



St. Thomas

Lutheran Church

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

September 15, 2025 - Council Meeting Minutes

Present: Pastor David Nordstrand, Andrew Marsh, Dave Strovers, Paul Morris, Jon Benson, Patty Pecoraro, Kelley Miller, Pastor Heidi Youngquist, Jason Horner, Laura Alexander, Greg Salton, Abby Jacobsen, Stephanie Beals,

Absent: Anna Howard, Marty Oleson

Opening Devotions: Jon Benson – Trusting God – Genesis 15:1-6

My One Sharing

Approval of August Meeting minutes – Jon moved to approve, Stephanie seconded. Motion passed.

Financial Report & Budget Update

August ended with a deficit of \$9,050.28. This amount includes the following amounts moved from Designated to Budget:

From Designated:

Associate Pastor Campaign	24,400.00
Contingency Fund	8,384.00
Surplus	4,000.00
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	36,784.00

Actual offerings were below budget, which could be due to Labor Day weekend falling in the last week of August. Fall activities have begun, and I believe offerings will rise with the increase of congregants visiting the church each week.

The following expenses were paid in August, causing Actual Administrative Expense to be greater than Budget:

- Quarterly Property Insurance: \$5,061
- Annual Software Licensing: \$517

Mission Share, for August, includes offerings from July 28-31.

- Committee Expense includes \$1,035 spent to diagnose and repair an HVAC issue.
- Compensation was lower than planned due to:

Expense is budgeted evenly throughout the year. April and October are three pay period months.

- As of August 31st, the Imagine More balance is \$319,315.81. This includes contributions of \$12.2k.

Motion to add \$1,500 from contingency fund to Pastor's discretionary fund. Motion by Greg, Second by Andrew. 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 will coordinate with the staff to communicate the upcoming work.

Outreach Plans and Needs

- Blood drive is looking for volunteers.
- Annual readout for Outreach committee is scheduled for October 2025.

Quarterly Ministry Meeting

- October 6 Agenda ideas
 - Ministry Moment Opportunities – Teams have the opportunity to tell their story and their opportunity
 - 2026 Budget Input – Stephanie
 - Congregational Life – Car Show Possibility
 - Share one thing that the team accomplished in 2025
 - New Sign on Q Street

Other Business/Council Addendums

Other Addendum

The following are items which need approval by Executive Council and/or Council to comply with Constitution and/or Payment Policy of STLC. 1. Formal Approval to pay \$2,260.00 to NP Dodge Real Estate for Rental Assistance (Confidential). Please note: this was previously approved via email with payee "Rent It Management with NP Dodge." The check was written and mailed. STLC was notified that the payee was incorrect and should have been "NP Dodge Real Estate." A stop payment was put on the incorrect check and new check issued. Funds were used from: Designated: Council/Admin: Contingency Fund (\$1500) and Designated: Council/Admin: Pastor's Discretionary Fund (\$760).

Dave motioned, Abby seconded. Motion carried.

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
- Laura – Oct 6 Ministry Team Agenda
- October 2025 meeting – Outreach Community Impact Report – Outreach to present to council on 2025 spent, remaining plans for 2025, and future 2026 plan

Snack/Devotion Calendar

Month	Person
October	Patty
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.