

Council Minutes
August 14, 2025 5:30
[Revised 8/29/2025.](#)

Members attending: Mary Koepke, Dave Johnston, Pastor Tom, Ron Egelseer, Steve Stretz, Scott Siegrist, Susie Grulke, Sonja Daly

Prayer partners – “Where have you seen God at work this week?”- highs & lows

- Good meeting at All Peoples, met their new pastor, Pastor golfing with Sally – met new person, Sally off to college, family member death and friend in hospice,

Recite: Our mission “Sharing God’s Love, Caring for Community”

Approve minutes: Review/approve previous meeting minutes

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Deepen: Devotions: Mary

- Devotion from Daily Grace, Women of the ELCA. Read Psalm 23. From Backtracking with the Shepherd, “I, more often than before, call on the Shepherd”... I notice his steadfast presents...
- Devotions next time? Susie

Next Meeting: September 11, 2025

Key discussion items:

Short presentation: Right Choice Roofers

- Cody Christianson: Presentation showed some damage. Handed out pictures. He indicated other cases they sent to insurance were accepted, some in the area. He explained we have some damage, it may affect life of the roof, looks like there is enough damage per square area to meet insurance requirement. They work with the insurance and use the same software to calculate the cost. He wanted us to sign a contingency agreement. We did not sign this. Dave indicated we can write a claim. We believe that the deductible is 1% of the value of the building or about \$48,000. and the policy is a depreciation policy. So, we would still have a sizable out of pocket cost. Dave will call Church Mutual to determine policy specifics what they say.

Follow up on these items:

Belize Mission Team 2026—Pastor Tom

- Everyone has applied and registered. Will send in \$1000. for air fare and lodging for each person. Have a team of 9 so far. Exact date for leaving and trip length not set yet.
- Nov. 8th, Italian dinner to raise funds.

Fund raiser—Sonja

- Purchased another 11 more boxes (needed the mint), so have 13 boxes. Sold ½ box at Bluegrass Festival. Susie took another box. Also sold a box at M.J.s Masons brat sale. Dave will look for more opportunities – Harnishfeger park, Lions Club events in September.

Prairie/Wild Church, also prairie project

- Limited progress due to Mary's knee surgery. Still in touch with Kristin, Gavin going to Scout leadership for approval on labyrinth project. Planned installation Sept.-October.

Ice Cream Social—

- Profit not final yet. Over \$3200 taken in. Had left overs for Bluegrass festival. (for youth)

Blue Grass Festival —

- Took in \$1000 for youth. Total about \$4200 both events, less expenses, net roughly \$3200. for both events for youth.

Memorial Project—Steve

- Steve presented purchased book to record of the memorials, he purchased a better leather book cover to make it more presentable. Also presented draft of a flyer that Scott created. He asked for suggestions for a final bulletin. Pastor indicated there should be a concise list of things that they could contribute toward. They need something concrete. He will work with the stewardship team.

Index of resolutions, policies, and statements—Steve

- Steve presented the book of resolutions. Shannon helped put it together. There still is a small amount of work to do, slight clean up and printing some background information. There is also a thumb drive with the documents on it.

General topics:

Intern—Pastor Tom

- Has 2-3 potential sites. He is meeting with Wartburg committee discussion alternatives. May happen Aug. 28. Should have clarity by Sept. 11th if a decision is made. Potential start early next year.

Long-range planning—Pastor Tom

- Tues., Aug. 19th there is a workshop at noon. Will have lunch. At 1:00pm there is a zoom meeting with Thrivent representative.
- To do more we will need more information on Stewardship and intern. Will meet again in September.

Stewardship, 2025—Pastor Tom

- Same people as above – will meet in September.

Kristin's resignation

- Has a big job with nature fund raising at Mequon Nature Center. Also trying to raise money to move location. Job responsibility and other responsibilities cannot continue with Youth position. We have to reexamine this position. Perhaps can use Google Docs to help manage (see below). Perhaps can use intern to help along with Shannon, Scott and Pastor.

Google Docs Transition

- Amy has done some work with Google Docs. We want to continue this and expand it going forward

Internet/Phone provider—

- Kathy doing research on possible changes. Trying to reduce cost.
- Pastor upgraded phone to a Razer phone to make it more usable than old one which was bigger/clumsy. Now will fit in a pocket and more features. Pastor proposed that cost be split between church and him, \$250. Each. Susie motion, Dave 2nd. all approved. Susie, changed motion to pay the entire amount, Ron 2nd, all approved. Take it out of General Fund?

Council membership for 26,27—

- Mary is retiring position after this year. Pastor suggested that Paul Thusius would be good to bring on council. Steve will not continue with being secretary after this year. Mary also had a suggestion: Randy P.

Youth & Family Ministry –Scott

- Ice Cream Social, Bluegrass Fest, Aug. 24th family meeting, Large group of students including 6th grade to confirmation program. (8-10?). Possible boundary waters trip. Intern was interested if he comes.

Worship and Music-

- Backpack blessing Aug 23, 24. Paul Thusius delivering message 30, 31st. Rally day Sept. 7th, including food / picnic- some left overs. 2 baptisms in September. Cathy Paquette would like to play more (2 Saturdays per month). Will be gone a couple months in Arkansas in Winter but would like to play more when she is here.

Mission Fund Team –

- Recommendations and information from Mary H, Paul, including additional Medical Missions request
- Peggy requested funds for logging. \$500. now in escrow for lodging plus \$1100. from Mission Fund, total ~~\$2200~~-\$1600. Committee indicates this is in line with the amount we are supporting for people going to Belize in January. Steve questioned what our policy is. Others have gone with no supporting funds. Other churches ask

people going to do their own fund raising.

Dave motion to approve the amount recommended but suggested we establish a policy for the future on what we will fund for mission trips.

Ask that the mission team create a guideline for future trips, how much is funded / percent of total. Susie 2nd, all approved.

Property Committee –

- Working on the siding and trim.

Finance update —John

- We were advised by Ameriprise to be conservative this year due to all the volatility.
 - Amount available / planned for scholarships approx. \$8300.
 - Some money from General Checking, Capital Fund and Youth fund moved to UW Credit Union for higher interest.
 - Approx. balances as of May 1: Capital fund \$88,552., Vision Fund to use approx. \$12,300., General Fund \$44,900.
 - For exact details please contact Kathy or John / Finance committee.

Vision Fund Continuing Resolution review and discussion

- Much discussion about whether it should be used for travel. One question is “Should the Vision Fund be used for travel?” What constitutes “to enhance the mission and ministry of St. Olaf Church”? It seems to make sense that the prairie project and for the cost of projects in Belize but travel is less clear. We also have the Mission Fund. The Vision Fund was created at the time of the Thrive Team to support our longer-range viability.
The question as to whether the Vision Fund should be used for travel and/or how much of travel should be funded was not clarified.
Simply put there should be thoughtful consideration when using these funds that it meets the intent of the fund.

Thrive Team-

- Has not met.

Opportunities: Ride to the Barns helpers...Thank you!!!

- Thanks to those who helped and worked so hard to make the event successful.

Closing: Lord's Prayer