

Executive Summary

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting

September 8, 2026

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council met on September 8, 2026, with a quorum present. The meeting opened with prayer, followed by approval of the consent agenda, the August 2026 meeting minutes, the pastoral report and financial reports. Discussion focused on ministry activities, stewardship, church property repairs, and leadership succession planning.

Key Decisions and Approvals

- **Financial Reports:** Approved as presented.
- **Church Sign Repair:** Approved a \$5,000 expenditure to repair the damaged church sign. Although the insurance deductible is \$10,000, the minutes indicate that the deductible will be waived by the insurer as they provided \$5,000 in coverage for repair of the sign. Restitution from the individual responsible for the damage is considered unlikely.
- **Consent Decree and Consent Items:** Approved, including the previous Council meeting minutes and pastoral report.

Financial Highlights

Trinity's financial position was reported as favorable.

Budget Updates through August 2026:

August 2026 (*Unified Fund Only – aligned to budgeted income & expenses*):

○ Income:	\$64,051
○ Expenses:	<u>\$81,235</u>
○ Difference:	(\$17,184)

YTD thru August 2026 (*Unified Fund & YTD Investment Return**):

○ Income:	\$633,388
○ Investment Return thru August 2026*:	\$374,400
○ Expenses:	<u>\$776,423¹</u>
○ Difference:	\$231,365

* Not Included: Dedicated Fund and Trinity Trust Fund Balances

¹ Includes partial payment of \$50,000 for the Phase 3 Roofing Project

Ministry and Committee Updates

- **Preschool:** Enrollment is full. A fall open house is being planned, including a bounce house.
- **Stewardship:** The team continues to meet with Pastor Mike. The next Zoom meeting is scheduled for Sept. 14, with the congregational stewardship kickoff planned for late October.
- **Memorial Garden:** Final versions of the Governing Document and Terms & Conditions document have been updated by Pr. Jeff and Nick Messing and are under review by Sandy.
- **Trust Fund:** A meeting is anticipated for late September.
- **Asset Management and Executive Committee:** No reports or meetings were noted.

Pastoral and Congregational Updates

- **Worship Schedule:** Two Sunday worship services are scheduled to resume September 13, 2026. A congregational poll will help determine whether this change should become an annual practice.
- **Family Ministry:** The September family event at Camp Wixom was well attended. The next family day is scheduled for September 20.
- **Church Directory:** Staff are contacting the directory company for an update on publication timing (current estimate is November 2026). Review of the initial draft is completed – review of the final draft is in progress.
- **Synod Assembly - May 14-15, 2027:** Planning continues.
- **Hearing Assistance System:** The bid from Simoni Systems had not yet been received.
- **Vicar Update:** Vicar Sophie is attending a conference.

Leadership and Governance

The Council discussed succession planning for next year's Executive Committee. Further discussion is planned for the October meeting. The Nomination Committee may also meet in October.

Upcoming Priorities and Follow-Up

1. Complete the church sign repair using the approved \$5,000 allocation.
2. Continue stewardship preparations for the late-October congregational kickoff.
3. Review and finalize the Memorial Garden plan.
4. Follow up on church directory publication and the hearing assistance system bid.
5. Evaluate the return to two Sunday worship services through congregational polling.
6. Continue Executive Committee succession and nomination planning.
7. Invite Melanie to report at the next Council meeting.

Next Meeting: October 13, 2026

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m., following the closing prayer.