



**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes**

January 2, 2024 – Email Meeting Minutes

At the December Council there was discussion of offering our Youth Room space to LADC for an additional pre-K room. LADC has reached out to us with the request due to increasing enrollment. Discussion was favorable and there was agreement to offer this space to LADC. A vote on approving this was held off until those not in attendance at the December Council Meeting could be informed and included in the discussion. Carole England, Ruth Koehly, and Linda Welch were absent from that meeting. Pastor Carrie has since spoken to each of them and all of them were in favor. An email vote was taken on January 2, 2024. Pastor Dale Stiles made the motion to offer our Youth Room to LADC for an additional space allowing them to increase enrollment and staff. With the additional space shared, St. Paul Lutheran will gain an additional \$5,000/annual in rent. Carole England seconded the motion. Motion was carried with all members in favor. LADC plans to have the space ready and open for use by September 1, 2024.

Submitted by Carole England, Church Council Secretary

Tuesday, January 16, 2024 – Regular Monthly Meeting

Gathered at 5:00 p.m. for Social Time

5:40 p.m. Meeting Called to Order by President, Deb Cowing

Devotions led by Linda Welch - Love in Action - Romans 12:9-13. *“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil, cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with God’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”*

Members Present: Deb Cowing, Carole England, Chris Timmons, Karen Rozeske, Kristina Stoyke, Marc Marabella, Linda Welch, Kathy Mills, Pastor Carrie Stiles, Pastor Dale Stiles.

Members Absent: Ruth Koehly.

Consent Agenda:

Motion to accept the agenda as written by Chris Timmons, Seconded by Karen Rozeske.

Motion carried.

Affirmations:

- Jennifer Rauner went on the winter youth retreat to help as an additional adult.
- Chris Timmons, Claudia Nelson for the financial/bookkeeping work they do.
- Matt Rauner, Joanna Kroschel, and all those who helped out in the last two weeks when medical attention was needed for Ellsworth Larson during worship.
- Holly Maeckelbergh for her coordination of The Table meal. Including planning, shopping and preparation.

Treasurer's Report: [report is same as what's included in the Annual Congregational Written Report]

Through 12/31/2023 End of Year	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$ 216,386
Total Revenue	\$ 309,797
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$ 245,963
Total Expenses (after mortgage payment)	\$ 309,899
Net Revenue (after Mortgage payment)	\$ 102
Mortgage Balance	\$ 198,179
Edward Jones Balance	\$ 40,999

Pastor Dale's Report

Highlights Include:

- Christmas Eve and Lessons & Carols service
- Confirmation Retreat at Camp Wapo, Amery, WI - Jan. 5-6
- ENGAGE: Worship Learning Series - "Prayers of the Church" Jan. 7
- Led Discovery Center Chapel (twice)
- Annual Congregational Written Report prep. (made available Jan. 14)
- Lenten Planning - Ash Wednesday is Feb. 14

Upcoming:

- Sunday, January 28 - Annual Congregational Meeting after church followed with a potluck
- Lent - Ash Wednesday begins Feb. 14. Theme: "Once Upon A Tree ..."

Ongoing:

- Coordinating church maintenance repairs/needs when/as needed.
- Weekly Table and Afternoon Bible Study prep and planning
- Church directory proofing
- Social Media updates and announcements
- Weekly worship and music planning (Stewardship, ENGAGE Lent, Bridge the Gap)
- Lead chapel for Discovery Center Tues/Thurs every second and fourth wk/mo
- Pastoral care and counseling
- Synodical Committees (Iringa and BKB Post Secondary Scholarship)

Pastor Carrie's Report:

Appreciation- All who made the church space and the Christmas worship so meaningful, Jennifer Rauner for help on the winter retreat.

