

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Monday, April 27, 2026**

Vice President Pam Carlson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am in room 5/6 of the Educational Building. Those present were Pastor Jeff Teeples, Larry Kudrle, Bill Luzinski, Sue Terlecki, Richard Sundene and Sue Boyle. Guests include Debbie Vinopal and Marcia Schrage. Absent was Steve Anderson.

Pastor Jeff: Pastor indicated that we're returning to the Daily Text. He said it's a great daily practice. The passages read connected to what we do in Council. It has to do with our plans for the future and what we are doing here, but God's plan is in place. Pastor then led us in prayer.

Marcia Schrage attended our meeting to give an update on the Strategic Planning Committee. Marcia gave an overview on how the committee follows God's lead on how they select the topics of study and goals. The committee reviewed the Red Letter Challenge and are determining a jumping off point about this. TIA continues to be a focus. Brainstorming continues to occur about mentoring and other outreach areas. Marcia discussed some upcoming events and ideas that the committee continues to discuss. Marcia passed out a sheet with all of the updates.

The minutes from the March meeting had been sent out earlier with minor changes noted. The minutes were approved unanimously with a motion from Sue T and seconded by Larry.

Administrative updates include: Debbie indicated that the Nativity Committee met and there is a lot of interest. Debbie and Pastor are working with a local sculptor to see what type of plan he would have for the nativity pad. Furniture ideas are being discussed. Pictures were shown. The TIA report was given. It is very in-depth. Lisa is looking to hire an administrator and to take a step back. We will continue to monitor how finances are being met. Pastor Jeff Johnson manages Thrivent Dollars, but someone is needed to help manage it in the fall. Debbie will talk with Jeff. A sail shade would be wonderful in the rose garden. We can see if we have money to complete that. Bids will be collected. The pickleball guidelines are attached. A future plan for landscaping near the court will occur. Sue B made a motion to accept the pickleball rules. Bill seconded it and the motion carried. See report below.

Pastor Jeff shared: Matt, Pastor and staff met and discussed the Easter services. The daytime Thursday and Friday services felt strange to have during the day. Next year we'd like the services at 6:30PM and continue the foot washing. Rides will be offered for those not comfortable driving. Easter attendance was the same as last year. Perhaps we move to one service and have a fellowship after, next year. A lot of guests attended on Palm Sunday! Some tweaks will be made next year. Staff reviews took place. We're looking at our present church time during the typical year and for the summer. Should we survey the congregation or should

we talk with the ones who are most impacted-choir and volunteers? Our time will remain 9:30 for now.

Larry Kudrle gave a financial update. Updates include: March financial summary was given. Our offerings are off for March. We'll continue to promote weekly giving. We received an EPCOR grant that we will determine how it will be used. Larry will give the congregation an update in July. A Financial Affair Review Process will take place in August. See report below.

Richard Sundene gave updates on the Missions/Outreach teams. Updates include: Mission financial supports are going well. We are up to date. Another niche was purchased in the Colombarium. Cursillo would like to hold a raffle to support a weekend event coming up in October. They have other ideas that they are discussing. A discussion about Cursillo should take place during another month. We're waiting on determining the scholarship we give. Memorials are going well. See report below.

Sue Terlecki gave an update on the Worship, Education & Fellowship ministries. Updates include: The Cantada went really well! They are getting handbells repaired. They are warrantied. Stephen Ministry is doing a book study. LiFT has a meeting in May. See report below.

Bill Luzinski gave an update on property. Updates include: Bill is working on changes to bylaws and we will then discuss them. Bill is working on getting rid of the lawn items in the shed. He is reaching out to the people who helped with lawn maintenance. Dan continues to make repairs on the campus. Bill spoke about wish list items that have been on a list for a few years. Some were removed and some will continue to remain. Report is attached.

Old business: None

New business: 5/18 9:00 Ex., 5/20 10:00 Council in **Parlor**, 6/15 9:00 Ex., 6/23 10:00 Council, No July meetings 8/17 Ex. 9:00, 8/24 10:00 Council

Card Squad-a discussion took place about the expense of stamps and cards for this committee. Should we switch to post cards in 2027 or should we shift our focus to outreach to the community with cards being placed in community members mailboxes. A discount stamp resource will be shared with this group. A meeting with the committee will take place and Sue B will report back to Council.

Peace Team is deciding if they identify themselves as a Peace Team or not. Should we use a name tag like the ushers and greeters have? The office will order them.

Continuing Resolution for Financial practices were gone over- A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Sue T. The motion passed.

