

Vision Council Meeting
Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd
Tuesday, July 8, 2025 6:00 PM
Upper Lakeside Room

Vision Council Members Present: Dave Larsen, Melissa Bergman, Craig Bursch, Bob Franseen, Spenser Miller, Cole Peterson, Ann McIntosh, Leah Moore, and Pastor Lisa Buchanan

- I. Call Meeting to order- and welcome Ann McIntosh!
2. Opening Prayer/Devotions - Craig
3. Approve agenda -
 - scheduling the October congregational meeting was on twice. With that deletion, Missy made a motion and Spencer seconded the motion.
4. Approve Minutes of June 10, 2025 VC meeting
 - Bob made a motion to approve minutes from June 8th. Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor.
5. Treasurer's Report
 - Total budgeted, non-budgeted and donor designated revenues through June stand at \$253,795.40 or \$16,476.29 over the budget. Pledged receipts are below YTD budget by \$11,258.50 but unpledged receipts are over by \$6,481.41.
 - It should be noted that the YTD budget for a Special Appeals is \$4,500.
 - Total budgeted, non-budgeted and donor designated expenses through June stand at \$248,607.81 or \$7,330.11 over the budgeted expenses of \$241,277.70.
 - Personnel expense is \$4,942.75 under budget. However, non-budgeted and donor restricted expenses total \$6,536.45 and \$6,001.42 respectively.
 - Looking at YTD budgeted revenues and expenses and comparing them to the budget, we currently have a shortfall of \$9,322.80. When all revenues and expenses are considered, we show a positive net income of \$5,187.59 at the end of June.
 - Christine reported that she transferred \$18,350.13 of the General Fund unrestricted funds to the checking account. These funds were not donor designated. They were funds originally in the checking account and then transferred to savings to accrue interest. She also reported several unanticipated expenses that exceeded the budget. Office supplies were slightly higher this

month as we purchased a safe for the office at a cost of \$649.99. This could potentially be depreciated.

- Miscellaneous Building Expense in the detailed report is higher than budgeted. A total of \$1,595.00 in landscaping services was provided, which was not covered by the gift from the Endowment Fund. However, \$1,000 of this cost was covered by the capital needs fund.
- The electric bill was also higher in June because it included 2 months' billings (May's bill was also paid in June).
- Cole made a motion to approve the treasure's report. Dave seconded the motion. All were in favor.

6. Pastor's Report

A. Administration

- Rick Guernadt to work on changing first floor bathrooms to all-gender
- Staff evaluations scheduled for middle to end of July
- EGLT to cease scheduling worship volunteers ahead of time (starting Aug 3) and move to using a white board in sanctuary for worship volunteer sign-up
- Request to eliminate stewardship campaign this year and instead implement:
 - Ten 1-2 minute videos before worship of different members sharing "Why I Love My Church"
 - Sermon on giving on Sept.28 (Lazarus at the Gate)
 - Temple Talk by council person on the narrative budget on Oct. 5th
 - Pledge cards mailed on Oct. 6th
 - Create a locked offering box where people can drop off their pledge
 - Pledge cards collected (last day) on Sunday, Nov. 9th – too late?
 - Church Legacy events hosted by Joel Abenth (70th Birthday for those turning in 2025 as well as an event for empty nesters)
 - Spenser to help Pastor Lisa with some stewardship items. Bob will also ask Joel if he can help as well.
- 2 receivers and 4 lavalier mics purchased by Brian Fischer for sanctuary sound improvement through Sweetwater
- Brian Fischer to work with slide projection folks on troubleshooting lights and sound issues in the sound booth. Those will be our "go-to" people when Brian is not available.

B. Pastoral Care/Education/Events

- Enneagram Workshop by Karen Carlsen (www.karencarlsen.com) on Wednesday, August 13 th from 5-8pm (\$875 total program cost)
- Contemporary Music meeting with Parker and members to listen
- Summer walking group is Wednesdays at 9am, throughout summer. Currently we are averaging 10 people/session
- Outdoor Worship on July 20th (Lake Superior Day) – acoustic music, attendees bring chairs, east lawn
- Joyce Lund memorial service – July 12 th at 11am

7. Old Business

- A. Consider Call Committee candidates (we each bring three names)
- B. Next step for the Charge Statement for the call committee
 - Small group to consolidate the thoughts the counsel has put together (Cole, Spenser, Craig, and Dave)
- C. LCGS Constitution change
 - References to vision council are gone and changed to congregational council
 - The requirement to have leadership teams is gone. This does not mean we cannot have them but puts less responsibility on the council to assign and approve.
 - Council term to be served changed from 3 years to 2 years
 - Addition to hold meetings by remote communication electronically or via telephone
 - Officer positions to be set as 2 consecutive terms
 - Pending a review of these changes and documentation the vision council will be furthering reviewing during the August meeting.

8. Leadership team and liaison reports (as submitted)

- A. Experiencing God
- B. Reaching Out
- C. Nurturing Faith
- D. Resource Development
- E. Endowment Fund
 - We received an informative update on the Laundry Love program from Sue Boutan. I learned quite a few nitty-gritty details about the program, such as our teaming with other congregations, our financial (\$350/month...in quarters!) and volunteer time commitments (4 hours from a number of volunteers 1x per month), number of clients served by the program, etc. Also, Endowment Board approved a one-time infusion of \$3,000 to Laundry Love to provide some seed money for this program.
 - Pastor Lisa had brought forward a funding request for supplementing Parker's salary in accordance with his proposed increased activities in his "Music Ministry Development at LCGS" plan. This item was tabled with a suggestion that the request to Endowment be reformatted to include one-time money for perhaps music licensing fees, scores, sound equipment, etc. to launch the ministry.
 - Katie Rich submitted a request for a scholarship/funding for a 2-year spiritual direction training program which was approved for \$3,100 per year for two years (\$6,200 total).

9. New Business

- A. Katie Rich sabbatical
 - Katie will have a proposal to the vision council and will be reviewed at the August meeting.
 - Could the Mutual Ministry Group help Katie with this transition?
- B. Schedule an October congregational meeting

- October 26th right after worship
 - This will have to go out to the congregation 30 days in advance
- C. Next step for Parker Hinnenkamp's proposal for an expanded role
- Spencer made a motion that the Vision council will continue to search for ways to support Parker in his musical ministry as written in his letter from the canter. Dave seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- D. Alison Kilpo use of former Choir Room space for a trial period through 12/31/25
- Whereas we are called to be good stewards of our building, and we are called to be good neighbors, welcoming all to our space, and Alison Kilpo has been a reliable user of our building in her Growing Little Loves program, and Pastor Lisa and Katie are advocates for this new, trial venture, and Alison is able to prove insurance coverage, and as a "no charge" trial, this does not require congregational approval
 - Motion was made by Dave to use the old choir room and the adjoining storage space through the end of the year as a trial period. Craig seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- E. Stewardship/budgeting strategy for 2025/2026
10. Schedule next meeting(s) and devotions
- Next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 5th. 6:00PM
 - Bob is on devotions
 - September meeting scheduled for Monday September 8th 6:00PM
 - Cole will do devotions for September.
11. Lord's Prayer and adjourn