2. The Synod has two grant programs that may help us with our Evangelism project to get ads on popular media. Both are "up to \$5000." One is for Congregational renewal, which we should be able to qualify for with our first ad buy. The ad is a generic introduction to St. Paul's inviting the wider community to our parish. The second

grant is specifically for projects that involve youth. I propose we do a second ad project directed at high school and college age folks, not only for that group, but actually created by those members of St. Paul's that are in that cohort. I have mentioned this to 3 youth so far and all are open to working on this. Max and Freyja Harrell are both willing, and I had an interesting conversation Saturday with a 15 year old who came to us to get baptized. Assuming after a few more conversations with her that she does decide to be baptized here, she'd be willing to be in the ad as well. We also have Ty Hogan, Ethan Schaller, and Lena Warner who might hop on. That would make a very interesting and powerful ad for us.

3. Finally, the State of CT has a grant program now to bolster the security for congregations of all faiths. This could be more cameras or even the installation of bullet proof glass or other safety ideas. Let's coordinate with Property to see what is feasible here and apply.

The summer will be interesting as we fully orient our new secretary. As of now, I hope to take off 2 Sundays in August - the 9th and the 23rd. I have a W & M meeting this coming Thursday to discuss best ways to provide preaching - one of our lay people, something I pre-record, or a message from some other preacher shown on the screens.

I have a tentative new member orientation scheduled for 10-12, Saturday, July 18.

Pastor Cady spoke about his report, the grant available, using youth for ad's to promote the church. He and Robin are working on writing a grant with funds coming from synod, first one due by Aug. 1, 2026.

Discussion about security and door codes. This will be looked into. Vinni will continue to try to contact 'old' safety committee members.

Pastor vacation on Aug 9 and 23. He's looking into lay preaching/video of preaching.

Thoughts to have a 'special' 250th service on July 5th, wear red/white/blue, patriotic songs, patriotic hymns, read part of US constitution/Gettysburg Address.

Constitution needs to be updated to new Synod constitution.

Jeanette asked about the Peanut Butter & Jelly sandwich ministry. Pastor will reach out and let the people in charge know we are interested.

Use of Facilities: Everything is going fine. Diane got a list from Rachel and will work with new secretary.

Updates:

1. Land Sale – nothing new. Looking into other options.
2. Solar – the company now has all info to go to the city for permits. Roof should be done first, then solar panels will be done by the end of summer. Insurance

company is not happy with information sent to them, need to get back to them ASAP. Solar company approved the quote to change out the electrical panel, need to get permit from the town. Need to put a date on the paper for the insurance company in order for them to renew our policy. Need an exact date for completion of electrical panels. Greg will take care of this tomorrow, Tuesday, June 16, 2026.

3. Cell Tower – Tower Genius is the company that will work for us, they will put our current offer out to bid. If the bids don't come in better than current offer, they will take a flat \$8000. If they do get us more money, then they will get 4% of the total. This will be voted on at the Congregational Part II meeting.
4. Website Update – no changes

Old Business:

1. \$30,000 Gift – people want more information about budget issues.
2. Insurance – discussed under Solar discussion

New Business:

1. New Church Secretary
2. Council News
3. Video of Pastor – put that on web site, the other video Robin is working on was discussed, and more ideas will be next month

Committee Reports

Administration – Liaison: Vinni Carey

Report: Thank you, council, for the parting gift. I was very surprised; I never resigned from a job and got a bonus. Much appreciated. I enjoyed my time at St. Paul's and made so many friends. Thank you for letting me be part of the family for the past 14 years. Remember, it is not goodbye, it is see you later.

Nothing but the numbers

May 2026	Attendees	Last Year	Season
3	106	40	Easter 5
10	Not recorded	47	Easter 6
17	100	138	Easter 7
24	66	110	Day of Pentecost
31	78	65	Holy Trinity

OL = online only

May 2026	YouTube views	Facebook Views
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3	42	
10	27	76
17	23	79
24	21	70
31	23	81

Altar Guild – Liaison: Jeanette Richard

Altar Guild, the women involved do a wonderful job. I would like to see a few more sign up. At most, you are volunteering 2 hours a month!

Christian Education – Liaison: Pamela Little

Meeting date: June 1, 2026

Updates

1. Discussed including Eli, Joe, Jonas, and Camden to the acolyte schedule in the fall
2. Vacation Bible School (VBS)
 - I. Dates are August 3–7, 2026.
 - II. Casaundra and Gabrielle will be making the props and decorating fellowship hall. The building of the props will be down in the upstairs classrooms.
 - III. Paula is working on the registration to get it sent out and in the newsletter
 - IV. VBS Workshop is scheduled for 7/16.
3. 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.

Next meeting is July 6 at 6:30pm.