*Winning on Purpose* book discussion took place. Read part two for May.

Vice President Pam Carlson adjourned the meeting at 11:45. Larry Kudrle made the motion for adjournment and Sue T seconded it. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Susan Boyle*

Recording Secretary

Approved May 20, 2026

# Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church

Constitution – Bylaws – Continuing Resolutions

Continuing Resolution No. 2026-04-27 A, Financial Affairs Review Process

References:

Constitution Chapter 18 Continuing Resolutions

Constitution Chapter 12, Part C12.06.i

The Congregation Council, at its Regular Meeting on April 27, 2026, adopts the following as its Review of Congregation Financial Affairs process, to be first implemented in 2026, and executed thereafter in even-numbered years. This process shall be continued until ended or modified by Council action:

The Congregation Council provides for an internal review of the Church Congregation's financial affairs as follows:

1. A Financial Review Committee consisting of three (3) members shall be formed, which may include non-members of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church. Members should have a background in financial management. The Finance Committee may propose members for Council appointment. This Committee shall be chaired by the Congregation Council's president.
2. The Congregation Council may agree to compensation only for professional accountants if they are contracted for purposes of participating and providing services for this Review.
3. The Committee shall review the 12-month period, ended June 30 of the year in which the Review is commenced.
4. The Review is not expected to be exhaustive, but is intended to identify inconsistencies in recording or reporting transactions, and potentially problematic processes. At minimum, the following are required to be addressed in a written Report to the Council:
  - a. Review flow chart to funds received and moneys paid out.
  - b. Comparison of reconciliation reports with bank statements for two (2) consecutive months.
  - c. For each month within the Review period select a payment check transaction and review the process from receipt to check issuance.
  - d. Select, at random, two (2) Fidelity statements and compare ending balance with respective P&L reports

Budget vs. Actuals P&L Report						
March, 2026						
	March 2026			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Budget Variance	Actual	Budget	Budget Variance
5701 Missions Gifts	\$20	\$0	\$20	\$2,185	\$0	\$2,185
5710 Benevolence 10%	\$4,772	\$8,538	-\$3,766	\$20,299	\$21,472	-\$1,173
<b>Total for 5700 Mission Benevolence</b>	<b>\$4,792</b>	<b>\$8,538</b>	<b>-\$3,746</b>	<b>\$22,484</b>	<b>\$21,472</b>	<b>\$1,012</b>
Expenditures						
01 Mission Support		\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
7000.01 Amazing Grace Christian Church	\$400	\$400	\$0	\$1,300	\$1,200	\$100
7000.02 American Indian Christian Ministry	\$400	\$400	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0
7000.03 ALWM - Vietnam	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
7000.04 ALWM - Cambodia	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$3,400	\$1,500	\$1,900
7000.05 Paz de Cristo	\$300	\$300	\$0	\$900	\$900	\$0
7000.06 Peace Lutheran Church	\$300	\$300	\$0	\$900	\$900	\$0
7000.07 Philippines Pastor Paul Rollet	\$750	\$750	\$0	\$2,750	\$2,750	\$0
7000.085 Nicaragua Church Build	\$3,022	\$3,022	\$0	\$6,044	\$6,044	\$0
7000.09 House of Blessing	\$400	\$400	\$0	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$0
7000.10 Across Nations	\$300	\$300	\$0	\$900	\$900	\$0
7000.11 NOVO - Hungary	\$1,300	\$300	\$1,000	\$1,900	\$900	\$1,000
7000.16 Johannesens French Mission	\$300	\$300	\$0	\$900	\$900	\$0
7000.17 NOVO - Tom Ashbrook	\$250	\$250	\$0	\$750	\$750	\$0
7000.18 Missionaries to France World Venture	\$250	\$250	\$0	\$750	\$750	\$0
7000.08 Nicaragua - IELNIC (13 Churches)					\$0	\$0
7000.12 Grace Lutheran - Connections Ministry		\$83	-\$83		\$250	-\$250
7000.13 Pacific Islands University		\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
7000.14 Quilters		\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
7000.15 Verhagens - Wycliffe		\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
7000.19 Emergency/Crisis Funds		\$1,000	-\$1,000		\$1,000	-\$1,000
<b>Total for 01 Mission Support</b>	<b>\$8,972</b>	<b>\$9,055</b>	<b>-\$83</b>	<b>\$25,394</b>	<b>\$23,644</b>	<b>\$1,750</b>
Balance Sheet (Savings)	March 31, 2026	February 28, 2026	Change			
	\$35,322	\$39,502	-\$4,180			

Accrual Basis Wednesday, April 15, 2026 04:42 PM GMTZ

**Columbarium-** sold another niche

**Cursillo-** would like to hold a fundraiser for weekend 168. Maybe a bake sale along with a raffle too but need council approval for the raffle. Raffle would probably be a gift certificate for a nice restaurant or two. We have been gifted a Thrivent Card to use for raising funds. We have several serving on team. So far, Eileen Doench as head prayer servant and Sue Bye as her assistant, Tom Vinopal as an assistant spiritual director with Steve Bergeson as the head SD, Sonja Almlie & Charlene Puryear as rookies. That's all that I know of thus far.

