

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2026

(Pending Approval)

1. **7:01 PM Call to Order** – Chris Hoelter
2. **7:02 PM Opening Prayer** – Pastor Hoelter
3. **7:05 PM Sunward Power Solar Presentation** - Chris Gross of Sunward Power
 - ***Main Building and Sanctuary - 102% solar utility offset**
 - ***Main Building Only - 68% solar utility offset**
 - System cost \$395,175.20
 - Annual production 128,766 kWh
 - System size 123.64 kW
 - Est. lifetime saving \$1,153,048.84
 - System cost \$395,175.20
 - \$2,132.18 Current Monthly Electric bill*
 - \$1,424,044.76 Est. Total utility cost without solar*
 - \$55,490.81 Est. Total utility cost with solar*
 - Total system cost Includes incentives applied today \$359,175.20
 - Payback period 7.51 years
 - Net cost Includes incentives applied later \$215,505.12
 - Average monthly payment \$2,132.18 to Endowment
 - Total rate \$0.11 per kWh Post-solar
 - Year 1 estimate Grid use \$0.00 Fixed costs \$35.00
 - Average monthly payment \$35.00 down from \$2,097.18
4. **7:46 PM Attendance and Approval of March 10th Meeting Minutes** - Ruth Gray Via Zoom, Chris Hoelter, Elaine Von Wald, Jim Riedl, Pr. Mark Hoelter, Chuck Kunert, Suzanne Frank, Amity Cunningham, Pr. Ru Ek Yah. Absent Edgar Burgos, Marsha Wolfe. Motion to accept March 10th minutes by: Elaine Von Wald 2nd by Suzanne Frank- Approved by voice vote.
5. **7:50 PM Board/Officer Roundtable:**
 - i. **Board of Education Report – TLCS & TELC** (Suzanne Frank/Marsha Wolfe) - **See Written report**
 - ii. **Board of Finance and Properties Report** (Chuck Kunert/Ruth Gray) - **See written report**
 - **Action Item to Approve Sunward Power Proposal**
 - iii. **Board of Ministry and Outreach Report** (Jim Riedl/Pastor Ek Yah/Pastor Hoelter)
 - Discussion about CPR training for Lay Ministers and Pastors - All Lay Ministers /Pastors who are physically able to perform CPR in an emergency situation will be asked to take the class provided by Trinity’s instructor and paid for through the budget. Date TBD - late June/ July.
 - iv. **Pastor’s Report** (Pastor Ek Yah / Pastor Hoelter)-
 - In addition, Pr Hoelter reports that there is one Confirmand (Carson Hoelter) for June 14th, Pr Hoelter is officiant at the wedding for Derek Lebrun and Haneen Al Hassani on June 20th, Paul and Heidi Frank have officially transferred to Trinity. Funeral for Mandy Zelinka will be June 6th 1pm. Pr Hoelter, Pr Ek Yah and

family, Marta Luna, Pam Bridgehouse, Natalia and Family will be attending the VIII National Hispanic Convention for LCMS July 28-31st in Irvine, CA.

- Action item from Pastor Ek Yah email regarding the INDEMAYA event in August.

v. **Treasurers Report** (Elaine Von Wald) – **see written report.**

vi. **President's Report** (Chris Hoelter) see written report

6. **815: PM Board Action Items**

i. **The Board of Finance and Properties moves** that the Church Council **Approve** Sunward Power's solar proposal that calls for 102% electricity generation and forward this to the congregation for a vote on Sunday May 31st, 2026, 2nd by Elaine Von Wald – Approved by voice vote.

ii. **Motion to Approve** the banking resolution authorizing the opening of a checking account, under the Trinity Evangelical Church, Federal ID number 93-0479868, for the **PTO of Trinity Lutheran Church & School at Columbia bank**. The account will be funded by transferring all funds from the existing Columbia Bank account set up under a different and unknown federal ID number. Motion to approve by Elaine Von Wald, 2nd by Suzanne Frank – Approved by voice vote.

iii. **Motion to Approve Slate of Officer Nominees** by Chris Hoelter, 2nd by Amity Cunningham - Approved by voice vote.

