



May 23, 2018 Council Meeting St. Paul Lutheran Church

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

Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm by Tom Miller. Chris Clark opened meeting with devotions.

CONSENT AGENDA (Agenda, Finance & Committee Reports)

- A motion was made by Shirley Zierke to accept the Consent Agenda (May agenda with changes, Finance & Committee Reports). Seconded by Tyler Kroschel and unanimously approved.

APRIL MINUTES

- On April 24, 2018, via email, a motion was made by Shirley Zierke to approve the April Meeting Minutes. Seconded by Pastor Grant and unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$18,577
Total Revenue	\$26,886
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$25,902
Net Income (after mortgage payment)	-\$4,343
Mortgage Balance	\$490,183
Edward Jones Balance	\$33,443

PASTOR'S REPORT

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

- Worship:
 - We continued through the season of Easter, focusing on the power of Jesus and the importance of getting and staying connected with Him. To this end, I have been encouraging prayer through phone alarms, finger labyrinths and green dots.
 - We confirmed 11 students and blessed our graduates.
 - We also received Prof. Rolf Jacobson as a guest preacher as part of our spring celebration of the 150th Anniversary with the theme of "Looking to the Future with God".
 - Choir and hand bells finished off the year well, and puppets preformed this last Sunday to the delight of many.
 - Summer worship begins this week. This summer we will be blessings bikes and animals as well as experimenting with using baked bread in August.
- Education:
 - In the 12:30 adult class we are finishing-up on the Gospel of Mark and then will be taking a break for the summer. Study of the book of Revelation will take place this fall.
 - 6:30 pm Sunday Bible study is now focusing on the book of Romans using the "Book of Faith" materials.
 - Confirmation:

- Wrapped-up with the New Testament
 - Next year we will be studying the Old Testament using the Re:Form Curriculum.
 - I also have a small group which has been meeting once a month to catch up on the Luther Year to be confirmed in two years due to scheduling conflicts we did not get in the last two classes. I am having them make them up through the summer by having them memorize the creed and its explanations in the Small Catechism over the summer. We will re-convene in September to review and continue on.
- Preschool wrapped-up with graduation and a children's sermon on the power that flows through Jesus the vine to illuminate our unique gifts.
- 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 also did some continuing education for myself through the Synod Assembly at which I also assisted with worship.
- I will also be gone June 7-10 to attend and preform at a Global Event at the Western Iowa Synod Assembly.
- Congregational Care continued with pastoral visits and telephone communication. During this time all direct requests for pastoral care were embraced, encouraged, and swiftly acted upon.
- Administration:
 - I was pleased with how the Council retreat worked out. We didn't cover as much information as I would have liked, but I believe what we talked about was valuable.
 - The communication team met to continue on our goals.
 - Team Leaders group met, approved of our purpose statement, discussed the possibilities of
 - Combined meeting nights
 - Welcome center and refreshing the narthex
 - Bread at communion
 - Topics from the 150th team as well as listing all the regular teams in the congregation.
 - I am in the process of doing annual reviews with the staff. I also plan to talk with the SPRRT team to discuss evaluation forms for next year along with some ideas I have for supervisory contracts.
 - Softball league is underway at Ki-Chi-Saga Fields in Lindstrom on Tuesdays 6:30-dark. We are having a good time, with sufficient numbers participating, and a few injuries along the way! So far we have won 1 game and lost 3. Come play or cheer us on!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Grant

COMMITTEE REPORTS

150th Anniversary

- April 22nd held our second of three events planned for the 150th Anniversary celebrations.
- October 7th will be the "main" event for the year. All past congregational members and pastors are invited.
- Would like to have a float in the Forest Lake Fourth of July parade, looking for a volunteer to coordinate this
- Wanting to put together a brochure of the 150 Amazing Things at St. Paul Lutheran Church
 - Looking to have each team submit a few items highlighting their teams
- 150th Booklets have been handed out. If you have not received yours, please contact a member of the 150th Team or the church administrator.

All God's Children Preschool

- April numbers and the revenue to date for May are included in this report. Prior to payroll and other expenses being recorded for May, the Preschool is running a deficit of \$1,095.96 for the 2017-2018 school year.
- I will work with Katie to give them the updated bank balance so the Board can decide how to proceed.

