



August 21, 2018 Council Meeting

St. Paul Lutheran Church

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE			
X	Pastor Grant Applehans		X Chris Clark, Member at Large
X	Tom Miller, President		X Julie Hyrkas, Member at Large
X	Shirley Zierke, Vice President		X Tyler Kroschel, Member at Large
X	Katie Fetterly, Treasurer		Arlie Post, Member at Large
	Julie Coozenoy, Secretary	X	Jon Quale, Member at Large
X	Janet Nutter, Guest		

Meeting called to order at 6:40 pm by Tom Miller. Julie Hyrkas opened meeting with devotions.

CONSENT AGENDA (Agenda, Finance & Committee Reports)

- A motion was made by Tyler Kroschel to accept the Consent Agenda (August agenda with revisions, Finance & Committee Reports). Seconded by Jon Quale and unanimously approved.

JULY MINUTES

- On August 14, 2018, via email, a motion was made by Shirley Zierke to approve the July Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Pastor Grant and unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

JULY 2018	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$17,253.28
Total Revenue	\$20,784.35
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$28,293.33
Net Income (after mortgage payment)	-\$12,836.98
Mortgage Balance	\$478,758.91
Edward Jones Balance	\$35,388.71
Matching Funds from Congregation	\$2,745.00

- Update on Scrip - We are starting to do well. So far with minimal participation We have earned \$252.63 in rebates. We currently have 15 families enrolled online. There are a couple more that have been purchasing cards from us on Sundays, but overall participation has been a little slow. This could be because of Summer and a lot of families not in church, but we would like to see greater participation. Particularly by council - Only 5 members of Council are signed up online.
- We briefly discussed the preschool's ask to increase the hourly wages of both the director and the teacher. The feeling among the team was that these positions are not the same as the ones we ended the year with and as such, we need to reevaluate the compensation. It was also pointed out that we increased the Youth director position in the last year and the admin wage prior to hiring Wendy. It only makes sense to reevaluate this as well.
- Seal Coating - The warm season is quickly drawing to an end and I wanted a quote or two for sealcoating. No one on finance team took charge to do this. If we are going to see if we can do it this year, we need to make some decisions soon.
- Claudia and I have been working on getting the books more organized and have reached out to a few people for their opinions. The thought is that to ensure an adequate reorganization and to make the balances correct in QB, we really need to start over our accounting software. An ask from the finance office is that we hire a CPA to help us do this so that we start off correct rather than messed up.

- Matching Funds - This too has been a little slow. We have \$1,720 in congregational giving to date. So with the match we are at \$3,444. *(Note: between the writing of the finance report and the Council meeting, another \$1,025 was received. The new total is reported elsewhere in the report)*
- Plowing - We need to get our plowing contract ready for next season. It does cost extra for the driver to get out and shovel the walk at \$25/hr. We can either go with the current contract or get bids. Finance team thinks what we have is probably the cheapest option.
- Insurance contracts - We will be renewing the Building/property insurance as is. I need to call the agent to redo the workers comp numbers, but am waiting until we know what preschool is going to do. I also need to take the puppet's trailer off of the auto insurance, but we need to dispose of it before I can do that. Can someone from Council take charge of getting rid of it. Claudia has access to the title in the finance office.
- A revision to the reimbursement policy - There are no exceptions for anyone on asking for preapproval on the monthly limit. And all receipts need to be turned in timely. 14 days from date of purchase was suggested.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Greetings in the LORD! This is a summary of my activity during the July/August period. Please let me know if you have any questions or would like more information.

In worship, we celebrated 3 Baptisms – Hunter Rose Kubes, and Alexandra Ann and Barton Frost Chapin. We got an increasing handle on running the sound for outdoor worship, had a tremendous performance from our council band, and almost started a fire with water...Worship themes included journey, reading the signs, eternal food (not the Twinkie kind), Jesus' enduring presence, and the scandal (and goodness) of communion. We are now entirely using the liturgy I wrote for Ukulele for the indoor service, just in time to shut it down for the summer. The plan is to pick it back up next summer, and the summer after and then evaluate. This year I will be working on naming the liturgy, writing some ancillary pieces, setting the accompaniment for piano and getting it copywrited and published. Planning is underway for a few special services this fall (Rally Sunday, the 150th Celebration, Tanzania Sunday and the Family Focused Christmas service. I still hope to form a preaching series team to discuss what might engage the hearts and minds of congregants and visitors. We have been regularly receiving visitors this summer and have had a couple of requests for a new member class (something that is planned for October.)

