## Council Meeting Minutes: June 8, 2026

### Call to Order

Dale called the meeting to order at 6:38 PM.

### Attendance

**Present:** Pastor Chad, Curt, Cheryl, Pat, Heidi, Nancy, Jessica, Al, and Dale.

**Absent:** Darla.

### Devotion/Prayer

Pastor Chad led the group in a prayer, giving thanks and asking for guidance, wisdom, and love in the discussion and decisions to be made.

### Pastor's Report

Pastor Chad referred to his previously submitted written report (see below). He detailed possible implementation of an SMS texting service, one of three action points from a Faith Forward team survey. This service will be used for short devotional messages. The other two action points from the survey are to hold one faith family night event per year and to explore "grab and go" meal kits with faith exercises.

*Joys and Thanksgivings*

- Baptisms
- Synod Assembly
- Wonderful Worship Services
    - Including: Pentecost and Holy Trinity
    - High School Senior Recognition (Thanks Jess for making the gift baskets)
- Stewardship of Financial Gifts
    - Make it possible for all the things we do together
- Including: Inviting space for the hundreds of people that came to vote

*Ministry Happenings*

- Attend Southeastern Iowa Synod Assembly
- Attend webinar on book study of "Invitational Christian"
- Baptisms (2)
- High school senior open houses (3)
- Visits (11)
- Bible Study (Wednesday Men)
    - Prepare and lead study of upcoming gospel
- Possible Sabbatical
    - Assemble Committee; prepare initial policy
- Technology
    - Ongoing testing of worship streaming equipment
        - Thanks to Darla for creating a one-page user guide document
    - Use of AI for capturing meeting minutes
        - Draft a policy, research best option, and more
    - SMS Texting
        - Resulting from *Faith Forward* survey earlier this year

        - More in depth than initially thought including creation of a Privacy Policy for website
- Facebook and website maintenance
- Worship and sermon preparation
- Newsletter
- Tuesday morning prayers at 10:00
    - 4-5 regularly attending; open to all

*Upcoming*

- Vacation: 6/25-6/30
- ELCA Rostered Leaders Gathering
- 7/6-7/9 in Indianapolis
- VBS: 7/20-7/23

**Secretary's Report (Darla)**

Pat made a motion to approve the May minutes as presented. Cheryl seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report (Nancy)**

Nancy presented the financial reports for the month.

- **Fund Balances:** Most activity was in the general fund. Notable activity in other funds included expenses for Angel Meals and a monthly anonymous donation to the Good Samaritan Fund.
- **Budget Comparison:** Offering revenue for the month was $13,000, slightly below budget. However, year-to-date offerings are $5,000 above budget. Total expenditures were $13,952. Year-to-date, expenses exceed revenue by $2,100.
- The general fund balance is $35,831, and there are no immediate financial concerns.

Cheryl made a motion to accept the treasurer's report. Jess seconded and passed unanimously.

**Building and Grounds Report (Curt)**

Curt reported speaking with Howard about weed management and seeding of grass in front of church where ground was dug up for water line connection. Robertson Construction assessed repairs needed to the bell tower, with a potential cost of around $12,000. Discussion tabled until a formal bid is received.

Parsonage bathroom renovation recently began with installation of new tub and shower surround. New flooring will be installed after repairs. Carpet, which is deteriorating, will be removed in small room on main level by Pastor Chad and Amanda. Wood flooring matching the dining and living rooms was discovered underneath. Amanda may see if she can refinish. Otherwise, refinishing could be a project for 2027.

**Education and Youth Report (Jess / Al)**

- **Pond Party:** A pond party is scheduled for Sunday, June 14, 2026, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Bonnie Conner's pond. No RSVPs have been received yet.
- **Vacation Bible School (VBS):** VBS is scheduled for July 20-23, from 5:30 to 8:00 PM. Registration is open. Five families have signed up. A planning meeting is being scheduled, and volunteers are needed.

**Evangelism and Missions Report (Darla)**

Darla submitted a written report, which Dale summarized. The committee is attempting to secure a parade permit for Hoover Hometown Days and is printing stickers with the church's name and address for parade bags. The committee has plans for a float in the parade with the theme "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands." The choir intends to sing on the float. They are also compiling a list of potential newcomers and will discuss God's Work Our Hands at their July meeting.

**Fellowship Report (Pat)**

Pat expressed her gratitude to everyone who has managed fellowship activities, specifically thanking Heidi for including sign-ups in the bulletin and appreciating the group's support.

**Stewardship Report (Cheryl)**

The draft gift policy was shared via email with Claudia and John, and an executive group meeting will be scheduled for review; initial email feedback appears supportive. Dave, in communication with Neil and Chris, created an infographic about the food pantry to show how giving supports the community. Will be distributed in various ways.

**Worship and Music Report (Heidi)**

Heidi reported on the upcoming purchase of a new paschal candle. She is looking into new scarlet paraments. Previous Sunday service went well, and the upcoming Sunday will also include a baptism.

**Old Business**

- **Sabbatical Policy:** A team has been assembled (Al, Phil, Cindy, and Jill T.) to review a drafted sabbatical policy. Next steps include determining costs for the 2027 budget and defining the sabbatical's duration and content. The bishop's office is gathering information from other congregations, expected by the end of summer 2026, to guide the committee. Pastor noted that a policy will benefit future pastors, even if he doesn't take a sabbatical.
- **Council Meeting at the Synod Office:** Pastor Chad spoke with an assistant to the bishop who is eager to meet with the council. The meeting would be a mini-retreat of sorts during the regular council time. Due to vacations in August, September was proposed as a better alternative.

**New Business / Other items**

- **July/August Meeting Schedule:** As has been done previously, a July meeting will not be held. Next business meeting in August as scheduled.
- **Quilters' Funding Request:** A formal, well-written proposal from the quilters requesting $300 was presented. It was noted that the Internal Ministries Fund has just under $3,800 and was created for this purpose. Cheryl moved to approve the request for $300. Curt seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.
- **Website Privacy Policy:** Pastor Chad presented a simple Privacy Policy, required for possible SMS text messaging service. Pat moved to approve and Heidi seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- **Meeting Recording Policy:** A policy for recording meetings for purposes of AI transcription was presented. It includes obtaining annual consent in February, providing a reminder at each meeting's start, and allowing the recording to be paused for sensitive topics. Al motioned to approve. Pat seconded and passed unanimously.
- **Camp Ewalu Request:** A letter from Cadence H. was read, requesting financial assistance to attend Camp Ewalu, which costs $240. The youth fund has approximately $1,100. It was

discussed her attendance could generate more interest in church camp and aiding is a way the congregation lives into the baptismal promise to support and pray for the baptized. Future fundraising could be organized if interest grows. Heidi moved Cadence's to cover the full amount of $240, to be paid from the youth fund. Cheryl seconded. Motion passed. Curt abstained.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting will be August 10th.