Building & Grounds

- Recommendations for the Building Use Guidelines & Contract were submitted.

Children's & Youth Report

- Sunday School: is completed for this school year. We ended the School Year with a banana Split Party on Sunday April 29th. We had our Annual Mother's Day Children's Ministries Plant and Flower Sale this past weekend. It's such a fun morning as everyone is greeted by tons of Flowers- both the color and the smell! We brought in \$2453, \$1000 went to Wosika Farms, \$145.30 gets tithed to the Congregation, so \$1307.70 goes to Children's Ministries. This money will pay for next School Year's Curriculum and Supplies for Sunday School and SPLASH.
- SPLASH: is completed for this School Year as well. We ended our year with our Annual Mystery Dinner, where the kids each get Characters assigned to them, and develop their own personality, and costume and bring parts of the meal. It's really a great, relaxing and fun end to the School Year. Lots of time for the Mystery, but lots of time to just eat together and enjoy each other's company.
- Confirmation: ended their School Year on April 25th with a Large Group Gathering at Sky Zone. I organized the RSVPs, payments and drivers for this event. Confirmation Sunday was Sunday May 6, 2018, with 11 Students getting Confirmed this day.
 - HalleJo Baldwin, Emma Bergman, Maddie Galatowitsch, Heidi Hyrkas, Abby Jones, Riley Lundgren, Talia Martinson, Anna Russ, Grace Solomonson, Madison Walters, and Madelyn Zak. Their Guides were Tracy Walters, Laura Martinson and Jason Solomonson.
- Mission Trip: The final Mission Trip plans are being assembled. Paperwork is done. Medical Information is all turned in. We are doing one last Fundraiser for a few families who were behind and got further behind due to the extra van cost of an additional day. Our MT Flamingo Invasion began yesterday, and they will continue to travel around and roost in yards of SPL Members. We sold Insurance and Direction Directives this past Sunday.
- Vacation Bible School: Plans are underway for this year's VBS. I am meeting with my VBS Director's Group and making some of the major decorations together, and will be having decorating days with families here at church throughout the summer. Our VBS is July 30 - August 3, and our theme is "Shipwrecked"- rescued by Jesus. We are getting Volunteers into the right roles and Registrations are coming in. Shirts will be ordered June 26th.

Communications

- We were updated by team members on the selected priorities of:
 - Communications Survey: Initial reports indicate that we have moved the needle significantly on effectiveness of communication. Data collection continues with a desire to finalize results in June or July.
 - External Communication Team: Still in brainstorming stage, looking for people for the committee.
 - Credit Card Use: Looking to prioritize in-person vs. online as it will be more secure and containable. Looking to roll out with just a few groups to make sure accounting etc. is working the way we would like

Counters

- Guidelines will be reviewed at the June Council Meeting

Finance

- Counters guidelines: Guidelines were tabled by the council at the last meeting. Council decided they wanted to take up both the guidelines as well as the more detailed counting instructions at the same time. The formal counting instructions are still forthcoming.
- We continue to be on the lookout for any grants that might be applicable to the church and our mission.
- Narrative Budget: Council is interested in putting together a narrative budget to give a more personal interpretation to the congregation of how their money is being used.
- Estate planning seminar: Due to the quickly approaching summer, we are likely going to try to do the seminar in the fall.
- Custodians: Both Cindy and Jan will be going down to 1 day per week for the summer.
- Possible renting of unused preschool space. Jerry Nelson spoke with Trinity Lutheran in North Branch about what they are doing with their rental space. Trinity is a little different as the space is separate from their daily church space. The team again voiced concerns over potential problems that could come from renting our space and whether they would outweigh any benefits we might get from renting the space.
- Our computer support company reached out to let us know that we are reaching our capacity on storage for backing up our computers. It would be \$100 to purchase additional 100 GB of space.

- The council is directing us to have an endowment fund meeting since the account balance is over the amount that would require a meeting. We discussed who should be the final member of that group.

Global Missions

- February 2018 Creation Vacation Fundraiser earned \$1074.50 with 10% tithed back to the church.
- We are sending a request to our BKB (Bega-Kwa-Bega) coordinator to request photos of the students, if possible, we support in Mtera & Migoli so we can display them at church for everyone to see.
- We are trying a new "friendly letter" communication with our Tanzanian congregations. Members of our Global Missions Team will take turns writing a letter every other month, sent via email to the BKB Office in Tanzania, sharing current happenings & events in our congregation and community.
- Wendy H. has added the BKB Link to our church website.
- October 14th, 2018 is the date set for Tanzanian Sunday.