Education plans are gearing up for the fall. Wednesday adult classes will be starting on September 12th. We will be talking about the early church and the book of Acts this fall and looking toward talking about the Book of Revelation in the spring. The Sunday Evening group will be re convening on Rally Sunday (September 9th) and will be finishing up with Romans before moving on to other material. As part of the Loaves and Fishes "Amazing Grace", and thanks to a Thrivant grant, I am picking out \$250 worth of Bible studies to order for small group study experiences. Confirmation is gearing up. This year we will be focusing on the Old Testament using the Re:Form Curriculum. I will be offering a Bible 101 class for Adults over 2 sessions in September. Sundays September 16th and 23rd From noon to 1:30pm. Other classes, such as Adult Confirmation, walk through a book of the Bible chapter by chapter format, and men's bible study have all been requested, and I have many ideas for what could be fun. I am considering developing a quarterly education team to prioritize ideas and investigate ways to get more congregational involvement in learning. I will wait for further offerings to see what gets peoples interest in the Amazing (G)Race.

Congregational Care continued with pastoral visits to home and hospital as well as conversations in my office and telephone communications. During this time all direct requests for pastoral care were embraced, encouraged, and swiftly acted upon.

On the administration front, the communication team met to continue on our goals including working on on-line volunteering forms and how to go about making an on line directory. External communications met and laid out projects for the semester. Softball league came to a close at the end of the season tournament. This year we won a few games and definitely had some fun. Personally, I am in a great position for "most improved" next year ;-). I continue to meet with Claudia Nelson in a summer/fall project to identify and address questions and inefficiencies in our recording and reporting of finances. I also met with Karen Rozeske to continue work on Wedding and Funeral

booklets, we hope to have the wedding booklet finalized soon and the funeral booklet completed this fall. The Narthex and Nursery teams are meeting this Thursday, and looking forward to its work of refreshing these spaces. Tech Team has been recruited and will be meeting soon. Altar Guild will also be meeting soon to discuss transition from Cindy's leadership. This week, Arnie Ranta is announcing his retirement as the Choir Director, effective at the end of this calendar year. He has served the congregation well for many years, and I invite the council to consider how we want to thank and bless him. I will be in discussion with the choir this fall on how they would like to proceed in the spring. The Preschool board has been incredibly diligent in finding a new director and at this point we are pleased to announce that Kathy DiMeglio will be that director. She comes to us with a Masters in Guidance and Counseling, and extensive experience in preschool education, including as a teacher in our program 2004-2009. She is aware of the challenges that face the preschool and is enthused to find ways to make this important learning space bloom for the community and the church. She is in steady contact with Patti to make a good transition and will be joining the board in interviewing teacher candidates.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

150th Anniversary

- Did not meet

All God's Children Preschool

- The preschool board of directors have been interviewing candidates for the director/teacher and teacher position. Final decision will be made this weekend (August 17th - 19th).
- A courtesy call to parents updating them on the progress of the search for Director and teacher was done and letting them know the "Back to School" letters were being sent out on Monday, August 13th. Feedback on the call was positive!
- Board stuffed, addressed and sent out letters to students/parents.
- Board has had discussions with Katie, treasurer re: hourly pay.

