Executive Summary

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting

October 12, 2026

Trinity's Church Council met on October 12, 2026 with a quorum present. The meeting opened with prayer, followed by approval of the consent agenda, the September meeting minutes, and pastoral and financial reports. Discussion focused on ministry activities, stewardship, church property repairs, and leadership succession planning, among other topics, reflecting continued progress in several important areas of Trinity Lutheran Church's ministry and operations.

Key actions included approval of funding for an improved hearing assistance system, approval of investment portfolio adjustments to strengthen liquidity of funds, and completion of the Memorial Garden policy updates. The Trinity Preschool continues to operate at full capacity, while property improvements and church camp restoration remain active priorities.

An especially significant development was Council's recommendation of Pastor Kristen Ulmanis for the new part-time Pastor of Congregational Care position. This represents an important step toward expanding pastoral care ministry, subject to the required approval process and congregational vote.

Looking ahead, Council's priorities include the November 8 stewardship campaign, preparation for next year's leadership transition, continued property improvements, and progress toward restoring the church camp for the spring of 2027.

Key Decisions and Approvals

- **Financial Reports:** Approved as presented.
- **Call of a Part-**Time Pastor of Congregational Care: Recommend Pr. Kristen Ulmanis to the congregation for approval of a call at an upcoming special congregational meeting.
- **Investment Committee Recommendations:** Council approved the Trinity's Investment Committee's recommended adjustments to the church's investment accounts. The recommendations are intended to restore liquidity and rebalance the portfolio following significant transfers for church expenses.
- **Hearing Assistance Upgrades:** Jonathan Lonsway presented details on the proposed Simoni sound system to assist individuals with hearing impairments in the sanctuary and Gathering Room. Council approved a budget of up to $5,000 to move forward with proposed upgrades.
- **Consent Decree and Consent Items:** Approved the previous Council meeting minutes and pastoral report.

Financial Highlights

Trinity's financial position was reported as favorable.

Highlights include:

- Trinity Trust Fund committee has approved multiple grants based on established processes
- St. Andrew's parsonage updates are complete
- A portion of the chairs in the Gathering Room are in the process of being re-covered
- New gas range/oven and refrigerator replacements are completed in the kitchen
- City inspections and certifications of all Trinity properties are completed for the year

Longer Range Items:

- The carpet in the Narthex will be installed by the end of the year
- Requested quotes for sanctuary air handler modifications to enable A/C
- Extending restoration of the Trinity Camp facilities to spring 2028 with additional budget flexibility
- Lodge flooring to be replaced with LVT as part of the church carpet project (at no additional cost)

Budget Updates through September 2026:

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

Income:	$93,302
Expenses:	$80,657
Difference:	$12,645

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

Income:	$734,410
Investment Return thru September 2026*:	$333,424
Expenses:	$859,762[1]
Difference:	$208,072

** 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. New playground mulch has been installed to meet State of MI requirements.
- **Memorial Garden:** Updates to the All Saints Memorial Garden Governing Document are complete and will be submitted for Council approval at the November 2026 meeting in accordance with Trinity's constitution.

- **Asset Management:** All city inspections and certifications are complete for 2026. Property maintenance and improvement projects continue, including:
  - Replacement of the front door latch at 3608 Jefferson
  - Replacement of the garage entry door and door jamb at the Legacy Center
  - Gutter work at the Legacy Center before winter
  - Narthex flooring has been selected and ordered
  - Quotes are pending for sanctuary air conditioning modifications and automatic air handler operation
  - Church camp restoration remains a priority, with full repairs targeted by the end of winter 2026–2027 to prepare for spring 2027. Additional restoration may extend into spring 2028.
    - The camp well will be tested for E. coli and nitrates in fall 2026
    - Lodge flooring will be replaced with luxury vinyl tile at no cost to the church
- **Stewardship:** The stewardship team is in the final planning stages. The first commitment letter has been mailed. A second letter and congregational temple talks will precede the November 8 stewardship kickoff.
- **2027 Nominating Committee:** This committee is expected to meet within the next 60 days to begin identifying leadership for the coming year.

Pastoral Updates

- **Pastoral Call** Council recommends calling Pastor Kristen Ulmanis to serve as Pastor of Congregational Care.
  - The process included obtaining approval from Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas of the N/W Lower MI Synod and ensuring ELCA candidacy and roster requirements were met.
  - Trinity's Church Council is serving as the call committee for this new part-time position.
  - A congregational vote to approve the call and the planned compensation will be required.
  - The proposed arrangement includes a 10-hour-per-week contract and permitted occupancy of the St. Andrews parsonage.
- **Pastoral Ministry:** Pastoral activities continue to include Ignite, weekly worship, seminars, and Pub Theology.

Upcoming Activities

November 8, 2026	Stewardship campaign kickoff
November 14-15, 2026	Congregational meeting for the call of a new part-time Pastor of Congregational Care
December 2026	Nominating Committee meets to address next year's leadership
Fall 2026	Church camp well testing
End of 2026	Annex carpet installation anticipated
Spring 2027	Church camp preparation and reopening readiness
Spring 2028	Potential completion of additional camp restoration

Next Meeting: November 10, 2026

The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m., following the closing prayer.