

# Executive Summary

## Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting

May 12, 2026

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council met on **May 12, 2026**, with a quorum present. The meeting focused on ministry updates, financial stewardship, strategic planning, facility needs, and staffing transitions.

### Financial Highlights

- Total church assets were reported at approximately **\$2.72 million**.
- While **April giving was below expectations**, overall finances remain on track due to improved investment performance, including recent market gains.
- Council approved transferring **\$25,000 from the Special Memorials Fund to the Seminary Student Reserve Fund** to support Trinity's vicar program.
- Initial discussion began on establishing a dedicated fund for future **organ repairs, renovations, and related facility improvements** as part of the church's strategic planning process.
- The financial report was approved.
  - **April 2026:**

▪ Income:	\$54,570
▪ Expenses:	<u>\$86,694</u>
▪ Difference:	(\$32,124)
  - **YTD thru April 2026:**

▪ Income:	\$323,069
▪ Investment Return thru April 2026:	\$185,698
▪ Expenses:	<u>\$417,819</u>
▪ Difference:	\$90,948

*Not Included: Dedicated Fund and Trinity Trust Fund Balances*

### Ministry & Committee Updates

- **Music Ministry** updates were postponed until the June meeting.
- The **Memorial Garden Committee** will continue discussions regarding future improvements and updates to procedures and guidelines.
- Council reaffirmed the importance of the **Preschool** as an integral ministry of the church and discussed increasing connections between preschool families and congregational life. The preschool's request for upgraded security locks was referred to the Asset Management Team.
- Asset Management reported preparations for Camp Trinity and tabled a proposal for new narthex carpeting pending additional information and congregational input.

- The Trust Fund Committee reviewed its process for evaluating funding requests.
- Development of a **new member mentoring program** continues.

## **Pastoral & Staff Updates**

Several significant staff transitions are underway:

- **Vicar Sophie** will begin her internship on **June 8, 2026**.
- **Stacey's** final day will be **June 5, 2026**.
- **Robin Kern-Hamilton** begins serving as our **new Communication & Office Administrator** on **May 11, 2026**.
- Work continues to fill another staff position and to explore hiring a **part-time Visitation Pastor** focused on outreach, in consultation with the bishop.
- **Phase One of Trinity's Strategic Plan has been completed**, and efforts are underway to improve the church website, including posting Council meeting minutes online.
- **Vicar Tim** graduates this month and will conclude his ministry at Trinity on **June 21** as he completes the call process.

## **Strategic Focus**

Council discussed several initiatives that align with Trinity's long-term vision:

- Implementing the church's strategic plan through future focus teams.
- Planning for long-term organ maintenance and facility improvements.
- Increasing outreach through additional pastoral support.
- Improving communication and transparency through enhanced website content.

## **Other Business**

- The June 2026 Council meeting is proposed to be held at **Camp Trinity**.
- Council discussed recognizing Trinity members who actively serve the greater Midland community as a way to celebrate ministry beyond the church walls and encourage greater congregational engagement.
- Initial conversation also began regarding a future **stewardship campaign**.