Building & Grounds

- No Report

Children's & Youth Report

- Sunday School: We're getting GEARED UP for Fall- Registration Forms have been updated and sent to families, and schedules are being tweaked. Families will be receiving Sign Up Genius Messages to sign up For teaching Sunday School soon! This Fall, We're going to be walking through the Operation Christmas Child Bible Study "The Greatest Journey" that they do with children who receive the OCC Boxes- 12 stories from the Bible that invite children to know Jesus, be His friend and to follow HIM! Sunday School will begin again on Sunday September 9th.
- SPLASH 5/6: Registration Forms for SPLASH have been distributed as well. SPLASH 5/6 is kind of a "Pre-Confirmation" period for our 5th and 6th Graders. It's a time when we ask practical questions about faith and then get accustomed to discussions of their thoughts and feelings about their faith. We meet most Wednesdays that Confirmation meets. Families will be receiving Sign Up Genius Messages to sign up for helping with SPLASH 5/6 SOON! SPLASH will start again on Wednesday September 19th.
- Confirmation: Our Confirmation Program is for 7th, 8th and 9th Graders in our Church, and a little older for those who did not start in 7th Grade. This Confirmation year will consist of Lessons from the Old Testament, some Small Group Gatherings, A Confirmation Retreat or two, and meeting in Lenten Mentoring Groups in the Spring.
 - We will get started on Wednesday September 5 with an Orientation for both Students and their Parents. Schedules, Volunteering and our Confirmation Handbook will all be distributed at that time. These are all things that I'm working to update now.
- Mission Trip: Our 2018 Mission Trip group will be sharing their trip with us on Mission Trip Sunday September 23rd.

- Our 2019 Mission Trip will be a return to Benton Harbor MI, (We went there in 2014) work dates July 7-12, so Trip Dates are approximately July 6-14. Every other year we do a shorter, then longer trip- this year is our SHORT year- Benton Harbor is about 9 hours away. We will be having a meeting for Students who are interested in the 2019 Mission Trip on Monday August 27. Their \$50 Deposit is due this day, and is refundable until Wednesday September 12, when our deposit is due to Youthworks.
- The Fundraisers that are planned for this year so far are:
 - Friday October 26- Sunday October 28 Mission Trip Craft Retreat (this is a change in date)
 - Friday November 16 OR Saturday November 17 Turkey BINGO (date depending on Wyoming Elementary)
 - Tuesday November 20 4-9 Mission Trip Bagging Groceries at Cub Foods
 - Friday January 25-Sunday January 27 Mission Trip Craft Retreat
 - Saturday February 9 Spaghetti Supper
 - Sunday March 10 Chili Contest (this date is not for sure yet either)
 - There will likely be more added as the year goes on, but this is what I have planned right now.
- There is one more “fundraiser” that I’d like to get approved. This is the selling of Dining Cards this fall to help raise money for our Operation Christmas Child Shipping Costs. The suggested donation is \$9 per box to get from here into the hands of a child, and our goal each year has been 100 boxes. The boxes and items to go in them usually isn’t a problem, but the shipping is a little harder to come by. Last year we switched the benefactor of the dining card sale from Mission Trip to Operation Christmas Child to help pay for shipping. Katie Edwards takes care of this sale and is the Operation Christmas Child Coordinator. Please let me know and we’ll get going with this also.
- Vacation Bible School: We hosted a really amazing Vacation Bible School this year at St Paul Lutheran July 30-August 3, and our theme was “Shipwrecked”- rescued by Jesus, which was really easy to talk to kids about and was easy for them to relate to. I have an excellent staff of Station Directors who are really great with the kids and take responsibility for their Stations once VBS starts. Our children and families are really great hosts to their friends and families.
 - That week as I see happy children running around our church, laughing and praising and having fun together, I always remember why we do this. All the planning and decorating time is always worth it. Children see this church building as a happy place to be where they hear stories from the Bible, learn Bible truths and hear that God loves THEM.
 - During VBS week, St Paul Lutheran hosts families at our annual Neighbor’s Night Out Picnic and VBS Program on Thursday evening August 2 and 60 of us went to FMSC as a group on Tuesday July 31st.
 - Our two Missions were:
 - Collecting Kid Friendly food for summer bags for NACE, a food shelf in East Bethel, We collected 367 pounds of food/960 food items and \$60 in donations.
 - Operation Christmas Child- We had a Station to talk about Operation Christmas Child and to make some items to go in our bags this fall, and challenged families to fill a OCC box during the week. Families packed about 25 boxes!

Our Numbers:	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
VBS:	<u>Swrecked</u>	<u>FFactory</u>	<u>Cquest</u>	Everest	Weird A	K Rock	Sky	Panda	<u>Serenget</u>	<u>LavaLava</u>
Children 4-4 th Grade	78	84	83	94	106	90	64	60	70	73
Jr Leaders 5 -8 Grade	50	43	42	50	34	36	23	10		10
“Adult” Helpers	60	51	47	59	57	43	25	40	19	26
Nursery Kids	0	3	5	6	7	6				
Total People	188	181	177	209	204	175	112	100	99	109

- Until School Starts, I’ll be working on the School year Schedules, Registration Forms and Sign Up Genius Volunteers, and cleaning up, sorting and refiling Vacation Bible School “stuff” back in bins, and getting the rooms and bulletin boards ready for Fall!

