



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

March 18, 2025

Present: Pastor Glen Bickford, Ann Maczuga, Terri Revell, Rachel Henderson, Allison Isenberg, Melissa Johnson

Absent: Mari Senstad, Pam Eliason

Call to Order: Ann called the meeting to order at 6:05 pm

Opening Devotion: Melissa led us in devotions/prayer

Adoption of the Agenda: Terri made a motion to adopt the agenda. Rachel seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Minutes from February 18, 2025 meeting were sent out and approved by all council members via email on February 27, 2025.

Old Business

- Congregation census update: Goal is to information out to the congregation this week about updating personal information. Will plan to do as much as possible electronically and paper format, then phone call, then mailing
- Financial discussion
 - Update on financial plan: Financial plan in place. Talking points if council or staff are getting questions will be sent to council and staff.
 - Food truck: 2nd food truck proposed to rent the kitchen. Nate to gather details to send to council for approval.
 - Kitchen rental: Will explore quotes for professional commercial kitchen cleaning to ensure kitchen is up to standards
- Anniversary planning
 - Outreach team to meet this week to discuss ideas and plans moving forward. Ann to attend the meeting to outline plans already discussed and approved by council.

REPORTS

Executive Team Reports:

President/VP Report

Our plan is to get the Personal Information sheet out next Sunday for individuals to start updating their information for our membership roster. We will be announcing it at church

and having forms on the cart in the narthex. We will also put a note in the next enews. People on line can call or email the church for a copy.

Treasurer's Report

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report February Financial Statements

MONTH	Actual	Budget	2025 Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	Actual	2024 Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
Gen/Bldg Fund:	Feb-25	Feb-25		Feb-24	
Offerings/Receipts	40,032	38,924	1,108	42,217	(2,184)
Expenses	(51,770)	(58,449)	6,679	(72,321)	20,551
Net Gain/(Loss)	(\$11,738)	(\$19,525)	\$7,787	(\$30,104)	\$18,366

YEAR TO DATE	Actual	Budget	2025 Favorable/ (Unfavorable)	Actual	2024 Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
General/Building Fund:	Feb-25	Feb-25		Feb-24	
Offerings/Receipts	84,340	77,120	7,220	78,007	6,333
Expenses	(112,526)	(116,523)	3,997	(137,174)	24,647
Net Gain/(Loss)	(\$28,187)	(\$39,403)	\$11,2167	(\$59,167)	\$30,980

Notable February Activity:

- ❖ For the month of February receipts were lower than expenses.
 - Total offering for the general/building fund for the month was \$31,238. This was higher than budget by \$655.
 - Other income (building use, grants, interest, etc.) was \$8794, which was higher than budgeted by \$453
 - Expenses are favorable to budget this month, and favorable to prior year.
 - ❖ For February year to date, receipts were lower than expenses, resulting in a YTD loss of \$28,187
 - Overall, through February, receipts are higher than budgeted!
 - Expenses are favorable to budget for the year and favorable to last year, however expenses continue to be higher than receipts.
- o We are very carefully watching the expenses and keeping those tight, as well as reviewing contracts and regular expenses to get the best value for POP.

- ❖ Cash balances available at the end of February were \$24,339 with an additional \$35,000 in investment accounts. We pulled \$7600 from the Line of Credit to cover monthly expenses.

Secretary's Report

- Sent out new date and worked with Ann to finalize date for staff and council retreat.
- Participated in Pastor Glen's 3 month review.
- Note taker for 3/9 listening session about what people like and did not like about our church service
- Helped with Wednesday evening meal on 3/12

Pastoral Report:

Pastor Glen's Report

I have been busy teaching this month and with Nate organizing and coordinating with the various groups that are studying the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. There are 4-5 groups, and 40-45 participants. I also got together some extra folks for the Care Team for visitation. There have been 5 folks recruited for visiting (there were 2 before, for a total of 7), and an extra person for card writing. When Care Team Chair Terri gets back from Jamaica, I will set up care training so folks feel comfortable visiting. The visitation list has been revised and there are 14 folks that have in-home or nursing home care needs

I also helped, with Patty Amstrup, to set up two pickleball nights in March at POP. The first was 3-11, and we had about a dozen participants; many had never played pickleball before.