- **President:** Chris Hoelter
- **Treasurer:** Elaine Von Wald
- **Ministry and Outreach Co Chair:** Jeremiah Bahr & Steve Burgos (tbd)

iv. **Motion to Authorize Trinity to sponsor** the INDEMAYA event in August, motion by Chuck Kunert, 2nd Suzanne Frank – Approved by voice vote

7. **8:30 PM Announcements**

i. **Congregation Meeting to Review and Approve SunPower Solar Proposal – Sunday, May 31st**

ii. **Joint Council and Finance Committee meeting Thursday June 11th 7pm for Budget Review and Approval**

iii. **Congregation Voters Meeting – Sunday July 12th**

iv. **Next Regular Council Meeting – Tuesday, July 14th**

8. **9:05 PM Closing Prayer** – Chris Hoelter

9. **Adjournment**

Respectfully submitted,

Amity Cunningham – Secretary



Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, May 12, 2026

**“Trinity is a diverse, vibrant community of forgiven sinners
sharing the unconditional love of Jesus with all.”**

1. **7:00 PM Call to Order** – Chris Hoelter
2. **7:02 PM Opening Prayer** – Pastor Hoelter
3. **7:05 PM Sunward Power Solar Presentation** - Chris Gross of Sunward Power
4. **7:30 PM Attendance and Approval of March 10th Meeting Minutes**
5. **7:35 PM Board/Officer Roundtable:**
 - i. **Board of Education Report – TLCS & TELC** (Suzanne Frank/Marsha Wolfe)
 - ii. **Board of Finance and Properties Report** (Chuck Kunert/Ruth Gray)
 - **Motion to Approve Sunward Power Proposal**
 - iii. **Board of Ministry and Outreach Report** (Jim Riedl/Pastor Ek Yah/Pastor Hoelter)
 - Discussion about CPR training for Lay Ministers and Pastors
 - iv. **Pastor’s Report** (Pastor Ek Yah / Pastor Hoelter)
 - v. **Treasurers Report** (Elaine Von Wald)
 - **Motion to Approve PTO Checking Account**
 - vi. **President’s Report** (Chris Hoelter)
6. **8:25 PM Board Action Items**
 - i. **Approve Slate of Officer Nominees**
 - **President:** Chris Hoelter
 - **Treasurer:** Elaine Von Wald
 - **Ministry and Outreach Co Chair:** Jeremiah Bahr & Steve Burgos (tbd)
7. **8:30 PM Announcements**
 - i. **Next Council Meeting – Tuesday, July 14th**
 - ii. **Congregation Voters Meeting – Sunday, June ... July ??**
8. **8:45 PM Closing Prayer** – Chris Hoelter
9. **Adjournment**

.....

March 2026 Principal's Report

Enrollment for 2026-2027

Returning Students

- 9 applications completed
- 6 applications in progress

New Students

7 applications submitted

- Two for Kindergarten
- One for third grade
- One for fifth grade
- Three for sixth

Tiger Tidings Newsletter: Diversity In Focus

A major new feature of the Tiger Tidings newsletter is the "Diversity In Focus" section. This prominent section is dedicated to thoughtfully highlighting and celebrating the diverse backgrounds, histories, and contributions that make our community unique. By prioritizing this content, we are reinforcing our commitment to fostering a more inclusive and vibrant environment for everyone at our school. Special thanks to Karis Stoudamire-Phillips, who is providing the monthly content for this important feature.

Focus on Classroom Instruction for 2026-2027

- Mrs. Olwa and Ms. Parr are planning for two new first graders, Alex Seleski and Landon Lewis-Seimers, to spend math and reading time with Ms. Parr, as both students are ready for second grade level work in these subjects. For the remainder of the day, Alex and Landon will return to the Kindergarten/First Grade classroom.
- Don Seleski will resume using the 5th and 6th-grade math curriculum he already has for next school year.

Calendar of Events

- May 14: BINGO Night & Burrito Feed – 8th Grade Trip Fundraiser
- May 20: K–3 Zoo Field Trip
- May 25: Memorial Day (No School)
- May 27-May 31 8th Grade Trip
- June 4: TLS Evening Spring Concert
- June 9: Graduation
- June 10: Half Day – Last Day of School

TLCS Report to the Church Council

May 2026

Re-enrollment:

Marsha has a projection of 60 students for the next school year

14 applications completed, 2 applications in process

New Students, 6 applications submitted (3 completed and 3 in process) (K-3, 3rd-1, 5th-1, 7th-1)

Will be discussing the enrollment numbers for 4th grade at the BOE meeting in June
June 4th TLS Evening Spring Concert
June 9th Graduation
June 10th Last day of school

**TELC Report to the Church Council
May 2026**

Financial Year 2025-26

- April gain +\$3,844
- YTD gain \$87,758

Current Student census = 99

New Director - Jessica Ferguson

Her vision is to concentrate on communication, prioritize the bible (looking for an appropriate curriculum), and restructuring in-service days to include an education component.

