

9/15/26 - COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

7:00 p.m. Meeting Called to Order: Sherri Eriksrud, President

Members Present: Pastor Joe Orner, Sherri Eriksrud, Kristi Kirsch, Eric Larson, Deb Mangan, Bill Tyler, Deb Kielty, Rich Latterner, Leah Skille

Members Absent: Pastor Reggie Klindworth, Krista Hamman, Ashley Peterson (Director of Finance)

7:01 p.m. Devotion: Deb Mangan (Psalm 145)

7:04 p.m. Approval of August 26 Council Minutes

- Eric Larson made the motion to approve the minutes; Bill Tyler seconded the motion.
- All in attendance at the August meeting approved; no one objected.
- Motion carried.

7:05 p.m. Pastor Reggie's Report

- Pastor Reggie wasn't in attendance because of his mother's funeral being earlier in the day. Pastor Joe highlighted some of the items from Pastor Reggie's report.
- The transformation of the new Youth Room is underway.
- 26 6th-8th grade students have registered for confirmation.
- Ashley Peterson has volunteered to be the new Wednesday Night Dinner Coordinator.

7:06 p.m. Pastor Joe's Report

- Pastor Joe could feel the energy in the sanctuary on Rally Sunday.
- Council members acknowledged Pastor Joe's uplifting Rally Sunday sermon.
- September 20 is Peace Sunday and the Justice & Inclusion team will be helping with worship.
- A new Christ candle has been ordered. It will be dedicated later this fall.
- Pastor Joe is working on a new rental and building use guide.
- Sara Keim did a great job putting together the Fall Crownicle.
- The food drive for Bountiful Baskets is going well.
- Spark, Connect and Confirmation orientations were held on September 9.
- Pastor Joe attended the monthly meeting for interim pastors in September.
- Pastor John Hulden, Assistant to the Bishop, will be retiring soon. He has made a big impact on Pastor Joe and has meant a lot to him over the years.
- Deb Kielty did a very good job on the Fall Crownicle article.

7:17 p.m. Transition and Call Process: Pastor Joe Orner

- The Transition Team is continuing to meet and has two upcoming meetings scheduled.
- The team members are Rachel Berg Scherer, Mikel Jones, Rich Latterner, Sarah Morrow, DeeAnn Pettyjohn, Leah Skille and Grant Taylor.

- The team is working under this statement: “God has a mission. God’s mission has a church. All we’re doing is asking how we can join in.”
- Pastor Joe asked the Council members to complete the Congregation’s Ministry Assessment before leaving the meeting.
- The team is working through the Seven Checklists for Congregations in Transition. Checklist #1 and #2 have been completed and the team is in the process of completing Checklist #3. After #3 and #4 are completed, the Transition Team will have completed their portion of the call process and the Call Committee will take over.
- The Transition Team is looking back at where we were as a congregation, where we are now and who we want to be in the future.
- After the team completes the Ministry Site Profile the Synod staff will begin working with the congregation on finding suitable candidates and the interview process will begin.
- Starting this week, weekly emails and Sunday bulletins will include updates on the transition process, a list of the members of the Transition Team and the progress that the team has been making.
- A survey will be going out to the congregation and listening meetings will be held to help facilitate the creation of the Ministry Site Profile.
- The actual call process is unlikely to be completed before the end of the year and it is expected that there will be plenty of candidates for the associate pastor position once the process is completed.
- The Council should continue to be a steady voice, noting that we are working towards having the associate pastor position filled in early 2027 and that it is a slow but intentional process for the congregation and we want to make sure we get it right. We want to take time to look at who we are and who we want to be and to celebrate where we’ve been. We want to consider how we may do things differently in the future and want to take advantage of that opportunity.