**Scholarship-** we received one application. Waiting on some final paperwork from the applicant.



## Pickleball Process

We are excited to offer members of SOTH the opportunity to use the court by the education building for pickleball. It is stripped and we have a portable net that can be checked out by the member or regular attendee from the church office. Also, there are two pickleball paddles and 4 balls available for use.

We have outlined the following processes for use of the court and equipment.

- 1) Available court times:
  - 7-10 am & 1-7 pm Monday through Friday (please note the school has recess between 10 am – 1 pm, unless they are on holiday)
  - 7 am – 7 pm Saturday
  - Noon – 7 pm Sunday
- 2) Please respect the neighbors living at the property next door and our church campus by refraining from excessive noise or using foul language.
- 3) A member or regular attendee of the church must be the one to check out the net, paddles and balls and be present when play is occurring.
- 4) The net, paddles and balls can be checked out from the church office Monday – Thursday between 9 am – 4 pm. Please call ahead to make certain that the items are available for check out. The equipment can be checked out for a maximum of 4 days at a time. If another requester contacts the office during your checkout, the church staff may facilitate a sharing of the equipment.
- 5) All players are asked to complete a waiver of liability. The person signing out the equipment will be given copies for all players and will return the completed/signed waivers to the office to be kept on file for future use.
- 6) Players are responsible for cleaning the space of any trash upon completion of play and taking any garbage with them.
- 7) We recommend that you bring lawn chairs for your players to rest as there is no seating provided by the court.
- 8) In case of an emergency, please call 911 and use the street address: 16150 E. El Lago Blvd. Fountain Hills, AZ 85268 and tell them to come to the northwest corner behind the education building.
- 9) The person checking out any of the pickleball equipment is responsible for bringing it back in similar condition to the way it was at check out.

If you have questions, please call the church office at 480-837-9532 or email us at [office@sothaz.com](mailto:office@sothaz.com).

Minister of Music Council Notes – 04.19.26

- ♪ **Organ Repair Update:** Lloyd Tarr and I continue to attempt to eradicate the high pitch noise to no avail. Waiting to hear back from some organ techs for some possible solutions.
- ♪ The **Palm Sunday Cantata** – Portraits in Grace was awesome! Definitely one of the top musical moments in my 44 years of music-making! It was the highest attended single service so far this year due to members inviting friends and neighbors. A choir member shared that she overheard a conversation in the grocery store about the cantata and how wonderful it was – she didn't recognize the people as being members or attenders at SOTH. The instrumentalists were fabulous and all of them are open to returning to play for worship. Thanks for your support of the cantata! And, yes, planning has begun for next year's cantata...
- ♪ SOTH's music groups did a phenomenal job during Holy Week and blessed our worship services by sharing their gift of music. We are indeed blessed!
- ♪ We were blessed to have **Mary Shore** accompany the choir this spring. Allowing me to conduct the choir and not accompany it yielded much fruit as heard in terms of the quality of our musical offerings and our musical growth as an ensemble. Thank you for your support in hiring her. She is excited to join us again next year!
- ♪ **Teaching at TIA** on Mondays is challenging but for the most part, going well – we are finishing the year with **musical treasure hunts and boomwhackers**. I continue to develop relationships with the students and teachers.
- ♪ **Handbell Refurbishing** is underway – because of the lifetime warranty we have, we saved around \$2,000.00 in repairs. We should have the bells back by the end of May.
- ♪ I will be taking a class through Concordia University, Nebraska, during May and June. **Biblical Wisdom and AI** – looking at AI through the lens of God's Word and Luther's Catechism. Thank you for budgeting funds for continuing education for me.
- ♪ **Monday Musical Moments with Matt** continues to reach out with music and Jesus' love. We're taking a break from posting videos during June-August in hopes that we can work ahead and record for the fall. Not sure about Facebook views, but YouTube has a decent audience each week. I am aware of a few individuals who watch who aren't connected with a church or really have a relationship with Jesus – I keep praying for them.
- ♪ **Summer Hymn Sing Preludes** – this summer we'll sing favorite hymns and songs for the prelude. I'll be soliciting the congregation for their favorite hymns/songs over the next weeks and then compiling a song book. What are your favorites?
- ♪ Stroll in the Glow – JuBELLation will ring again this year on December 5 at SOTH's booth.
- ♪ I will be **out of the office from April 22 – April 27**.
- ♪ Mark your calendars
  - Sunday, December 13 – Advent/Christmas Cantata
  - Sunday, March 21 – Palm Sunday Cantata