Highlights:

- Christmas worship
- Winter youth retreat
- Engage worship about the "Prayers of the People"

- Attend first call retreat with synod staff

Ongoing:

- Preaching and Pastoral Care
- Preparing for Table curriculum
- “ENGAGE: Worship” monthly themes- for intergenerational learning which will be focusing on the Kyrie.”
- Creation Care Team initiatives

Upcoming and Planning For:

- Children, Youth and Family meeting-in New Year around VBS conversations
- Faith Club Book Study and conversation around different faith traditions (Christian, Judaism, and Islam)in January and February.
- Planning Lent, mentoring for confirmation youth, and first communion
- Planning and promoting Bible camp opportunities

New Business:

- **Annual Meeting Preparation:**
 - Check in attendee’s names in at the table: Linda Welch and Kathy Mills
 - Count attendance: Marc Marabella
 - Count ballots if needed: Kristina Stoyke and Marc Marabella (if names are added to the ballot then a paper vote, if no names are added then a show of hands is required.)
 - Sound System: Chris Timmons or Tyler Kroschel - hand held microphone is needed for those who want to ask questions.
 - Deb Cowing, President, will lead the meeting
 - When a motion and second is made the participant will be asked to state their name clearly for the minutes.
- **Thank you to outgoing Council members** (Chris Timmons, Carole England, Karen Rozeske for staying on and Marc Marabella, Kathy Mills and Ruth Koehly who will be finished)
- **The Synod Toolkit for Leaders** will be Saturday February 24 at Faith Lutheran in Forest Lake, MN. The Council Members are encouraged to attend.
- **Discussion about a thank you gift** for Claudia Nelson for her fifteen years working as bookkeeper for St. Paul Lutheran. Claudia will not be present at the Annual Meeting so she will be acknowledged at the beginning of the service on Sunday, February 4.

Ongoing Business

- Pr. Carrie explained the Church Cleaning Schedule will now be March, April, May. Some of the volunteers from December, January and February will continue. Needed are a few for the upcoming 3 month schedule, once a month.
- Bridging the Gap matching fund appeal has exceeded \$10K (\$10,298). We are 34% of way towards our Two-year appeal.
- ELCA Strategic Ministry Goals, Hopes & Dreams - (Page 16 in the annual report) We have 24 new members as of today. The church is on its way to becoming debt free.
- LADC Discovery Center (Preschool) – No report other than the one in the Annual Written Report
- Church Sign Exploration - ON HOLD
- Church Land Exploration - ON HOLD

Ministry Team Reports:

- **Creation Care Team:** (Kristina Stoyke) - Composting cups and paper towels. Lucy Stoyke brought in composting bags to be used and the Clarks will bring them to the composting site. Waste baskets for baby diapers were put into the restrooms. Next meeting is mid February.
- **Worship & Music:** (Pr. Dale & Pr. Carrie) - Lenten planning. Average attendance including online worshipers is 91. The synod has increased the cost of Pulpit Supply which has gone from \$125 to \$200.

- **Building & Grounds:** (Marc Marabella & Pr. Dale) - The lighting materials have been ordered. Installation will begin the first of February. New LED lights will be changed everywhere. While the scaffolding is up, Matt Rauner will paint the front wall in the Sanctuary for only the cost of the paint. Marc is working on a new dishwasher.
- **Humble Bees:** (Karen Rozeske) - The quilt for the raffle in March is almost complete.
- **Global Mission:** (Ruth Koehly & Pr. Dale) - ON HOLD
- **Children, Youth and Family:** (Pr. Carrie & Kristina Stoyke) - The Winter Youth Retreat on The Lord's Prayer was a success and everyone enjoyed it. Discussion on summer camping opportunities for youth and families. Moving forward on VBS in coordination with the preschool. Coming up is First Communion on Maundy Thursday.
- **Altar Guild:** (Karen Rozeske) - No new report
- **Finance Team:** (Chris Timmons) - ON HOLD
- **The Table:** (Pr. Carrie, Pr. Dale, Deb Cowing) - Lent is early this year so the Table will continue after Lent and ending at the end of April. Background checks are in process for those working with the youth. They cost \$8.00 through the Insurance Company with these being in compliance for 3 years.

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday, February 20, 5:30 p.m. (We will welcome New Members!)
- Devotions: Pr. Carrie Stiles

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn made by Karen Rozeske, Seconded by Marc Marabella. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Meeting ended at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by Carole England, Church Council Secretary