Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
October 2026

I. Call to Order 6:30 p.m.
II. Devotions/opening prayer-by MeriBeth Elder
III. Prayer Partners
IV. Roll Call:

Present: Pastor Jason Felici, Herb Harris, Kayla Yasurek, Mark Jones, Dana Shannon, Heather Deemer, Darlene Hoffmann, Jarrett Nicely, Meribeth Elder, Karen Clair, John Hugo, Linda Brigaman.

Excused: Joe Bruzda
Unexcused: None

V. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to accept the agenda by MeriBeth Elder; seconded by Dana Shannon.

VI. Review of minutes. A special thank you goes to Dana Shannon who did the minutes during my absence!

Motion to accept the September minutes by Heather Deemer; seconded by Darlene Hoffmann.

VII. Communications: None to report
VIII. Ministry Report

A. The Annual Stewardship program is underway, and the church has sent pledge cards by mail, and placed them at the ends of the pews for members to report anticipated donations. We have already received 66 responses compared to last year's 52. We are doing better than last year.
B. The church is back to the regular schedule with workers and groups present in the building after the summer break.
C. The Pastors hospital visits this month were all in Latrobe Hospital, which is unusual.
D. While other churches report a decline in program attendance, Trinity is holding steady.
E. November is the month activities are anticipated to increase with confirmation soon, Advent, and other holiday events coming. The Pastors are planning two months ahead.
F. Staffing is going well, the probationary period is over, and the Pastors report that we have a solid working group.

IX. Treasurer's Report

A. There was $66,719 in the account at the end of the month.
B. Unified giving is still going better than planned.
C. Unified rent is higher than average because a check was lost in the mail, and the renter paid the previously missing amount this month.

D. September allowances were pretty much on target as planned.
E. Maintenance and building expenses were higher due to a repair Herb and Dan had to do on the boiler, saving the church money by doing it in-house.
F. Cash flow has been good, and the deficits are better than planned.

A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Darlene Hoffmann; seconded by Mark Jones.

X. Unfinished Business

A. Property update- The bathroom and ramp/roof alterations are expected to cost $10,000 because it is being done in-house by Trinity members.
B. The parking lot extension by the carport is now finished and ready to be sealed and to have lines painted.
C. Budget 2027-The budget is on the church council's table from finance to be looked at and amended as needed.

*There are increases in almost all areas, as expected.
*Hospitalization, benefits and pensions increased in general by 15%, but we have now added a full time office secretary which increased the numbers as expected.

A motion to accept the 2027 budget was made by Karen Clair; seconded by Kaden Shannon.

XI. New Business

A. The Property Committee makes a motion to renovate the chapel and Weldon St. side offices with money from the Sandy Gaul honorarium in an amount of $5,000.

This motion unanimously passed with council.

B. Fall business meeting dates have been scheduled for 2026.

***Sunday, November 22, at 9:30 a.m.** in the church sanctuary is when the first business meeting will occur. The budget will be presented and the nominating committee will present names of people running for church council.

***December 5th and 6th** will be balloting only, for the budget and future church council members.
A motion to accept the meeting dates was made by Herb Harris; seconded by Mark Jones.

C. New Members and confirmands to be approved by council
1. Jacquelyn Gregorich
2. Lynn Smith
3. Jeff and CHristina Reyer
4. Ann Macharyas

A motion to accept these members was made by Linda Brigaman; seconded by Jarrett Nicely; unanimously approved.

Confirmands
1. Madison Grace McLain
2. William Anthony Hebenthal
3. Alexander Nathaniel Grohal

4. Peyton Catherine Ingelido
5. Nico William Scalise
6. Giovanni Michael Tomlinson

A motion to accept the confirmands was made by Kaden Shannon and seconded by Karen Clair.

D. Updates from Dana Shannon and the Outreach committee:

*November 11- Christmas baskets begin
*December 13- Picking up food at Aldi to assemble the baskets
*December 17- Baskets will be assembled
*December 18- Packing baskets continued
*December 19- Basket distribution here, and deliveries will be made.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kaden Shannon; seconded by Heather Deemer.

Adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 8:30 p.m.