Communications

- See Pastor's Report

Counters

- No Report

Global Missions

- Ruth opened the meeting with devotions. The June 2018 meeting notes were approved. No changes to the Treasurer's Report since June.
- Partnership Support Fees - Per Claudia, the fees (including admin costs) have now been paid for 2018.
- Fran received an email from Nelea; she is doing well.
- The team previously received fabric and a pattern from Neil Gatzow (in memory of Judy). Fran spoke with Jan Brainard about it and has proposed we use it for a new Mtera/Migoli banner; the team agreed.
- Creation Vacation / September 21-22. Jenn reported people are registering. Menus were tentatively set.
 - Set up will take place Thursday evening, September 20.
 - Fran will apply for Thrivent Choice dollars.
- Tanzania Sunday / October 14 – One 9am service. Ruth will contact Pr. Andrea to invite the TZ Choir.
- There will not be an auction. Treats will be served after the service with "mingling" encouraged. We plan to display posters and other information for people to check out.
 - Jenn Cockburn and Bill England will present the "message". Pr. Grant will lead a song during the Children's Message. Migoli congregation recently used money in their general fund to purchase a motorcycle for their pastor, to get to distant preaching points, and to purchase, doors, windows and materials to help finish a church they have been building.

Loaves & Fishes

- Amazing (G)Race: Advertising began on August 8. We have it on Facebook, the website and Refresh and ReNEWS. We will approach several people about being team leads in August. We want to have the Team Leaders introduce themselves on Rally Sunday and have people start to sign up that day. We hope to have this on video to put on the website. Shirley will go to the Confirmation Orientation on September 5th to get the Confirmation Students on board. The list of rules will be sent to the team leaders prior to September.
- Fall Pledge Drive. We will be doing pledge cards. We will gather them on November 18th. We will put together a mailing to go with the cards. We will finish the videos that we started in the fall. Pastor will let us know what is missing.
- Brent checked on getting Action Teams for several pieces of our events this fall: mailing pledge cards and information; prize for the winning Amazing (G)Race team; catered brunch for the 150th celebration on October 7th. All sound doable!

Martha's Servers

- No Report

Outreach

- No Report

Prayer

- July meeting opened with prayer.
- Assignments were made for August worship services.
- As per Wendy Hazzard's request, we discussed the Prayer Chapel and the possible need or desire for this team to use the space. At this time, we do not have a need for the space and agreed it should be used for other purposes. The sign identifying the room should be removed.
- Dee reminded the team of the need to wear their name tags identifying themselves as Prayer Team members when "working". Kathie will make sure that everyone has a Prayer Team name tag.

- Read and discussed an article from Living Lutheran Magazine, "Prayer - the Bread of Life."
- Ended the meeting with intentional prayer.
- Rosie opened the August meeting with a prayer about change. Prayer Team assignments were made for September services. There will NOT be a Prayer Team meeting in September. Read from Holy Ground: An Alphabet of Prayer by Julie K. Ageson. The topic was Attention. Ended the meeting with intentional prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

SPPRT

- No Report

Visitation

- We currently have 6 people who receive monthly visits with communion. Pastor Grant visits each quarterly. We discussed ways to identify folks in need and agreed that we will go through the directory before the next meeting and bring names of anyone who might want a contact. We will send "thinking of you" cards to anyone we think appropriate. Pastor Grant will suggest \$200 from the outreach budget for the Visitation Team.