7:38 p.m. Financial Updates: Sherri Eriksrud for Ashley Pederson

- This is the third straight month of contributions being below budget. In past years an update letter has been sent to congregation members in July. That was not done this year because contributions seemed to be on track. Now that we’re into the new program year a letter is going to be sent out. Hopefully, that letter will spur an update in giving. According to Grant Taylor there is usually a dip in giving after a pastor leaves.
- Last year’s YTD contributions at this same time were \$361,000; this year we’re at \$350,000; an \$11,000 difference.
- Eric Larson suggested having Pastor Reggie mention that the letter was sent out the Sunday after the mailing to reinforce the need for more contributions. Sherri Eriksrud thought it would be a good idea to run that idea by Pastor Reggie. Bill Tyler mentioned that it’s a sign of the times and how some families are struggling due to the current economy.
- A stewardship suggestion was made that it may be beneficial to have someone, possibly Ashley Pederson, give a small talk during a Sunday service describing the many giving options that are available.

- Bill Tyler suggested putting the giving chart in a place where more people would see it. That will be discussed closer to budget time.
- PreSchool Place has been consistently behind on rent throughout the year. It might be appropriate for Pastor Reggie to have a conversation with Deb Trebiatowski to see what her intentions are and the health of her business.
- Fundraising has been excellent this year.

7:59 p.m. Building Updates

Safety, Security, Risk Management Team: Bill Tyler

- The SSR logo has been updated to include the Crown of Glory logo as suggested at last month's Council meeting.
- The number of members on the team has been updated to include 6-8 people. Two new people volunteered to join the team at Rally Sunday's Ministry Fair.
- Bill and Pastor Reggie were meeting with Simon from Kingswood Consulting for their close out meeting when Pastor Reggie received the news that his mother had passed away.
- We should receive the results of the grant application in December. The plan is to have the grant funded upgrades completed by next summer.
- Deb Mangan moved to approve the SSR Charter; Deb Kielty seconded the motion.
- All in attendance approved the motion.
- Motion carried

Formation of Capital Committee: Sherri Eriksrud

- The first meeting will be scheduled for the third week in October. Members of the committee include Bill Tyler, Kristi Kirsch, Krista Hammann, Grant Taylor, Bob Chinnock, Sherri Eriksrud, Tyler Patterson and Pastor Reggie.
- The committee will establish parameters for items to be included on the capital list. The plan is to prioritize three different projects in each of three different price levels so people can contribute toward the list or designate memorials to the list.
- It is hoped that people will be more willing to support tangible items that are included on the capital list.

8:12 p.m. Old Business: Sherri Eriksrud, President

- The Fall Social has been scheduled for November 14. The social committee will be meeting next week to decide on a theme.
- Rally Sunday - Sherri thanked Deb Kielty for the long day and hard work she put in at the brunch. A lot of good feedback was received from congregation members on the brunch. It has become an integral part in having people stay after the service on Rally Sunday. The bounce house didn't seem to be as popular this year as in years past. The date for next year's Rally Sunday should be set as soon as possible so people are aware of it and can plan around it.
- Rally Day Ministry Fair - Sara Keim did a great job setting up for the Ministry Fair. Several committees picked up new members during the Fair.
- Last year the Saturday night events for Rally Sunday were eliminated. It was decided to stick with that decision being that there is no longer a Saturday evening service.

- The suggested food quantities for next year's Rally Sunday are:
 Egg Bakes - 10 - 9"x13" pans cut into 15 pieces each
 Pastries - 14 dozen (7 slots of 2 dozen on sign up sheet)
 Bananas - 4 Bunches
 Cuties - 2 Bags
 Orange Juice - 3 Gallons
 Yogurt - 3 dozen individual servings
 A large pasta salad was brought in which hadn't been done in the past. It was well received so that could be an idea to include in the future.

8:22 p.m. New Business: Sherri Eriksrud, President

- The date of 2027's annual meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 14. Sherri will be talking to Pastor Reggie about possibly changing the date to February 21 because of her work schedule.
- Sherri will also be talking to Pastor Reggie about the possibility of starting to work on the preliminary budget in October.

8:25 p.m. Ministry Team Liaison Updates

- Deb Mangen shared that the Justice and Inclusion team will be participating in the Peace Sunday service on September 20.

8:27 p.m. Closing

- The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 13 at 7:00 p.m. Sherri will send out a Doodle poll for the November meeting.
- Bill Tyler volunteered to lead October's devotion.
- Pastor Joe led the closing prayer which included keeping Pastor Reggie and his family in our prayers.
- Deb Mangen made the motion to close the meeting; Deb Kielty seconded the motion.
- All members present approved the motion.