

Executive Summary

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting

July 21, 2026

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council met on July 21, 2026, with a quorum present. The meeting opened with prayer, followed by approval of the June meeting minutes and consent agenda. In addition, the meeting focused on financial stewardship, strategic initiatives, staffing, and several significant ministry investments as the congregation continues implementing its long-term strategic plan.

Financial Highlights

- The church remains financially secure, despite expected seasonal declines in giving during the summer months.
- Utility expenses increased due to warmer weather, and July offerings are projected to be lower because of member travel.
- Major facility projects are in progress, including:
 - Phase 3 roof replacement
 - Kitchen refrigerator and stove replacements (funded with a previous designated donation)
- Budget Updates:

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

◦ Income:	\$69,926
◦ Expenses:	<u>\$93,698¹</u>
◦ Difference:	(\$23,772)

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

◦ Income:	\$489,142
◦ Investment Return thru June 2026*:	\$321,083
◦ Expenses:	<u>\$605,870</u>
◦ Difference:	\$204,355

* Not Included: Dedicated Fund and Trinity Trust Fund Balances

¹ Includes partial payment of \$43,835 for the Phase 3 Roofing Project

Ministry Highlights

- **Pastoral Ministry**

- Pastor Jeff announced plans for a **Campfire Worship** event on **Sunday, August 16**.
- The planned Jerusalem trip led by Pr. Jeff has been postponed until **2028** due to ongoing conflict in the Middle East.

- **Pastoral Care**

- Work continues to fill a new part-time **Pastor of Congregational Care** position, with plans to communicate the opportunity to the congregation. Work continues with the Bishop's office as we move forward with a call process for this 40-hr/month ordained pastor position.

- **Committee Reports**

- **Memorial Garden:** Guidelines are being updated.
- **Preschool:** Personnel changes continue; playground equipment improvements remain under discussion.
- **Asset Management:** Updates included kitchen improvements, status of the roof replacement project and continued discussion regarding the future of Trinity Camp.
- **New Member Ministry:** A "welcome" picnic is scheduled for **Tuesday, August 18** at the Gramza home.
- **Stewardship:** Planning is underway for a fall 2026 stewardship initiative emphasizing **broad congregational engagement and participation** rather than a traditional focus on financial giving.

- **Strategic Planning**

- Strategic planning teams will begin reporting to the Council.
- A youth ministry update is planned for the August meeting.
- Discussion continued regarding Trinity's long-term growth, including future use of property east of Jefferson Avenue, financial priorities, and the possible reactivation of the Long-Term Planning Committee.

- **Facilities and Communications**

- Website improvements remain a priority – all web pages have been updated to include the new Trinity logo, updated content and photos. A new Trinity Council page has been created to include short bios for each Council member, executive summaries of monthly minutes and reference materials for recent annual meetings.
- The church photo directory is nearing completion – the final draft has been submitted for proofing by the printing company.
- Carpet replacement in the entryway and Narthex is scheduled for later this summer.

The meeting concluded with prayer and adjourned at **6:50 p.m.**