



**Council Meeting
Monday, April 28, 2025**

Call to Order: 6:33 pm

Establish a quorum/present: Pastor Ben, Pastor Alicia, Lindsey Cornell, Sharon Steinhoff Smith, Dan Bishop, Dan Jacobson, Debbie Church, Dennis Tietz, Jackie Lee, Nate Borwege, Brian Gieseke, Dennis Tietz, Laura Magnuson, Jamie Bisek, and Pastor John Hulden from the Minneapolis Area Synod

Devotion by Dan Bishop

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda and March Meeting Minutes by Lee, second by Steinhoff-Smith. Motion approved.

President's Report:

- Facilities updates, including custodial services and technology, were provided by Jamie Bisek. Jamie reported that our facility staff are excellent, a great team who troubleshoots to meet the congregation's needs.
- Pastor John Hulden from the ELCA Synod described next steps in transition as 1) celebrating Pastors' Ben and Alicia Hilding, 2) the selection of an interim candidate who will work with us to conduct our site profile 3) host a Bishop visit, 4) call committee interviews and vote to ultimately extend a call to a Pastor. **Action: Based on our conversation, Lindsey Cornell will follow-up with Pastor John to request 1 interim full-time position to begin on June 1st.**
- Communication tools related to Transition/Call have been created for the newsletter and website.

Treasurer Report:

- NEXT Campaign Pledges:
 - 2023 Pledges Received: \$42,700
 - 2024 Pledges Received: \$715,725
 - 2024 Unpledged Received: \$241,651
 - 2025 Pledges Received: \$170,647
 - **Total Received: \$1,170,723**

PLEDGES as of March 31, 2025	NEXT Campaign 2024 thru 2026
Total Pledged	\$1,252,399
Total Received	\$ 929,072

Remaining Pledges	\$323,327
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Unpledged Gifts \$241,651
Organ & Chairs - \$196,000
Remaining Gifts = **\$45,651**
Land Proceeds + \$84,000
Total Add'l Funds = \$129,651

Finances as of March 31, 2025	March Budget	March Actual
Revenue	\$51,823	\$54,455
Expenses	\$53,783	\$54,488
Revenue – Expenses	-\$1,960	-\$33

YTD Finances as of March 31, 2025	Year-To-Date Budget	Year-To-Date Actual
YTD Revenue	\$167,461	\$202,436
YTD Expenses	\$170,083	\$169,734
YTD Revenue – Expenses	-\$2,622	\$32,702

Suggestion to consider further explanation within treasurer report to congregation to avoid misinterpretation of the finance deficit or excess.

MOTION to approve the Treasurer's Report by Gieseke, seconded by Magnuson. Motion approved.

Pastor Alicia's Report:

- We transferred fiscal agency to the Minneapolis Area Synod. This is a change for other Synodically Authorized Worshipping Communities, as well, following a new bishop.
- Mission Investment Fund Construction Loan for \$600k - On March 18, I requested a second extension, following the March 17 Council Meeting, as we wait to receive the certificate of occupancy from the city. This extension was granted. The construction period is extended to 07/01/2025. Our final draw will have to be made by 06/07/2025.
- HTLC's ratified Constitution went to the Synod Council on March 20 for the final step and was approved.

Motion by Tietz, second by Church, to Approve Mission Outreach Needs:

- \$1500 for assistance for a Somali refugee family in partnership with Lutheran Social Services and River of Hope Lutheran Church
- \$200 contribution to Lutheran Social Services menstrual kit project to be completed at the ELCA Synod Assembly (5/3/25) for homeless youth

- \$500 for Hope House Foundation for rent assistance for a local family

Motion approved.

Motion to Approve an Inclement Weather Policy by Steinhoff-Smith, seconded by Bishop. Motion approved.

Pastor Ben's Report:

- New Call: On April 22, Alicia and I shared the news with the congregation that we are accepting a new call, to serve as Dean of Christ Chapel/Chaplains of the College at Gustavus Adolphus College. Our last day in the office at Holy Trinity is May 22.
- Holy Week: worship attendees were slightly up this year, totaling 1485 participants. There were 985 attendees in person, while online worship of 500 persons notes a significant decrease. In-person worship is comparable to 2019.
- Synod Assembly: Pastors Alicia and Ben, along with Dan Smith, Christie Will, Pete Shuster, Kiersten Dahl-Shetka, and Evan Cornell, are representing Holy Trinity at the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly on May 3rd.
- Churchwide Assembly: Luke Friendshuh will be representing Holy Trinity and the Minneapolis Area Synod at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Phoenix from July 28-August 2.
- Special Services: Celebration of Youth Worship - May 11 and May 14, Senior Sunday - May 18
- Pastor Ben designated \$2,645.83/pay period housing for the month of May per the pastor's clergy tax professional recommendation.

Old Business:

- Scholarship Fund – Kirsten Dahl Shetka has been accepted into seminary.
- Door 2 Entrance/Kitchen Update – We completed required modifications, and the city has inspected. The hood replacement remains outstanding, hopefully the remaining \$10,000 contingency will cover the costs as the estimate remains pending. Door 2 Entrance signage to remain pending until the occupancy certificate is resolved.

New Business:

- Holy Week Reflections – Suggestion to display kids on front and back screens. Also seat the readers on the left side of the church to use the handrail when walking up to the altar.

Communicate to members that any member questions/concern can be sent to council email for reply.

Lindsey Cornell's Transition message: Currently, our focus is on recognizing Pastors Ben and Alicia right now. We have reached out to the ELCA to request an interim pastor and will keep you informed as next steps of the call process progresses.

Sharon Steinhoff-Smith to send thank you messages to Pastor John Hulden, and Jamie Bisek. Also send a thank you to Laurie Thorpe for coordinating the Spring Tea and the speaker from Ruth's House.

Closing Prayer: Lord's Prayer

Motion to Adjourn by Steinhoff-Smith, second by Tietz. Motion approved

Adjournment of Meeting: 8:30 pm

Key Dates:

May Council Meeting: 6:30 pm, Monday, May 19

June Council Meeting: 6:30 pm, Monday, June 23