

Executive Summary

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting

June 9, 2026

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council met at Trinity Camp on Wixom Lake. The meeting focused on financial stewardship, strategic initiatives, staffing, and several significant ministry investments as the congregation continues implementing its long-term strategic plan.

Overall Assessment

June's meeting reflected a Council investing intentionally in Trinity's future. Significant decisions were made to strengthen stewardship, improve communication through a redesigned website, continue strategic planning implementation, prepare for staffing transitions, and maintain responsible oversight of facilities and finances. The tone of the meeting was forward-looking, with a continued emphasis on growing congregational engagement and sustaining ministry for years to come.

Financial Highlights

- May giving to the Unified Fund was strong, helping to offset anticipated lower summer giving. Church investments continue to perform well.
 - **May 2026:**

○ Income:	\$96,147
○ Expenses:	<u>\$94,354</u>
○ Difference:	\$1,793
 - **YTD thru May 2026:**

○ Income:	\$419,216
○ Investment Return thru May 2026:	\$291,256
○ Expenses:	<u>\$512,173</u>
○ Difference:	\$198,299

Not Included: Dedicated Fund and Trinity Trust Fund Balances

- Funds were transferred to support the operating budget during the summer giving season.
- A **\$25,000 transfer** from the Special Memorials Fund to the Seminary Student Fund was approved to replenish support for Vicar Sophie

- Major facility projects remain underway, including:
 - Roof replacement
 - Kitchen refrigerator replacement
 - Cooktop repairs (funded through a previous designated donation)

Major Action Items Approved

Stewardship Initiative

Council approved **up to \$10,000** to engage Pastor Mike Reinhardt and the GSB Group in developing a comprehensive stewardship initiative. The goal is to create a congregation-wide culture of generosity and long-term financial sustainability. Glen will lead the process with a newly formed committee.

Website Redesign

Council approved approximately **\$4,000** to redesign Trinity's website.

The new website is envisioned as:

- more engaging for members and visitors,
- supportive of Trinity's Strategic Plan,
- easier to update,
- better at highlighting ministries and volunteer opportunities,
- eventually functioning as a "living directory" of congregational life.

Robin will oversee ongoing website management.

Staffing Updates

Several staffing developments were shared:

- Search continues for a **part-time Evening Receptionist**, with over 50 applications received to date.
- A potential **part-time Visitation Pastor position** is being explored.
- Council welcomed **Vicar Sophie** to Trinity on **June 8, 2026**.
- Vicar Tim announced that he has accepted a call and will conclude his internship on **June 21**, with ordination scheduled for **August 8, 2026**.

Strategic Plan Progress

Implementation of Trinity's Strategic Plan continues. Leadership emphasized that the stewardship initiative and new website are intended to advance the congregation's priorities by strengthening communication, increasing engagement, and encouraging broader participation in ministry.

Committee Updates

- Memorial Garden guidelines are being revised by the Memorial Garden Committee in partnership with Pastor Jeff and Nick Messing.
- No reports were presented from Preschool, Asset Management, Trust Fund, or New Member committees.

Additional Business

Council also discussed:

- website limitations currently preventing online posting of meeting minutes
- a recent theft from the rented LPGA storage area, with police having made an arrest
- recent ELCA bylaw revisions to the model constitution for ELCA congregations will require minor updates to Trinity's constitution to maintain alignment. Council to review these draft updates when ready.
- developing an emergency response policy for medical incidents during worship services