Concert Series – Pamela Little

- Performers and Dates
 - Bands have been booked for all five (5) concerts
 - South Road 6/20
 - Acoustic Steamer 7/25
 - Blue Rhythm Band 8/29
 - Still Pickin' 9/18
 - Jazz Duo 10/24
- Advertising
 - Ads have been sent to WAPJ and WZBG

- Ads placed on social media and our website
 - Road signs were updated by June Seizer and are posted
 - Will check with Julie Brewster about advertising at Farmers Market
- Sponsors to date
- Torrington Municipal and Teachers Credit Union
 - Borghesi Building and Engineering
 - Jimmy's Store

Congregational Care – Liaison: Robin Potwora – 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>5/7, 5/14, 5/21, 5/28</i>	<i>Yes</i>		
Jeanette Richard	<i>Betty Hilton</i>	<i>Not Visited</i>				
	<i>Sigrid Smitley</i>	<i>Not visited</i>				
Pamela Little	<i>Helen Winzler</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>5/13</i>	<i>Yes</i>	We had a nice visit	
	<i>Audrey Marquard</i>	<i>Yes</i>	<i>5/26</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, Sandy, Irene, and Tony on May 30th. Discussed the first cut of the video advertising commercial. Upcoming meeting with Rev. Chavez regarding ELCA churches joining forces in a regional advertising campaign. Awning for the church's entrance to the parking lot.
- **In development:** Finalization of our commercial video. Regional advertising campaign with the ELCA. Acquiring sponsors for Welcome To Torrington.
- **Achievements:** Produced our first cut for our Comcast advertising video. Working with Rev. Chavez of the Synod on an advertising campaign for churches throughout New England. Created an introduction letter to business owners to sponsor the Welcome To Torrington initiative. Financed programs to produce videos for about \$1,000.

- **Assignments:** Robin is producing the final cut for the Comcast commercial. Also, exploring ideas and costs for a carport or awning at the church's entrance. Sandy is soliciting business on behalf of Welcome To Torrington.

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 – No Report

Garden of Memories – Liaison: Beth Brower – No Report

Hilltop – Liaison: Pamela Little

1. Registration 2026-2027

T/Th 2	6
MWF 3 & 4's	14
M-F Full Day	15
M-F ESCT	7

2. Maintenance & Repairs-

- Carpet cleaning and floor waxing is scheduled to begin the week of 6/15/2026. A big thank you to Ralph and Lisa for stepping up due to Casaundra's illness

3. Continuing Education-

- The staff will have continuing education at the beginning of the new school year. The required EPI-PEN training is scheduled for August 24th at 9am.

4. Staff

- All staff are expected to return in September.
- Ralph Boscarino will continue as custodian in place of Casaundra Abeling who can no longer do it due to health reasons.

5. Grant

- Barbara received confirmation that our paperwork for the grant for the new two-year-old playground was received and moved to the finalist phrase.

6. ESCT

- Barbara received an amended ESCT contract and will be receiving an eight (8) % increase with a back payment of \$11,760 to come. Going forward the rate per student will be \$648 per month paid in quarterly payments. This increases the annual amount received from \$84,000 to \$90,000.

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

IT/Website – Liaison: Judy Ludwig – No Report

Property – Liaison: Greg Weingart – No Report

Puppettude – Liaison: Judy Ludwig – No Report

Safety – Liaison: - Vinni Carey – No Report

Scholarship – Liaison: Judy Ludwig

Social Concerns – Liaison: Robin Potwora – No Report

Soup Kitchen – Liaison: Jeanette Richard

Soup Kitchen, it is running well with the volunteers we have making up two teams that go alternating months. I would like to see a few more people sign up as subs incase a regular member cannot make it.

Staff Support – Liaison: Vinni Carey – No Report

Stewardship – Liaison: Pastor Cady – No Report

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

Welca, had their last meeting on 5/18 to plan the schedule for meetings that will start up again in September and run through next May. We also had a delicious ice cream social.

Our banquet will be held 6/22 at The Mill House.

Use of Facilities – Liaison: - Diane Boscarino, Rachel Harrel - No Report

Worship & Music – Liaison: Pastor Cady

Here is the Worship and Music Report for last month as well:

We met on May 21 at 6pm on zoom. We accepted minutes for April meeting and reviewed the past Sundays. We decided to continue weekly healing through June with the changed location to avoid any tripping hazards

We recognized Pentecost and Memorial Day with prayers, hymns, and a request for those who have lost someone in the military stand. No one stood, so we are fortunate in that regard.

Since the 4th of July falls on a Sat...we'll do something in worship to observe it on Sunday July 5 that recognizes blessing of freedom of religion and national song and prayers. Since it's also the 250th anniversary, should we even read or print some portions of the Declaration that day?

We began using With One Voice as our primary liturgy beginning June 6, but still using some hymns from the red book.

Other

Part II date – June 20, 2026

Budget Meeting date – November 9, 2026, for council with December 17, 2026, for congregation

Budgets due to Bookkeeper by October 16, 2026

Prayer and Dismissal

Next meeting will be July 13, 2026 at 7:00pm.

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