



St. Thomas

Lutheran Church

17007 Q Street, Omaha, NE 68135-1523
Phone: (402) 894-2040 -- www.stlc.org

October 19, 2025 - Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Andrew Marsh, Dave Strovers, Paul Morris, Jon Benson, Patty Pecoraro, Jason Horner, Greg Salton, Abby Jacobsen, Anna Howard, Marty Oleson

Absent: Stephanie Beals, Laura Alexander, Pastor David Nordstrand, Kelley Miller, Pastor Heidi Youngquist

Opening Devotions: Patty – Sit quietly with me Luke 12:21-25

My One Sharing

Approval of September Meeting minutes – Jon moved to approve, Marty seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Report & Budget Update

General Commentary:

- September ended with a deficit of \$4,088.57.

This amount includes the following amounts moved from Designated to Budget:

From Designated

Associate Pastor Campaign	27,450.00
Contingency Fund	9,432.00
Surplus	4,500.00
	<u>41,382.00</u>

- Actual offerings were slightly below budget, but they increased from the summer months. I expect this to continue as we move toward year-end.
- Compensation on was lower than planned due to:
 - o Expense is budgeted evenly throughout the year. April and October are three pay period months.
- As of September 30th, the Imagine More balance is \$331,497.09. This includes contributions of \$12.1k.

Outreach Report:

- Designated funds are funds donated and specifically dedicated to these causes.
- Community impact - \$10,217 spent so far, planning on running close to budget for the year.
- Life groups have been notified they can also utilize community impact funds for service projects
- From a people standpoint, people are engaging in a variety of activities – plans for the outreach to continue to provide opportunities for people to volunteer.

Discussed funding up to 6 months of book purchases

Motion to approve up to \$2,000 for local elementary schools teacher breakfast in November. Anna to coordinate with the schools.

Greg Motioned, Andrew seconded. Motion passed.

Imagine More

- Install for sounds and lights is November 10-23. Waiting on the work for electrical until we get the schematics.
- Imagine more team is coordinating with the staff to communicate the upcoming work with the congregation. In addition to written communication, current discussions on sharing the design board with the congregation.
- Design team evaluating sample chairs for the CLC. Work is starting on each room use so we can best design for that need.
- Bids for Paint, Carpet and Signage will start in January.

Congregational Demographics

Greg did receive demographic data from the church office and is currently doing a summary for next meeting. A few statistics noted for the council on work completed thus far.

- 307 households, Oldest member is 93
- 38 minors baptized without a member in the household, 8 minors are under the age of 2.
- 780 members, 112 members are 19-29 year olds – only 6 of these individuals are in a separate household (likely connected to parents)

Other Business/Council Addendums

Funding Request – Purchasing shirts for Praise Team – Motion to approve up to \$1,000 for Praise Teams. Money to be taken out of Worship Supplies realizing this will put line item over budget for 2025.

Greg Motioned. Jon Seconded, Motion Passed.

Staff Reports: Staff reported out items of particular interest for Council. Full reports are in the shared Council Meeting folder. Other additions to reports provided are below.

Respectively submitted,
Greg Saton

To Do:

- Imagine More Team – Communication on Sanctuary and CLC November updates
- Anna – Work on Breakfast with local schools

Snack/Devotion Calendar

Month	Person
November	Greg
December	Kelley

January	

COMMUNITY IMPACT FUND GUIDANCE

Engaging – Empowering – Sending - Serving Growing as a community in Jesus Christ

This guidance is intended to ensure an understanding of the purpose and use of the Community Impact Fund.

Purpose: The purpose of the Community Impact Fund is to support St. Thomas' outreach and evangelism activities.

- Outreach activities are those that support the STLC community and guests in reaching out in service to those in need. This is often done in partnership with other organizations.
- Evangelism activities equip and empower the STLC community to share our Christ-centered mission with the community and to invite and welcome others to join in this mission.

Criteria – Outreach

Funds for outreach must:

- Support the mission of St. Thomas.
- Funds may be spent on specific projects that preferably use our time, talent, and treasure or funds may be spent in the context of a relationship with a community partner where a specific need may use at least one gift.
- When possible, provide opportunities for families to work together.
- When possible, allow for inviting others to serve alongside our community.

The Outreach Committee will review the use of funds for outreach on an annual basis. The goal is to ensure programs and activities that use Community Impact Funds meet these criteria.

Criteria – Evangelism

Funds for evangelism must:

- Support the mission of St. Thomas.
- Be primarily for the benefit of others – not a member perk.
- Be tied to an invite metric (# of guests at the invitation activity).
- Have a special emphasis on invitations to the unchurched and dechurched.
- If funds are used for a capital project, this should be a one-time expense to create a more welcoming environment rather than ongoing maintenance expenses.

The Evangelism Committee will review the use of funds for evangelism on an annual basis. The goal is to ensure programs and activities that use Community Impact Funds meet these criteria.

Authorities and Budget Approach:

Community Impact clarification: As we spend community impact money, we will spend out of the budget first. Any additional community impact will come from the designated fund which has accumulated over the year. Council goal is to continue to grow the outreach mentality of the congregation, and we are okay depleting the designated funds over time.

Council empowers Outreach Committee to be the point of contact for outreach opportunities. With Council being asked for approval when our current budget approval process requires (anything above \$2,000). Anything under \$2,000 can be acted on by the outreach committee.