

**Faith Lutheran Church
Council Meeting, July 21, 2025**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Attendees: Lori Ashenfelter, Fedearia Sweval, Nancy Hooper, Duane Daily, Darryl Anderson, Pastor Jean, Joe Antal, and Tom Peyton

Excused: Wendy Gajarsky & Nicole Vincent

Devotions: Pastor Jean

Guests: Mark Watkins

Review of the Minutes: All were in favor of approving the minutes of the June meeting; motion passed.

Staff Reports:

- Treasurer: Report submitted. Several areas are below budget. We are still behind on revenue compared to 2024; this is due to not receiving insurance payment or grant in 2025, as was the case in 2024. Giving appears to have increased compared to earlier months. Motion made to accept the Treasurer's report by Duane Daily and seconded by Nancy Hooper.
- Pastor Jean Hanson: Report Submitted reflecting meetings, events, and visits. She will be attending the Chautauqua Institute for 3 weeks.
- Eric Jezewski: Report submitted.
- David Simpson: Report Submitted.
- President's Report: Report Submitted.

Old Business:

- Altar Preparers/Intinction at Communion, both services

Intinction at communion is being considered due to the need for more people to set up communion, particularly at the first service. If this issue is not solved, a decision will be required regarding intinction at Communion. Topic tabled for further discussion.

New Business:

- New Outreach Program Request for Grace House-David Simpson

Pastor Jean provided an overview of Grace House and its services which provides care for those terminally ill and are without a place to live or caregivers. Several members of FLC are currently volunteering at Grace House. David Simpson requests that this be added to our list of organizations we support as outreach ministries through volunteerism. Motion made by Nancy Hooper to add Grace House as an outreach program. Lori Ashenfelter seconded. Motion carried.

- Staff Support Recommendation: Mark Watkins

1. Pastor Jean announced her retirement, effective January 31, 2026. The Church Council will meet with the Bishop to learn about expectations and to express our interest in receiving an interim pastor. Pastor Jean recommended Council meet with the bishop as soon as possible.
2. Mark Watkins, Staff Development -is starting staff evaluations, which occur every other year. Pastor Jean will receive 8 Sundays off this year. Due to taking two Sundays off unexpectedly because of a friend's illness and death, she is short one Sunday for a planned date in September. She has ample vacation time but needs another Sunday and has offered to pay for the supply pastor. Mark recommended granting the Sunday and that the church cover the cost of the supply pastor. A motion was made by Tom Peyton to cover the cost of Pastor Jean being gone for that Sunday; it was seconded by Joe Antal. Motion passed.
3. As a result of Pastor Jean's retirement, Mark recommended forming an ad hoc group (not the Call Committee) to prepare for the vacancy/process of calling a new pastor; he is willing to lead this Team. Before a decision is made about his recommendation, it was agreed that Darryl, Council President, should contact the bishop, and arrange a meeting as soon as possible to begin discussion regarding the process and to learn what is permissible. Mark Watkins was invited to attend in his role as Staff Development Team leader.

Ministry Area Reports:

- Care and Nurture: Wendy Gajarsky -No report
- Communications: Duane Daily -St. John/St. Paul Endowment is moving forward with the online application. Andrew Fligor is in conversation with TRIAD to determine if a fillable application creates issues with the security of the Faith website. Pastor Andrew Courtney is the new chair of the Digital Ministry Committee.
- Celebration and Memorial Courtyard: Nicole Vincent -Report submitted.
- Faith Endowment: Darryl Anderson-No report
- Growth and Learning: Nancy Hooper-No report
- Ministry/Staff Development: Fedearia-No report
- Operations:
 - Property-Joe Antal, Nicole Vincent-Nor report
 - Financial-Darryl Anderson-No treasurer; will talk with John Weisend to see if he will remain until the end of the year.
- Outreach: Tom Peyton-No report
- Preschool Board: Lori Ashenfelter-the Preschool Board met. The enrollment numbers look good. They will consider raising prices at the end of the year. They are accepting donations for the Preschool Scholarship Fund.
- Worship: Joe Antal- New "parament changers" are Ben Bauer and family. A Team Leader for 9 a.m. readers and communion assistants is needed.

Motion to Adjourn by Lori and seconded by Joe.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:28 p.m.