



**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, April 16, 2024**

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

**Devotions:** Led by Deb Cowing. “Unexplainable Peace” Philippians 4:7 “And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” We look for signs from God and feel the peace that comes from realizing there is a sign given to us as clear as can be. We just have to be open to receive that sign.

**Called to Order** at 5:35 p.m. by Deb Cowing

**Members Present:** Deb Cowing, Carole England, Chris Timmons, Christina Fashner, Kimberly Bahls, Kristina Stoyke, Pastor Carrie Stiles, Pastor Dale Stiles. **Members Absent:** Andy Buccanerro, Karen Rozeske, Linda Welch

**Consent Agenda:**

- Appoint Kathie Marabella as 3rd delegate to the Synod Assembly.
- Motion to accept Consent Agenda: Motion made by Chris Timmons, Seconded by Kimberly Bahls, Motion carried

**Affirmations and Signs of God:**

- Thank you to all the Musicians and Choirs for all their work on the music during Holy Week and Easter. Especially thank you to Joanna, Fritz, Janelle, Kim, and Jeanne.
- Thank you to all the TZ travelers who participated in the Tanzanian Sunday Worship and Tea. Thank you to Arlie P. and Carole E. in the preparation and organization of the Tanzanian Tea. Thank you to Chris T., who played all the special videos during the Worship Service. And a special thanks to Fran Nordhausen for the use of her African fabric.
- Thank you to Martha Servers for all their work on serving lunch at recent funerals.
- Thank you to Humble Bees for the quilt raffle, which took in \$1190 toward Bridge the Gap.
- Thank you to the Boy Scouts for their pancake bkfst donations toward Bridge the Gap.
- Thank you to the continuous dedicated cleaners of the church building.
- All of these are signs of God’s work in our faith community. Thank you, to all!

**Treasurer’s Report:** Current monthly numbers are looking good. No concerns at this time. Good news!

Through 03/31/2024	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$ 67,608
Total Revenue	\$ 79,849
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$ 58,493

Total Expenses (after mortgage payment)	\$ 74,478
Net Revenue (after Mortgage payment)	\$ 5,371
Mortgage Balance	\$ 183,940
Edward Jones Balance	\$ 46,866

## Pastor Dale's Monthly Report

### Highlights Include:

- Barb Reed Funeral - March 23
- Palm Sunday Worship - March 24
- Tanzania Trip Planning mtg - March 24
- Holy Week worship - March 28-31
- 55W (West of 55) Planning mtg/potluck - April 2
- Temple Israel visit - April 5
- Elloise Coozenoy baptism - April 7
- New Member Reception - April 7
- Feed My Starving Children - April 10
- LADC Circus - April 11 (66 parents & grandparents)
- Sandra Berry funeral - April 11
- Tanzania Sunday Celebration - April 14

### Upcoming:

- ENGAGE: Worship Monthly Learning Series concludes for 2023-2024 - April 21 (Benediction) - will resume in Fall
- Last night of The Table (Potluck/Worship/Adopt-a-Highway roadside cleanup)
- Sunday, April 28 - Creation Care Sunday Worship
- Sunday, May 5 - Next "Bridge the Gap" Sunday (From Scarcity to Abundance)
- Monday, May 6 - 55W (West of 55) Service Project - Serve Community Meal at Zion LC, Chisago City
- Friday, May 10 - Saturday, May 11 - Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly (Delegates include: Arlie Post, Carole England, Kathie Marabella)
- Saturday, May 11 - Annual Mother's Day Spring Plant Sale
- Sunday, May 19 - Rite of Confirmation (Thomas Stoyke and Caleb Clark)

### Ongoing:

- Coordinating church maintenance repairs/needs when/as needed.
- Tanzania Trip Planning
- Sunday evening Choir Rehearsals
- Wednesday afternoon Bible Study prep and planning
- Social Media updates and announcements
- Weekly worship and music planning
- 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 Monthly Report**

**Appreciation** - All the mentors who met with our confirmation youth during Lent: For all the leaders and musicians that made Holy Week and Easter so meaningful.