# The Inspiration Academy

## 2025–2026 School Year Report

*Prepared for Shepherd of the Hills*

Thank you for welcoming The Inspiration Academy on your campus. This school year has been full of hands-on learning, service, creativity, and meaningful community connections. We are especially grateful for the beautiful new landscaping. Our students are enjoying the grass and shade, and the wheelchair-accessible path has been a true blessing for one of our students.

### A Year of Growth, Service, and Creativity

During the 2025–2026 school year, TIA students participated in a wide variety of educational, artistic, service, and community-based experiences. These opportunities reflect our mission to provide meaningful, real-world learning for students in homeschool, hybrid, microschool, and worldschool settings.

Area	Highlights from 2025–2026
<b>Campus Life</b>	Students made frequent use of the kitchen for cooking projects including apple pie, brownies, French fries, lemonade, and more. They also enjoyed themed spirit days as part of Red Ribbon Week activities, pumpkin carving, Halloween & Christmas celebrations, science experiments, music with Mr. H, and ukulele instruction for the K–2 students.
<b>Service</b>	Students did a food drive for Extended Hands Food Bank, helped New Journey Lutheran Church pack lunches for the homeless, packed Operation Christmas Child boxes with items provided by the Stitchers of Hope, created Christmas cards for Fountain View Village, delivered Valentine’s cards and chocolate-covered strawberries to Morningstar Assisted Living, and volunteered at Reigning Grace Ranch.
<b>Arts &amp; Culture</b>	Students entered multiple art and writing contests, completed murals and public art projects with Ms. Laura, modeled dresses featured on Fox 10 News “Made in Arizona,” participated in art shows, and created their own clothing for a student fashion show.
<b>Community Connections</b>	Middle school and high school students attended monthly Fountain Hills Patriots veteran presentations at Fountain View Village, served lunch for the Fountain Hills Women’s Club, helped vendors at the Farmers Market, and participated in a Children’s Business Fair along with other youth market experiences.
<b>Career &amp; Enrichment</b>	Students toured EVIT, attended science presentations, joined the Chief Science Officer program, explored Mining Day at the Capitol, exercised at Peaks Athletic Club, and gained authentic work and performance experiences through jobs, rock bands, dance, theater, riding, and entrepreneurship.
<b>Global Learning</b>	TIA hosted an exchange student from Japan, expanded worldschool opportunities, took students on a 17-day service-learning trip to Costa Rica, developed new international partnerships in the Dominican Republic, Kenya, Costa Rica, South Korea, and Japan, and began planning future exchange and worldschool experiences.

**Property Report**  
**SOTH Council Meeting**  
**4/28/2026**

1. Task completed April 2026
  - a. Door Frames on Education building were caulked.
  - b. LOW WATER PRESSURE in SINK in NARTHEX fixed
  - c. Wall outside of church communion prep room repaired.
  - d. Cayenne pepper placed around the new plants to stop the javelina from eating them.
  - e. New stair railings are painted with gray cool paint.
  - f. The fellowship hall on the left door was not always locking, corrected.
  - g. Fellowship Hall men's room toilet was plugged up, and someone put paper towel in toilet.
  
2. Wish List Items:
  - a. Trash Bin enclosure (Aug 2024)
  - b. Additional Speakers in sanctuary to reinforce acoustic dead zone in pews near bell tables (Mar 2024). Talked with several individuals sitting in the area and they all said they can hear fine.
  - c. Sanctuary Bathroom Wall Sconces (Oct 2022).
  - d. New Sanctuary Lighting Design (Oct 2022)
  - e. Countertop @ A/V Booth (Nov 2022)
  - f. Windows in education building replacement, currently single pane (Aug 2024)
  - g. Replace the light on the SOTH sign at the corner of El Lago and FH Blvds (Aug 2022). Bulb replaced & working.
  - h. Bougainvillea at rose garden (Sep 2025). Landscaper needs to shape.

Member at Large/Property  
Bill Luzinski