# Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
## *Congregational Council Minutes*
## *September 8, 2026*

### I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:17 p.m. by Mark Jones, Vice President.

### II. Devotions/Opening Prayer

October – Meri Beth Elder

### III. Prayer Partners

### IV. Roll Call

**Present:** Pastor Jess Felici, Herb Harris, Kayla Yasurek, Joe Bruzda, Mark Jones, Dana Shannon, John Hugo, Linda Brigaman, Kaden Shannon

**Excused:** Karen Clair, Heather Deemer, Jarrett Nicely, Darlene Hoffmann, Meri Beth Elder

Motion to Accept Roll by Herb Harris; seconded by John Hugo.

### V. Adoption of Agenda

Motion to Accept the Agenda by Linda Brigaman; seconded by Joe Bruzda.

### VI. Review of Minutes

Motion to Accept the minutes by Kaden Shannon; seconded by John Hugo.

### VII. Communications

A. There were no communications this month.

### VIII. Ministry Report

A. August was a fantastic month, and attendance was high.

B. Vacation Bible School was blessed with more first-time attendees.

C. Trinity will continue moving forward with conversations with WIC.

D. The Congregational Picnic was well attended.

E. Pastor Jess stated that Trinity is a place that finds people and that people find Trinity. She shared that things are really beautiful at Trinity right now and that it is difficult to put into words.

### IX. Treasurer's Report

A. Unified Giving continues to trend above budget.

B. Salaries and wages are $11,190 under budget due to having one full-time secretary rather than two part-time secretaries.

C. Committees are under budget for the year.

D. Office expenses continue to operate under budget.

E. The final payment for the new windows has been made, and the Building budget remains under budget for the year.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Joe Bruzda; seconded by Linda Brigaman.

## X. Unfinished Business

### A. Property Update

1. The handicap bathroom is being prioritized.
2. The plan is to utilize members of the congregation to assist with the construction and plumbing work along with Dan Casko, Trinity Facility Manager.

### B. Chapel Use and Parking

1. The Chapel is ready for Pearls of Prayer.
2. There is no new update regarding parking; however, discussions concerning the parking situation have continued.

## XI. New Business

### A. Endowment Update

1. Ashley Varner presented information regarding Trinity's Endowment Funds during the budget portion of the meeting.
2. Trinity's goal is to use 7% or less of the total Endowment Funds each year.
3. Trinity has been blessed with a substantial Endowment Fund.
4. There are numerous restrictions governing how Endowment Funds may be distributed.

### B. Budget 2027 – Proposed

1. A 7% increase for 2027 was presented for Unified and Communion envelope giving.
2. The 2027 rent for Head Start has been renegotiated at $19,600 annually.
3. Some committees submitted increased budget requests for 2027.
4. Hospitalization, Life and Disability costs are increasing by approximately $20,000. These expenses apply only to full-time staff, including the pastors, and the increase is not negotiable.
5. Office expenses are being decreased due to staff efficiency.

### C. Other

1. A clarification was made regarding the Christian Education/CYFM Committee minutes. Trinity is not currently looking for a Parish Nurse, as stated on page 15 of the Council Packet.
2. The reference was instead to Trinity being responsible for Pine Springs Camp during the summer, which had already occurred.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Joe Bruzda; seconded by John Hugo.

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. with The Lord's Prayer led by Pastor Jess Felici.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Shannon
*on behalf of Heather Deemer, Secretary*