Jessica is currently shadowing in classrooms

**Board of Finance & Properties Report to Church Council
May 12, 2026**

1. Sunward Power representative Chris Gross will address the Council and present their proposal for installation of solar panels on the roof of Trinity. Potential savings over the 30-year lifespan of the panels are projected to exceed \$1.7 million. Funding for the \$215,000 cost would come from Trinity investment funds to be repaid on an annual basis from the savings accrued. Solar power could replace all of our current electricity requirements. In order to qualify for maximum rebates, this project must begin by July, 2026.
2. The Security Grant is in its final implementation phase. All equipment has been installed and training of key staff has taken place. We anticipate beginning a rollout of security measures in the next two weeks. The major changes affecting Trinity will be the way in which parents and visitors check into the building and deciding which Trinity members will be granted access to the building during times the church and school are normally closed. Security gates on the driveway will be open from 6:30 AM to 9:00 PM on weekdays and 7:30 AM to 5:00 PM on Sundays. During school hours, access to the building for all students, parents, staff, and visitors will be via the school entrance only. The system will record who is entering the building and when they leave. Our new security cameras essentially record the entire campus both inside and outside and have the capacity to search for anyone who might be a potential intruder. Records are stored for months. A temporary fence will be installed from the north edge of the hedge to the east fence of the Latino lot and posts and trees will be installed between the driveway gates and the sanctuary to prevent vehicles from accessing the parking lot after hours. A landscape planter has been created between the two gates to prevent car access but allow wheelchair and bicycle access.

3. The boilers have been shut down for the summer and will be drained and cleaned. Tom Stevens Boiler staff will be assisting us in making changes recommended by the boiler inspector.
4. The new roof has been installed over the fellowship hall, offices, and TELC rooms at a cost of \$80,800. Noah Robles, the husband of Deanna Chamness-Robles who is the extended care director for TELC, was the contractor. He has been retained to replace the exterior wood siding on the clerestory of the fellowship hall due to rot of the existing siding, and also to attempt to stop leaks from the metal roof of the sanctuary.
5. The fund-raising campaign that was authorized at the last Council meeting to pay for the roof replacement was incredibly successful, with over \$185,000 raised, including deferred gifts. That campaign was based on the original bids we received from three roofing companies that averaged \$157,000. The excess monies will be retained in a Maintenance Fund to cover future major maintenance needs.

Action item:

The Board of Finance and Properties moves that the Church Council approve Sunward Power's proposal that calls for 102% electricity generation and forward this to the congregation for a vote on Sunday May 31st, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Chuck Kunert
Chair, Board of Finance and Properties

Church Council Meeting – May 12, 2026
Ministry and Outreach Board Report

Pastor Ruberto is preaching Sunday mornings at Hope Lutheran in Woodburn as long as it doesn't interfere with his responsibilities at Trinity. His role is not as a vacancy pastor but as a guest speaker while the congregation calls a new pastor. / Pastor Ru is working with the INDEMAYA organization as they have requested their annual Maya celebration be held at Trinity with our congregation being the sponsor. This would take place in August.

Pastor Hoelter continues to visit our home-bound members: Lisa Bowen, John Collins and Fred Kramer. / He has had a phone call discussion with Pastor Schultheis regarding his turning over the pastoral responsibilities to him as he begins the ministry at Trinity June 21st. The installation service for Pastor Martin Schulteis is scheduled for August 2nd. The M & O Board is recommending the service be scheduled for 2:00 pm. with no morning services that Sunday. The afternoon service will allow pastors from surrounding Lutheran churches to attend the installation.

Adult Bible class is currently studying how the ancient manuscripts and texts of the Bible were written, copied and transmitted over the centuries. When this study is completed, Chuck Kunert will lead a course on Ephesians. By the completion of that study Pastor Schulteis should be in place as our pastor and the administration of the adult Bible class will be turned over to him.

The Lenten and Easter season at Trinity was reviewed. Everything went well and we are thankful that so many celebrated the resurrection of our Lord on Easter morning and afternoon. The only suggestion for next year is that the community Easter Egg Hunt be publicized more. Its success has been most through word of mouth and the fact that we have been doing it for so many years. With some advertising in the community it might become an even greater event and outreach.