I have introduced the congregation on Lenten Wednesday evenings to Holden Evening Prayer, which has been used extensively for Lenten services in my previous congregations. The service came out of Holden Village, a Lutheran retreat center in Eastern Washington, in the 1980's. Staff and I are playing and singing leadership roles in its introduction.

I continue to connect with as many folks as I can for pastoral care. Much of my time this month was involved with the Hanson family with the decline and passing of Dan Hanson, relative of two POP members, Flo and Jeff Hanson. His funeral is Friday, March 21st. Folks are starting to call me now, reaching out for pastoral care. About 5 calls/visits per week.

Four new members (plus kids) were brought into Prince of Peace in early March, after an orientation session. I am talking with a member of one of my former interims about attending Prince of Peace as she has no church. She lives a few doors down from Fachmans at Urbana Senior Living a few miles north of here. Another person from a previous congregation is now attending here after he heard where I landed.

I had my 3-month review with the Personnel Committee. I am going through the comments and may ask for clarifications so I may better meet the needs of the congregation. The sooner I get feedback, the sooner I can adjust my approach and reprioritize my time.

I am busy planning for Lent and Holy Week, and two additional services weekly will keep me busy with an extra sermon or two. February was a month with both sickness and cold so I believe worship attendance was down slightly and leaned more to online worship. March seems better with 125 attending in person the first Sunday, and 93 attending in person for Ash Wednesday (slightly greater attendance than last year). Folks in church seem to be responding to my sermons and I've gotten good direct feedback. To my knowledge, when the question about worship was asked in the listening sessions, there was no negative feedback about my preaching and worship style; staff have noticed a few things to improve and this I have attempted to do.

There are additional people who have indicated interest in becoming new members. Will gather information and wait until we have more interested and after Easter to start a new member session.

There are 6 new people that have joined the care team as part of the visitation roster.

Ministry Team Reports:

Global Ministries:

- The Hearts and Hands for Jamaica Team will be returning on March 12th.
- They posted updates of their trip on FaceBook at [Hearts and Hands for Jamaica](#).

Local Ministries:

Avenues News...

- Building on Dreams Gala is on Thursday, March 27th and all are invited to attend. PoP has been a sponsor of this inspiring and exciting event for several years. Come one, come all!

CEAP News...

March Food Share/Holy Week Donations

- Cash and food donations are doubled during the March food drive due to a grant from Minnesota Food Share. The timeline is March 1st-April 6th
- CEAP doesn't have the staffing for a Fill the Trunk event but will drop off collection barrels on 2/26 and pick up on 4/7. Jeanne will obtain a list of food priorities.
- Kathryn from CEAP will speak at church on March 23rd.
- A huge thank you for all we do for CEAP and to promote the good drive!

Diaper Kits

- Outreach Team has secured a Thrivent grant and will meet to assemble the diaper kits on Friday March 28th.

MOWs

- Driver still needed for the 3rd Thursday of each month. It's being promoted each week in the bulletin and Pastor Glen's announcements.

Care Team

Terri and Melissa have met with Pastor Glen two times in the past couple months. We were joined by Jodi Spoden at our last meeting. Our current action items include:

- Pastor Glen was given an “Angel Watch List” from Karina. Terri is talking with Nate to see if she can figure out who on that list should remain on the prayer/card/call/visit list
- This Angel Watch List also seemed to include members that do not have computer access and need additional forms of communication – Terri will create a separate list of these names
- Jodi will take the updated information and create a Google Doc of members that should be on the prayer/card/call/visit list, including those that are the Active Prayer Chain
- Melissa will update the Care Team List after contacting people to see if they are still interested in providing support to members in this way
- Melissa will try to locate the notes from Natalia that talked about Prayer Team expectations and define the roles of the Prayer Team...as well as those who write cards make phone calls or visits

With all of us on vacation/mission trips throughout February and March, this work will all continue!

Mental Health Connect: Preparing for the Stories of Hope breakfast for MHC. It will be May 8 at Mt Olivet Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. Everyone is welcome to join. MHC Ambassador meetings are now open as education events for all collective churches, so starting in April, Rachel will be able to send out invites and zoom links to all of POP if they are interested in the education. She also contacted a couple groups and is working on the possibility of getting an adult learning opportunity at POP for either loneliness or supporting family and friends through mental health struggles.

