

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 23, 2026

President Steve Anderson called the meeting to order at 10:02 am in room 5/6. Those present were Pastor Jeff Teeples, Steve Anderson, Richard Sundene (via Zoom), Larry Kudrle, Sue Terlecki, and Sue Boyle. Guests include Debbie Vinopal and Lisa Ristuccia. Absent were Bill Luzinski and Pam Carlson.

Pastor Jeff: Pastor led us in prayer. Pastor gave us a sample of what he does in the prayer room on Tuesday mornings. He had us calm our breathing and then read Psalm 100. We then read it and reflected quietly.

An update from TIA was given by Lisa R. A very thorough report was given of the 2025-26 school year. Lisa gave thanks for the building usage. A student received an electric wheelchair! Lisa is still trying to obtain payments from a few families. Checks for next year are coming soon, hopefully next week. These are donations from the State and other funding sources. Last year enrollment was 44 and for next year, it will be around 35. Several teachers will not be returning next school year, due to health-related issues and retirement. Lisa is stepping back into the classroom. Miss Stephanie is moving into the administration role, with Lisa facilitating. It is a complicated process obtaining the funds from parents and the State. The school was over staffed this year, which had a financial impact. That will not be an issue for this upcoming school year. The Children's Choir was mentioned for possible participation. It might be good for Matt to work with grades K-3. There are a number of students with Autism, which impacts music class. Lisa is branching out with a new school in Mesa that will serve students with Autism. For school-based activities, alerting the church weeks in advance would be wonderful for church participation. Lisa is beginning course work to get her Ph.D. Lisa will put signage with a contact phone number for the school, so parents won't go to the church office. Debbie will talk with TIA about students that might be interested in the December nativity. Lisa and Stephanie are CPR certified and can conduct trainings for our church, if needed.

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

Administrative updates include: Debbie contacted the artist for the sculpture. He might come to the 7/5 celebration. \$12,000 of the \$19,000 was donated for the sculpture.

Pastor Jeff shared: Pastor shared his upcoming sermon series. It is on Romans. "When in Rome..." July will be off for Christ Connect. A series on *The Art of Neighboring* will begin in August. Themes have been developed through the end of 2026, including Soul Needs, Abundant Flourishing Life and Promises Kept. Promises Kept will be the theme of Advent. Pastor is coaching a minister in the Philippians. The Nicaragua trip is coming along! A

participant is giving money to off-set staff costs of the trip. Pastor had a great vacation and will enjoy an upcoming wedding.

Larry Kudrle gave a financial update. Updates include: A May financial summary was given. A financial update will be given to the congregation in July. Finances are going well, regarding income. The stress test is 15.8 weeks currently. **We need to sort out our 503 status and the impact of donations vs. rent.** Perhaps a new memorandum needs to be given to TIA.

Richard Sundene gave an update on the Missions/Outreach teams. Updates include: No changes to columbarium or scholarships. Cursillo is working on their Sept. event and their funding on that. Eileen is stepping down from Missions and a transition team is in place until new leadership can be found. The position looks overwhelming, but now there are computer systems in place. No financial work is needed. **A new job description needs to be completed.** It can be simplified. Mission of the month schedule has been completed between Pastor and Sonja. Some missions send out a newsletter with updates. Can the Nominating Committee assist with this? Going over Missions each October to resubmit for grant funding could occur with Council. The Mission team needs to determine the Cursillo funding. See Mission report below-

Sue Terlecki gave an update on the Worship, Education & Fellowship ministries. Updates include: Lift is playing Bingo in July. Stephen Ministry had a supervision meeting. Matt is reorganizing the music in files at church. Favorite hymns need to be sent to Matt for summer services. **Clarification of his role with TIA needs to take place. Pastor will talk with Matt.** See music report below-

Sue Boyle gave an update on property. Updates include: Weed control occurred, as well as replacing camera batteries. Consideration of what HVAC filters to use on the older units is being explored. Pleated filters are being suggested. Fellowship AC is up and running. See report below-

Old business: FH approved the pergola installation and the company will now come out to inspect. Debbie is coordinating the nativity sculpture with the team. **Sue and Steve will coordinate Pastor's review.** The new pergola furniture will be put together. Some furniture is on back order.

New business: Section 3 of the *Winning on Purpose* book study will take place in August. Pastor will begin some outside couples counseling with Kris Teeples in the future.

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

Items to follow up with: August agenda items: Lynn AI policy, Debbie lighting for Christmas, Bill discussion about property roles

- **Sue and Steve will coordinate Pastor's review.**

- Clarification of his role with TIA needs to take place. Pastor will talk with Matt.
- A new job description for Missions needs to be completed. Richard
- We need to sort out our 503 status and the impact of donations vs. rent. Larry

Secretary Sue Boyle adjourned the meeting at 12:12. Larry made the motion for adjournment and Sue T seconded it. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Boyle

Recording Secretary

Approved Aug 24, 2026

Columbarium has nothing new.

Scholarship has nothing new.

Cursillo - next weekend has several on the team from SOTH, including Eileen Doench, Sue Bye, Charlene Puryear, Tom and Debbie Vinopal, Pam Carlson, Sonja Almlie and Cindy Beck. Tom is going to be one of the Spiritual Directors. We are beginning to look for participants interested in attending the weekend, September 17-20 at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Paradise Valley. Cost for 3 nights lodging and 8 meals is \$330. Do we want to consider to consider providing any financial support for SOTH members that would like to attend?

LiFT is hosting patriotic bingo on Thursday, July 9 from 1 to 3 in the fellowship hall. Other than that, they are off this summer

Budget vs. Actuals FY26 Missions Report						
January 1-May 31, 2026						
	May 2026			Year to Date		
	Actual	Budget	Budget Variance	Actual	Budget	Budget Variance
5701 Missions Gifts	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$8,195	\$0	\$8,195
5710 Benevolence 10%	\$4,854	\$4,988	-\$134	\$33,107	\$33,283	-\$176
Total Mission Benevolence	\$5,854	\$4,988	\$866	\$41,302	\$33,283	\$8,019
Expenditures						
01 Mission Support		\$0	\$0		\$0	\$0
7000.01 Amazing Grace Christian Church	\$400	\$400	\$0	\$2,100	\$2,000	\$100
7000.02 American Indian Christian Ministry	\$400	\$400	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
7000.03 ALWM - Vietnam	\$500	\$1,000	-\$500	\$3,500	\$4,000	-\$500
7000.04 ALWM - Cambodia	\$500	\$1,000	-\$500	\$6,400	\$5,000	\$1,400
7000.05 Paz de Cristo	\$300	\$300	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
7000.06 Peace Lutheran Church	\$300	\$300	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
7000.07 Philippines Pastor Paul Rollet	\$500	\$500	\$0	\$3,750	\$3,750	\$0
7000.08 Nicaragua Church Build	\$3,022	\$934	\$2,088	\$9,066	\$6,978	\$2,088
7000.08 Nicaragua - IELNIC (13 Churches)	\$0		\$0		\$0	\$0
7000.09 House of Blessing	\$400	\$400	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
7000.10 Across Nations	\$300	\$300	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
7000.11 NOVO - Hungary	\$300	\$300	\$0	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$0
7000.16 Johannesens French Mission	\$300	\$300	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
7000.17 NOVO - Tom Ashbrook	\$250	\$250	\$0	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$0
7000.18 Missionaries to France World Venture	\$250	\$250	\$0	\$1,750	\$1,260	\$490
7000.12 Grace Lutheran - Connections Ministry		\$83	-\$83		\$417	-\$417
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		\$0	\$0		\$5,000	-\$5,000
7000.21 Mission Reserve		\$0	\$0		\$3,000	-\$3,000
Total for 01 Mission Support	\$7,722	\$6,717	\$1,005	\$40,316	\$45,155	-\$4,839
		Nicaragua non-church build is \$4377 for the whole year and will be given when trip occurs				
Balance Sheet (Reserves)	05/31/26	04/30/26	Change			
	\$39,217	\$41,085	-\$1,868			

Accrual Basis Sunday, June 07, 2026 07:25 PM GMTZ

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
MISSIONS ACTION TEAM
GRANT REQUEST FORM

GRANT TITLE: Cursillo Weekend #168

Date submitted: December 8, 2025

SOTH Sponsor's Name: Donna Hawkinson

Sponsor's Address: 16239 E Balsam Dr, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268

Sponsor's Phone Number: 507-271-5374 Email address: donnhawk@yahoo.com

ORGANIZATION BEING SUPPORTED:

Organization mailing address: Roger Miller's Office, 16150 E El Lago Blvd, Fountain Hills, AZ or P. O. Box 27374, Tempe, AZ 85285-7374

Organization's website: lutherancursillo.org

GRANT DESCRIPTION:

The Lutheran Cursillo Movement of Arizona is holding the 168th 3-day weekend in the valley on September 17-20, 2026 at the Franciscan Renewal Center. The typical cost of a weekend is approximately \$18,000 which includes sleeping and conference rooms and meals. The cost per person is approximately \$320. We try to keep the cost minimal for the participants that go through the weekend as not everyone could afford to pay the \$320, but all should have the opportunity to take a weekend to concentrate on their relationship with Jesus and the church. The SOTH Cursillo community is one of the largest communities in the valley, therefore providing several of the team members and a participant or two for each weekend.

Look around the table. How many have attended Cursillo or another movement that is similar? I believe a large percentage of the volunteers at SOTH have attended Cursillo or a movement similar to it. These movements encourage attenders to become active in their church through their walk with Jesus. Everyone should have the opportunity to attend whether they can afford it or whether that weekend is gifted to them.

You may have noticed I use the term "movement", not "retreat", because Cursillo encourages its community to participate in small groups that help them remain accountable in their piety (relationship with God), in bible study and in action throughout their daily lives...to continue to move forward, not just spend 3 days away from the daily routine, then go back to the daily routine. It encourages us to change our thoughts around how we spend our time, our money and what we think about most.

GRANT REQUEST AMOUNT: \$2,000 in August 2026

SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES:

Mission Team

Eileen is in the process of transitioning from Mission Team Leader. There is a temporary replacement team in place. The temporary transition team consists of Sonji Almie, Debbie Vinopal and Roger Miller. Eileen is going to stay involved in an advisory position. We need two people for the team. As you know Sue Bye resigned as Eileene's assistant last year.

The council needs to find two people to take over the Mission Team leadership.

Four possible solutions

1. Find two members of the congregation that want to take on the leadership positions.
2. Ask Sonji to be our Mission Team Leader.
3. Create a new council position, whose responsibility would be managing our Mission program.
4. Your suggestions or solutions are welcome.

This is a very important part of our church. The Mission of the month program is a very effective way to keep our members engaged in our Mission program. Since the church started using Quick Books, the financial part of the Mission Team is processed by Roger/Bill every month. The Mission team Leader does not need to complete spread sheets, etc., our computer does that for us. The team leader needs to organize 1 to 4 Mission Team meetings every year to set the Missions we are going to support and set the dollar amount that will be given to each Mission. They also need to coordinate the scheduling of Mission of the month with the office staff and Lynn Ruby. A person (I have requested the list of names) filed a grant request application that was presented to the Mission Team and ultimately approved by the council. These people should keep in contact with the Mission during the year. I think a grant request for current Missions that we support should be filed every year, so the Mission Team and council can make responsible decisions regarding the allocation of Mission Funds.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Sundene



Minister of Music Council Notes – 06.22.26

- ♪ **Teaching at TIA** has wrapped up for the year. I'm now planning music activities for grades K-5 for the upcoming academic year.
- ♪ **Handbell Refurbishing** has been completed. All bells on-site and ready to be played – they sound amazing! Many thanks to Pam Forshier for helping to unpack and inspect them!
- ♪ I've completed **25% of my summer reading list**. If you'd like to see what I'm reading, I'd be happy to share it.
- ♪ I'm **purging and reorganizing** the music library to remove illegal copies and clarify the keys used for Praise Team music. Many thanks to Pam Foshier for all her help so far!
- ♪ This past week, I completed the class **Biblical Wisdom and AI**, which explored artificial intelligence through the lens of God's Word and Luther's Small Catechism. I'm continuing to look for opportunities to study how AI can be used thoughtfully and faithfully in ministry.
- ♪ Pastor Jeff and I had a productive planning session on June 3. I'm finishing worship services for July and August and preparing fall schedules and music selections for our music groups.
- ♪ I continue with **pastoral care** for several members.
- ♪ **Monday Musical Moments with Matt** – season 2 begins on Monday, September 7, 2026.
- ♪ **Summer Hymn Sing Preludes** – this summer we'll sing favorite hymns and songs for the prelude. I've received a few responses... What are your favorites?
- ♪ Mark your calendars
 - Sunday, December 13 – Advent/Christmas Cantata
 - Sunday, March 21 – Palm Sunday Cantata

Property Report
SOTH Council Meeting
6/23/26

Sanctuary Cobwebs completed 5/16

Altar Storeroom Door has pull handle on inside of door 5/16

Camera batteries charged and reinstalled 5/29/26

Weed control completed 5/30

Door closer that keeps breaking repaired again 6/11

The last week of July, 6 tons of 1/4 minus Madison Gold will be delivered to the church to redo the pathway and the area around the Columbarium.

There will be a consolidation of paint & repair items from several locations to one area

HVAC filters are an issue, was suggested by contractor to use Fiberglass filters on older units and not Pleated

Member at Large/Property

Bill Luzinski