### **Highlights**

- Holy Week and Easter
- 32 people at Feed My Starving Children on Wednesday, April 10
- 25 visit to Temple Israel in Minneapolis on April 5

### **Ongoing**

- Preaching and Pastoral Care
- Preparing for Table curriculum and end of year
- "ENGAGE: Worship" monthly themes-April 21 will be "The Benediction"
- Creation Care Team-Changing to glass communion cups and preparing for
- Creation Care/Earth Day Worship
- Cleaners for March, April, May

### **Upcoming and Planning For**

- VBS: June 17-21
- Planning worship for Women of the ELCA convention April 27
- Preparing for confirmation for Caleb Clark and Thomas Stoyke
- Attending Festival of Homiletics in Pittsburgh- May 13-16
- Bible camp -4 youth going to camp with two donors providing financial support
- Other summer planning

### **New Business:**

- Confirm date for Spring Council Planning Retreat - June 9, 2024 after church around 11:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Deb Cowing offered her house and will have a brunch. Other council members will help provide food needed during the day.
- A third delegate is needed at the synod assembly due to our congregation's increased membership. Kathie Marabella has offered to go as the third delegate. A motion was made by Kimberly Bahls to accept Kathie Marabella as the third delegate representing St. Paul Lutheran Church. Seconded by Christina Fashner, Motion carried.

### **Ongoing Business:**

- Church Cleaning Schedule update from Pastor Carrie - The schedule is set through the month of May. Before a June, July, August Schedule is set an outside volunteer (LADC contact) may be interested in helping out with our church cleaning, but this needs to be confirmed. Pastor Dale will be meeting with this person and let us know.
- Bridge the Gap update – We are at \$18,765. The little guy will take another step on the bridge.
- ELCA Strategic Ministry Covenant/Goals, Hopes & Dreams (Evaluate/Update at June Retreat)
- LADC Discovery Center (Preschool) update - After VBS the preschool will begin preparing the youth room for another classroom in the fall. They will begin paying rent for that room on July 1, 2024. This will give the church an additional \$5,000 per year for the rental of that classroom.
- Church Sign Exploration Task Force - No Report
- Church Land Exploration Task Force - No Report

## Ministry Team Reports

- Creation Care Team (Kristina) - Started using the glass communion cups. After each use they are soaked in a bleach/soap solution and then rinsed and air dried. The cleanup time involved is very minimal. Creation Care Sunday will be on April 28 as way of celebrating Earth Day (4/22) in worship.
- Worship & Music (Pr. Dale/Pr. Carrie) - There has been an unusual extra amount of planning given Holy Week, New Member/Baptism, Tanzania Sunday, ENGAGE, and Creation Care Sunday. The Bells, Choir & Band will have a celebratory potluck after Worship May 5. It was suggested that Joanna, Fritz, and Jeanne all are given an appreciation gift. Plans are being made.
- Building & Grounds (Pr. Dale) - The main entrance door for the preschool would not open and needed maintenance. Dave Haselbauer adjusted it. It works now, but ideally, needs replacing. The dishwasher is not dependable and needs replacing. It has needed consistent repairs that Marc M. and Dave H. has taken care of. It was suggested to purchase one instead of renting a dishwasher given the relatively little amount it is used. LADC (preschool) will pay half of the expense but would like that to go on this year's LADC budget ending the first of July, if possible. Further conversation with Dave H. and Marc M. is needed and a dishwasher purchase proposal is needed.
- Senior Group (Carole E.) - May's activity is a service project helping to serve the community meal at Zion Lutheran Church on May 6, 2024. The monthly activities are planned through December 2024.
- Humble Bees (Karen) - Plans for another quilt raffle in the fall. They have been busy making pocket quilts for Tanzania.
- Children, Youth, and Family (Pr. Carrie/Kristina/Christina) - Ongoing plans for VBS
- Altar Guild (Kimberly) – No report other than the beginning use of glass communion cups. Christina F. brought up a member's concern regarding no bibles in the pews. This was discussed and the Council's decision was made to make NRSV Bibles available on the prayer station table in the back of the Sanctuary for anyone interested. These could be picked up and put back on the way in and out of worship. A note of these available will be included in the bulletin announcements. (The Bibles that were in the pews before the pandemic are the Today's English translation (Good News), which doesn't match the ELCA's recommended NRSV translation for worship.)
- Finance Team(Chris/Andy) – On Hold. Chris and Andy are still working together on the treasurer transition completely over to Andy B.
- The Table (Pr. Carrie/Pr. Dale/Deb) - there are two more sessions left before summer break. On April 24 there will be a potluck, worship, and then adopt a Highway project.

## Next Meeting

- Tuesday, May 21, 6:00 p.m. with social time at 5:30 (NOTE: a time change)
- Devotions: Kimberly Bahls

**Adjournment:** 6:45 p.m. Motion to adjourn made by Christina Fashner and Seconded by Kimberly Bahls. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Carole England, Council Secretary