Worship & Music (WAM)

- No Report

E-MAIL VOTING

- The following motion was made for the two positions at All God's Children on August 14th:
 - **Pastor Grant made the following motions, seconded by Jon Quale and unanimously approved: Whereas both of our prime candidates for the director position blanched at what we were currently paying, And whereas we can increase the pay for the director and teacher positions while still remaining within the resources of the preschool. And whereas an increase which puts the director at \$20 an hour and the teacher at \$15 an hour is the strong recommendation of the preschool board, I move that we up the pay for the director to \$20 per hour and the teacher to \$15 per hour for this school year.**
- On July 29th, via email, the Global Mission Team requested permission to hold a quilt raffle during the Creation Vacation Event
 - **Shirley Zierke made a motion to approve the Global Mission's request to hold a quilt raffle during Creation Vacation. Seconded by Julie Cozennoy and unanimously approved.**

OLD BUSINESS

- Prayer Chapel: Room will be repurposed. Label has been removed.
- Welcome Center: Meeting on Thursday to go over changes for refreshing the narthex and the nursery. We have \$250 for each area from Thrivent Action Teams. We are also looking for people to man this center.
 - **Jon Quale made a motion to allocate the following amounts from the Outreach Fund: \$500 to the External Communication Team, \$200 to the Visitation Team and \$750 to the Welcome Center Team. Seconded by Tyler Kroschel and unanimously approved.**
- Stagecoach Days: Council started the volunteer schedule sign up. Will be online soon.
- Scrip Fundraising: Looking for more participation. Push on Rally Sunday.
- Insurance Claim for Roof: No report back yet from adjustor.
- Matching Gifts program: To date, the congregation has given \$2,745 in matching funds.
- Puppet Trailer: Tom Miller will work to get the trailer removed from our property.
- Council Retreat Follow-up: We discussed what values successful teams share.

NEW BUSINESS

- All God's Children Preschool: The Council recommends that the Preschool Board move the tuition due date to ten days before the end of the month for the next month's tuition. This will avoid the issue of non-payment of tuition. We have a new Preschool Director, Kathy DiMeglio. Interviews for a Preschool teacher continue this week.
- Finance Office: The current Chart of Accounts is nine pages long. Finance would like to reorganize the accounting system. Will reach out to find a volunteer to help rewrite the Chart of Accounts.
- Seal coating the parking lot: Tyler Kroschel will get bids.
- Advent Joy: The date has changed from December 2nd to December 9th.
- Youth Group requested an update on the rules for raffles: Tom Miller will clarify the rules for raffles.
- Janet presented a list of fund raisers for the Mission Trip and Operation Christmas Child.
 - Shirley Zierke made a motion to approve all the fund raisers presented for the Mission Trip and for Operation Christmas Child. Seconded by Tom Miller and unanimously approved.
- Boy Scouts have requested to use the church parking lot on Saturday, September 15th from 8 am to 4 pm to hold a garage sale. They would also like use of the food truck; however, due to the food truck also at church on that day. They will sign the facility agreement.
 - Chris Clark made a motion to allow the Boy Scouts to use the Preschool parking lot with access to the Preschool bathroom. Seconded by Jon Quale and unanimously approved.
- Yule Log family fun night is planned for November 28th from 7 to 8 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 18th (executive session BEFORE)

Devotions: Tom Miller

- A motion was made by Tyler Kroschel to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by Tom Miller and unanimously approved.

Submitted by:

Shirley Zierke

Shirley Zierke

St. Paul Lutheran Council Vice President

Summary of Motions Made at August Church Council Meeting

- A motion was made by Tyler Kroschel to accept the Consent Agenda (August agenda with revisions, Finance & Committee Reports). Seconded by Jon Quale and unanimously approved.
- Pastor Grant made the following motions, seconded by Jon Quale and unanimously approved: Whereas both of our prime candidates for the director position blanched at what we were currently paying, And whereas we can increase the pay for the director and teacher positions while still remaining within the resources of the preschool. And whereas an increase which puts the director at \$20 an hour and the teacher at \$15 an hour is the strong recommendation of the preschool board, I move that we up the pay for the director to \$20 per hour and the teacher to \$15 per hour for this school year.
- Shirley Zierke made a motion to approve the Global Mission's request to hold a quilt raffle during Creation Vacation. Seconded by Julie Cozennoy and unanimously approved.
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- Shirley Zierke made a motion to approve all the fund raisers presented for the Mission Trip and for Operation Christmas Child. Seconded by Tom Miller and unanimously approved.
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- A motion was made by Tyler Kroschel to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m. Seconded by Tom Miller and unanimously approved.