

**Agenda
Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
August 26th, 2025**

1. Devotions (15 minutes) on Chapters 9-10 of *Strength to Love*

2. Approval of July Minutes

3. St. John's Foundation Update

Jeff McLaughlin will update the Council on the proceedings of the St. John's Foundation. The Council will be considering three new requests for funding from the Foundation in its Action Items (below).

4. Financial Report

See addendum #1 (below) for Treasurer's Report.

5. Action Items

The Business Management Board has been evaluating the use of a new vendor for processing online contributions. The BMB is recommending that St. John's move to using PushPay instead of Vanco as our vendor for processing online contributions (see the rationale in the Board minutes). The BMB would like for Council to vote on moving to PushPay for processing online contributions, with an estimated additional cost between \$3,500 to \$4,000 per year. Leah Garlie and Janell Martin will be present to advise on this matter.

The Property and Grounds Board seeks approval to buy and install two new bike racks.

There are three requests for funding from the St. John's Foundation to consider (see addendum #2 below).

The Youth Board requests that Council vote on the distribution of college scholarships (\$500 per person).

6. Discussion Items

The Benevolence & Social Concerns Board has been reviewing congregational feedback about ways that St. John's could make a meaningful impact on the community. Themes that emerged include teen mental health, adult day care/caregiver respite services, and car and home repair for those in need. The Board designated some of its discretionary budget for Greenvale Elementary School's healthy snack program and also for Kaitlyn Larson, our mission partner in Colombia. There were some further suggestions made for additional projects (see Board minutes).

The Children's Education & Ministry Board is looking for Sunday School teachers for the Fall. If you are interested or know someone who is interested, please talk to someone on the Children's board.

The Property and Grounds Board reports that the wood on the old church pews in storage at Koester Farm is delaminating and separating, and the underlying wood is not worth saving as it is not solid and has a camber to it. The Board would like to save the Trinity piece, however, and give it to someone who wants it.

Revisions to the lists of Boards' responsibilities in the bylaws: please send your final revisions to Steve Reece (reece@stolaf.edu), who will compile them into one document. Unless someone else would like to do this.

7. Pastors' Report

Pastors' Report has been sent separately.

a. Pastor Fickenscher

b. Pastor Davis

7. Old Business

8. New Business

9. Future Dates

Board Night: Tuesday, September 9th, 7 pm

Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 23rd, 7 pm