The LCMS National Hispanic Convention will take place July 28-31 on the campus of Concordia Irvine in California. Originally, 7 of our Latino members were planning to attend. Four have decided not to go due to concerns of the possibility of ICE in the Los Angeles airport. For those that do attend we will use Kaleidoscope funds and offer \$500 to offset their expenses. We will pay the entire cost for Pastor Ek Yah to attend – about \$1500.

Two months ago Coventry Presbyterian Church supplied us with 100 whistle kits which can be used to warn of danger, specifically in the immigration concerns when ICE agents are seen. Blowing the whistle alerts people in the area of their presence. Most of those whistle kits were taken by members of our congregation. More were obtained from Coventry and will be distributed both at church and at other Trinity events involving Latinos. We have about 300 kits available.

Next Three Months:

- May: 16th - Cully Clean-up
- 23rd - Marcus Gray's Wedding
- June: 9th - Trinity 8th Grade Graduation
- July: 13th – 17th Vacation Bible School
- 25th – Wine Tasting @ Jan & Terry Gaylord's 6:00 pm.
- 28th – 31st - LCMS National Hispanic Convention in Irvine, CA
- 30th – TELC Picnic
- Aug. 1st – TLS Alumni Picnic 10:00 am. – 2:00 pm.
- 2nd – Pastor Martin Schultheis Installation
- 16th - Trinity Golf Fellowship @ Stone Creek
- 23rd - Church Picnic - Single service

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Riedl, Ministry and Outreach Chairman

Pastor's Report to the Church Council - May 12, 2026

Dear Members of the Church Council

The organization INDEMAYA, and several individuals from Hillsboro, have asked me if Trinity Lutheran Church could serve as the venue for their Maya Festival this coming August.

The only things they require from us are the parking lot and the field.
They plan to provide their own portable restrooms and security personnel.
I informed them that they are not permitted to sell alcohol on our property, and I asked that they leave the premises clean and tidy.
These individuals do not represent an organization seeking to generate a profit; they are simply trying to host an event and provide a gathering space for Maya families. Consequently, they do not carry any form of liability insurance.
My question is this: Could Trinity be a sponsor for this event so that our own insurance coverage would extend to protect them? I hope that makes sense.
What I do know is that, on previous occasions, Trinity has been remarkably generous in supporting and welcoming them, even without a formal sponsorship arrangement in place.
Would we be able to do the same this year?
The dates they have requested are August 8th or August 15th. I checked the Calendar I didn't see anything on it yet!
What are your thoughts on this idea and proposal?
May God bless you all! And thank you!!!

Pastor Ruberto Ek Yah

Treasurer's Report Church Council Meeting - May 12, 2026

To Church Council:

The preparation of the 2026/2027 budget is in progress, which starts with actual 2025/2026 operating results through April 2026 and projects the months of May and June 2026. Key information about expected income and expenses has been requested from various committees. Most, but not all, of the requested information has been received and added to the budget calculations.

When the preliminary draft of the budget is complete it will be emailed to council members, and a meeting is recommended to discuss results, and possible revisions before finalizing for presentation to the congregation.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Von Wald, Treasurer

Action Item: To approve the attached banking resolution authorizing the opening of a checking account, under the Trinity Evangelical Church, Federal ID number 93-0479868, for the PTO of Trinity Lutheran Church & School at Columbia bank. The account will be funded by transferring all funds from the existing Columbia Bank account set up under a different and unknown federal ID number. Motion to approve by Elaine Von Wald, 2nd Suzanne Frank - Approved.

Presidents Report – May 12, 2026

Pastor Schultheis Update

Pastor's first Sunday at Trinity will be Sunday, June 21st. Kathy and their daughters are flying and will be arriving on Saturday, June 13th. Pastor, his brother, and his son Landon will be driving the cars and their dog with the goal of arriving by the evening of June 14th.

Church Council Elections

There are 3 positions up for election this year, President, Treasurer and Board of Ministry and Outreach Chair. The incumbent President and Treasurer are being nominated for re-election. A nomination for Ministry and Outreach Board chair is being considered by Jeremiah Bahr with a possible 'Co-Chair' of Steven Burgos.

June Congregation Meeting

The congregational voters meeting where the preliminary budget is approved and officers are elected is typically during the last 2 weeks of June. Unfortunately, I will be travelling on both of those days this year and be unable to lead the meeting. We can either schedule the meeting for some time in July or have another Council member could lead the meeting in my absence. I can still prepare the printed agenda.