

Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
August 2026

- I. Call to Order 6:30 p.m.
- II. Devotions/opening prayer-John Hugo (September-MeriBeth Elder)
- III. Prayer Partners
- IV. Roll Call:
Present: Pastor Jason Felici, Herb Harris, Kayla Yasurek, Joe Bruzda, Mark Jones, Dana Shannon, Heather Deemer, Darlene Hoffmann, Jarrett Nicely, Meribeth Elder, Karen Clair, John Hugo, Linda Brigaman

Excused: Kaden Shannon

Unexcused: None
Motion to Accept Roll by Herb Harris; seconded by Darlene Hoffmann.
- V. Adoption of Agenda
Motion to Accept the Agenda by Heather Deemer; seconded by Herb Harris.
- VI. Review of minutes from July
Motion to Accept the minutes by Meribeth Elder; seconded by Karen Clair.
- VII. Communications
 - A. Hearts and Hands helping seniors in the Laurel area in faith and Action sent Trinity a thank you letter.
- VIII. Ministry Report
 - A. July is Trinity's quietest month.
 - B. The no worship on July 4th Saturday service proved to be a good decision because of traffic and severe weather that day.
 - C. Summer attendance at services remains strong.
 - D. The Pastors and their family were able to get some much deserved rest and time to recharge.
 - E. They also attended a "Clergy Couples" conference in West Virginia where they prayed for and received discernment, learned a lot, and reflected on Trinity's mission and path forward. The Felici's and their children also had some great social time with the people they had so much in common with
 - F. In the past, the hospital would notify pastors about who was admitted, so the pastors are requesting that people let them know if they are in the hospital. Or if

you know someone from Trinity is admitted or ill, kindly let Pastor Jason or Pastor Jess know.

IX. Treasurer's Report

- A. There was \$98,527 in Trinity's checking account at the end of July.
- B. The budget is still running better than planned because giving has been strong.
- C. Having one secretary has helped financially.
- D. Office costs are under control as usual, but computer upgrades should be happening this week.
- E. Gas and electricity have been running under budget.
- F. All committees are reminded to do budget sheets for the upcoming year, and attend the September meeting between council and all committee chairs.

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report by Joe Bruzda; seconded by Mark Jones.

X. Unfinished Business

A. Property Update:

- 1. New windows are installed and they look great
- 2. Bathroom and ramp: The Property Committee met with Kevin Smetak about potential options.
- 3. The lift option seems to be more economical than the ramp, but discussion is ongoing.
- 4. There is no update on the roof. The insurance agent has not met with us yet.

B. Parking for church volunteers is still being discussed. The parking placards that were supposed to be used by volunteers were not accepted by the meter maid who ticketed volunteers anyway. Pastor Jess is working with the city police and Latrobe Council to get approval for the placards at all levels, so the volunteers at Trinity will not be ticketed.

C. WIC wants to use an area of the Chapel on Thursdays to help the community. A contract needs to be written and negotiated, and the finance will have to approve it. This will be a minimally invasive entity, with a baby scale and office supplies occupying a small section of the room.

Pastor Jason made a motion to move forward on this with a Finance document; seconded by Kayla Yasurek.

XI. New Business

- A. The nominating committee has been formed: Cheryl Morgan, Donna Showalter, Dave Gebhart, Tiffany Shrum and Kathy Jones. President Jarrett Nicely will appoint a chair as we get closer to council nominations.

- B. Budget 2027 forms have been emailed to committees. Council reps should remind them to complete the form and have at least two representatives present at the upcoming meeting.

A motion was made by Mark Jones and seconded Herb Harris to move the date of the September 18th council meeting to September 8 at 6 p.m, in Fellowship Hall. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by MeriBeth Elder; seconded by Joe Bruzda

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Heather Deemer