Funeral Team: No new updates in February.

Quilters: A few weeks ago they distributed two dozen quilts between the Salvation Army and the Veteran’s Hospital.

Library: No update from the library

Staff Reports

Children, Youth and Family Ministry

PRAISES from PAST Events

- Presidents Weekend was VERY full with Fellowship Opportunities for all ages
- Valentines Day Parents Night Out
- Middle School Ministry Game Night
- High School Ministry Lock-In
- We continue to have great conversations across all age groups that talk about Faith, Church and Life in General
- Mentoring kicked off last week (Thank you Rachel Henderson for covering for me so I could be on vacation)

CURRENT UPDATES: CYF

- Working on Fundraising opportunities for the Colorado trip. Plant Sale (for both Colorado and WAPO) kicked off at the beginning of March and will run the entire month. Plants are delivered Mothers Day Weekend
- WAPO Registration is up and running and will stay open until our week/weekend at WAPO (end of July-early August)
- Working on Catechism Conversations for PreK-5th Grade: Meant to have this done by the beginning of Lent, but will still roll it out ASAP
- Working on connecting Luther's Catechism to our Living Catechism theme for Lent. Mentoring questions/activities will focus on Luther's Small Catechism as part of our Baptismal Promises. We will be covering the Apostles Creed, Lords Prayer and the Ten Commandments. The Sacraments get covered in 5th Grade (Communion Milestone) and 9th Grade (Affirmation of Baptism)
- Working on creating an overall Summer Theme (and weekly Sub-Themes) for Summer Day Camp. Considering an "Old School" Theme where we dive into various stories from the Old Testament which are often overlooked.
- March is a "slower" month as 4 out of the 5 Sundays conflict with Spring Breaks
- Will start preparation for Maundy Thursday/Communion Milestone. This will be for 5th Grade and older who haven't yet participated in the Communion Milestone. Discussion Class will be on Sunday April 6th (so we don't conflict with the Anniversary Celebration on the 13th)
- Continuing to work on Summer Ministry for Middle School. Trying to find the "best time" for our Wednesdays to start to hopefully include more youth.

CURRENT UPDATES: Full Church

- Continuing to work with Rachel Henderson to clean up different spaces around the Church - it seems to be an ongoing thing, but also very necessary. Will also be working with Terri Revell to do some more decluttering and reorganizing in the kitchen. With the new renter back in, we want to make sure that space can function for all who need it
- Working on getting any NON CYF Stuff (Weekly Devo/Blasts/ETC) off of my plate and onto Nate Boucher. We are trying to be intentional and handing him things if/when he is comfortable.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Will look ahead to POST Easter opportunities for Middle School Ministry. Once May hits schedules become more full
- Will do a Child and Prayer Milestone the Sunday AFTER Easter
- Will start initial planning for Grad Sunday in March. Grad Sunday is on Sunday, June 1st and our Graduating Seniors will be doing as much leading as possible with me sharing the message (stories from their time here at POP)

New Business

- Staff and Council Retreat plan: Terri and Ann are planning the retreat
- Emergency Preparedness Plan: Rachel will be in charge of developing a plan for this. Pam Eliason and Jeff Hanson will assist. Katie will also be involved as part of the plan for children's ministries
- Immigration Sanctuary Plan: Ann has gathered information from the synod page so all council members can access the information. This will include how to respond if ICE shows up at the church, type of warrant needed, etc.
- Listening Sessions: Plan to do in-person and via zoom every other week
 - What other missions/causes would you like POP to invest in (ie: time, money, effort), locally or globally?
 - What kind of messages do you want to hear from the pulpit?

Announcements/E-news additions

- What we accomplished during our council/staff retreat

Action Items from this meeting:

Task	Person assigned
Send Ann ideas for listening sessions	All council members

Next Meeting: Tuesday April 8 (**Please note - this is a change from our normal meeting due to our regularly scheduled meeting occurring during Holy Week**)

Adjournment: Rachel made a motion to adjourn. Melissa seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 7:06 pm

Unfinished Business

New Business

Announcements and Action Items: