

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Regular Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 20, 2026

President Steve Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:00 am in the Parlor. Those present were Pastor Jeff Teeples, Pam Carlson, Larry Kudrle, Bill Luzinski, Sue Terlecki, and Sue Boyle. Guests include Debbie Vinopal. Absent was Richard Sundene.

Pastor Jeff: Pastor shared the background about a verse he was going to read-Exodus 18 v 10. The Bible is so practical. One has to decide the things that one can do, which is comparable to our Council. There are things we can do, but we can also empower others to do what they do best. It's good advice on how to not burn out. Pastor then led us in prayer.

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

Administrative updates include: Debbie shared information about a facility request for the Four Peaks Women's Club. The request was from a parishioner, and they are a service organization with no political ties. We're seeing more traffic because of the cost increase of the Community Center. A discussion was held about how our community pays for the Community Center and how we provide a free service here. Are we opening up our campus to many groups? We have other service clubs in town and we have LiFT. Do we get a donation? We can't charge a fee but they can make a donation. Our schedule would still supersede their requested dates. The request is for 9 months. There shouldn't be an impact on TIA. If we can accommodate community exposure, it can only benefit our church. Pam made a motion that the Four Peaks Women's Club can have their meetings here on the 2nd Wed. of the month in the PM and we evaluate after the first year as to whether it works for the club and our church. They would follow the guidelines of our room usage. Sue T seconded the motion. More discussion took place about a usage fee that would cover the operating costs. No staff would need to be present. The motion passed with one vote of no.

The 50th furniture order was placed. We have a little more money left from Thrivent Grants that will be used for more seating or other items. We're still looking at a sail for the rose garden, but it would occur in the future.

Debbie and Pastor have spoken with a designer for a sculpture on the nativity pad. A hand-out with possible sketches was shared. This would serve as a centerpiece to the nativity, and a beautiful sculpture to enjoy during the other months of the year. Electrical would be brought in and would be low voltage. We have \$12,000 already committed to this project from a daughter of previous members of ours. We might also consider putting a bench under this sculpture. A motion was made by Larry to move forward with the project and seconded by Sue B. The motion carried.

A brief discussion took place about TIA and the status of a consistent director. We'll need that information from Lisa. TIA has given donations through Feb.

Pastor Jeff shared: Pastor shared his upcoming sermon series. Gentle and Lowly will continue to be a focus. Should we have a celebration for our nation's 250th birthday? Does it go contrary to our Christian beliefs? We'll have a potluck for the nation's 250th. We will also have an Aloha Sunday. Pastor is taking a few vacations and his sermons will be covered with other pastors. Staff reviews were completed. The Nicaragua trip will be moving forward in January.

Larry Kudrle gave a financial update. Updates include: Larry passed out the "budget vs. actuals" report. We are on target with our budget and donations. A thorough explanation of the budget was given by Larry. The stress test is 18.6 weeks. Sue B will invite Lisa from TIA for our June meeting. Council has questions about the future direction for the 26-27 school year. April financial summary was given. A July update will be given to the congregation in July.

The end-of-life seminar was set up-we might also include a part that has to do with the electronic piece of obtaining information from laptops, phones, etc.. A dinner afterwards will occur.

We are waiting for the EPCOR rebate and once we receive the amount, the information will be communicated to the congregation.

Sue B gave updates for Richard Sundene on the Missions/Outreach teams. Updates include: Eileen is passing the torch, but will stay involved. Are we good with a raffle for Cursillo to off-set the cost of SOTH members. Richard-when will the raffle occur? Will it be at church or a private event? Are there multiple events for fund raising? Council is supportive of this based on the responses given above. See Mission report below-

Sue Terlecki gave an update on the Worship, Education & Fellowship ministries. Updates include: Lift is doing an even in May and then are off for the summer. Stephen's Ministry-there was no meeting, but Tom V gave a seminar on empathy. Music Ministry-next year instruction will be with grades 5-8. He is working on summer music planning. This summer Matt will be asking for peoples' favorite songs to sing over the summer. See music report below-

Bill Luzinski gave an update on property. Updates include: Bill will be working on an overview of the property roles and if a by-law change will need to occur. Steve would like to be involved with this. Debbie will donate the items. See report below-

Old business: Sail shade will be put on hold. Ex. went through the Continuing Resolutions and there is an updated list. Would a sabbatical leave be something that gets put in a continuing resolution or in the Call document? Most often pastors get 3 months for every 7-years of service. Pastor will find information for us to look at as we consider this.

New business: We finally found a children's choir director! This is occurring through Rose Gibson and memorials given for her husband. They will perform multiple times during the year. A contract will be given to the choir director. She will be an independent contractor and Pastor

will facilitate. An e-blast will be sent to a few schools and there are already 10 students who will be apart. Celebrate Kids' Choir will be the name!

6/15 9:00 Ex., 6/23 10:00 Council, No July meetings, 8/17 Ex. 9:00, 8/24 10:00 Council

Winning on Purpose book discussion took place. Read part three for June.

President Steve Anderson adjourned the meeting at 11:45. Steve Anderson made the motion for adjournment and Sue T seconded it. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Boyle

Recording Secretary

Approved June 23, 2026

Property Report
SOTH Council Meeting
5/20/2026

1. Task completed since last April 2026 report.
 - a. New AC unit installed in education building replacing 2 units.
 - b. The 3-air handler vents on the East side of the church office that have been covered. 5/15/26
 - c. Fire Extinguishers were all checked , No deficiencies found 5/11/26
 - d. Replaced the American flag in the circle drive. 5/4/26
 - e. New conduit pipes are painted to match the wall. 5/8/26
 - f. May extermination completed - May 8, 2026
 - g. May Elevator inspection completed by Randy Bronner 5/6/26
 - h. A pew had a loose top rail. 5/3/26
 - i. The men's and women's room doors plus the utility room door on the North side of the Fellowship Hall were painted. 4/26/26
 - j. Education doors all painted. 4/26/26

Member at Large/Property

Bill Luzinski

- ♪ **Organ Repair Update:** No solution has been found so I'll just live with the noise. The last organ technician indicated that this issue should not turn into a bigger problem – hopefully!
- ♪ **Teaching at TIA** is complete for this year. I am planning on teaching grades K – 5 next year.
- ♪ **Handbell Refurbishing** has been completed and the bells look and sound like new – except for one bell – it has been sent back for further diagnosis and repair.
- ♪ I'm enjoying the class **Biblical Wisdom and AI** – looking at AI through the lens of God's Word and Luther's Small Catechism. Thank you for budgeting funds for me to continue my education.
- ♪ I am currently **writing worship services** for July and August. God has a great sense of humor – as we draw near to the end of the "Gentle and Lowly" sermon series, I finally found a song that would have been a great theme song for it – yeah, the name of the song is "Gentle and Lowly"...
- ♪ I continue with **pastoral care** for several members – more than a few of our musicians now belong in the category of the "walking wounded."
- ♪ **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. I want to share with you the following from an email from a non-member, but regular attender at SOTH: *"While up in Show Low, I took the turn towards death (in MY mind), couldn't breathe or cough, horrible. Went to ER, diagnosis RSV. It is a very bad thing, I haven't been that sick in years. But the night before I went to ER, I was up gasping and thinking of what to do, when I accidentally hit my phone on the table. What came up? Praise the Lord, it was you, singing Precious Lord!!! My favorite song and I thought, "Matt is just the Angel of Music!!!" Not the music minister. I hope you can appreciate how much that meant to me. By the grace of Jesus, your efforts can be sent along to those that might need it."*
- ♪ **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?
- ♪ Mark your calendars
 - Sunday, December 13 – Advent/Christmas Cantata
 - Sunday, March 21 – Palm Sunday Cantata

MISSION REPORT FOR APRIL ---, 2026 COUNCIL MEETING

Benevolence:

1. January 1, 2026 started with a surplus of \$38,481. (see Bill Gest report)
 2. **The Mission Team on 12/11/25 agreed on a budget of \$64,000 for 2026.** They decided to be conservative and not go higher until we see how the year progresses with tithings.
 3. **YTD Tithings as of April 30, 2026=\$28,253**
 4. **Monthly budgeted expenditures=\$5333.00** (\$42,664 needed to cover May-December).
 5. **YTD Benevolence (mission balance) as of April 30, 2026=\$41,085** (see Bill Gest report).
 6. **Obligations at the end of April 30,2026.**
 - a. Nicaragua 13 churches carry-over from 2025=\$4377. Plus, January-April 2026, \$1200 has not been sent. Total=\$5,577
 - b. Nicaragua Church building \$10,000 left at the end of the year, presently at \$3956.
 - c. \$5000 is being held for Emergency/Crisis Projects per anonymous donor.
 - d. \$3000 in being held for Mission Reserve from anonymous donor.
 - e. \$1000 has not yet been sent to Grace Lutheran Connections Ministry.
- Obligation Total=\$18,533**
7. **Total funds available after obligations=\$22,552**

Missions:

I have been transitioning information from Missions to Roger and Debbie. They presently have mission documents from the past which of course moving forward needs to be updated and probably reviewed and approved at a future meeting of a Mission Action team. I will be giving Roger folders on the present Missions. I still have a box of old records that I would like to go through and type up a history of Missions that SOTH has supported in the past.

I would like to thank Richard Sundene, Council and SOTH staff for being so patient with me in transitioning and finding a solution on how to move forward with Missions. I would still like to be involved, and I enjoy getting Bill Gest's reports as I continue to question and stress his brain and Rogers for answers on finances. I would like to stay involved with Missions and of course will attend meetings but I am prayerfully trying to decide what part of Missions I want to remain in.

As we do move forward to a Mission Action Team meeting the Cursillo grant request was put on the back burner to be brought up at the next meeting in 2026. It is not urgent, but a decision should be made by this summer.

Respectfully,

Eileen Doench