Loaves & Fishes

- Loaves and Fishes is continuing to work on gathering service ideas for our fall service challenge – The Amazing (G)Race. Each member is responsible for reaching out to different organizations to see where help is needed. Packets of ideas will include service ideas, Bible study options, worshiping together options as well as allowing each team to use their own creativity to finding a way to Share Christ's Love with Joy!
- We talked about the financial situation at St. Paul Lutheran. Two key concerns for us: 1. people don't know where their money goes and how important every gift is and 2. Many people do not feel connected, do not feel like this is their church home. We are committed to helping with both of these issues. For item 1, we are preparing videos that show how our past gifts have impacted and changed lives. We will be working with Council on item 2.
- We have been asked by Wendy to help find new volunteers for Sunday morning, specifically for Greeters. Julie prepared a survey which was sent out via email. Paper copies will be available on Sunday, May 20th for those without email. The survey covers all of the volunteer opportunities on Sunday morning.
- Jan reported that the blanket giveaway for December's Food Truck is going well. 30 blankets have been completed. We have enough material for 34 more. We are well on our way to our goal of 75.
- We continue to tally the counting of blessings each month. Please note that we are always a month behind as we have to wait for the team reports to come to Council to know their blessing counts.
- Finally, we are working with Cindy Gruett (rather belatedly) to schedule road side cleanup. We are hoping to get enough volunteers for Sunday, May 20th. The late, lingering winter is challenging us to get the spring activities done before summer arrives!

Martha's Servers

- No Report

Outreach

- 175 pounds of food donated by the congregation, 19 families totaling 57 people served. 10 volunteers

Prayer

- The meeting opened with prayer led by Rosie. Pr. Grant played the ukulele and led us in the Gospel Acclamation from his setting. We used the Lutheran Prayer Book to lead a discussion on how to pray. Assignments were made for Prayer Team coverage during June church services. We ended the meeting with intentional prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer.

SPPRT

- No Report

Visitation

- Jan led us in a discussion of our responsibility to vulnerable adults.

- We reviewed the list of people being visited and were reminded to take prayer shawls to folks being visited and send cards as appropriate.

Worship & Music (WAM)

- Discussed summer worship schedule, and when and how communion assistants would be needed
- Began preparing for our fall worship schedule
 - Discussing the Major events (150th, Reformation day, All Saints, Advent) will be discussed in more depth on August 3.
 - Discussed communion and changing from wafers to bread. We will experiment with this in August when it fits with the worship readings. It was recommended that we pre-cut the bread, especially for intinction.
- In other topics/big ideas you would like to share about worship. We recommended having a single service with celebration for Rally Sunday 2019, and having a single service for confirmation next year
- WAM will be taking a break over the summer and will reconvene in August.

OLD BUSINESS

- We are working on a complete set of guidelines that will cover all ministry and staff. The first areas we will be tackling will be financial (updated Counter Guidelines and Fundraising Guidelines) and Building Use. Completion of these guidelines was tabled until the June meeting.
- Summer Lawn Care Team: Chris is putting together a team to mow the church and cemetery lawn throughout the summer. Looking for additional volunteers to help.
- Summer Outdoor Worship Service: Musician schedule has been put together, still looking for more roadies to help with Sunday morning set-up
- Council Retreat Follow-up: Discussion about how we are living the Six Marks of Discipleship and ways to continue growing in our faith

NEW BUSINESS

- Security System: Review of current system
 - **A motion was made by Julie Cozennoy to have Katie Fetterly and Tom Miller review and follow-up with our security system. Seconded by Jon Quale and unanimously approved.**
- Fourth of July Parade: Not enough interest and available hands for SPLC to have a float in this year's parade.
- Stagecoach Days: Saturday, September 15. SPLC will again have a booth at this year's Stagecoach Days (we only have a booth at one day of the three-day festival).
 - **A motion was made by Arlie Post to have a booth at the 2018 Wyoming Stagecoach Days Festival. Seconded by Chris Clark and unanimously approved.**
- Custodial staff attending staff meetings: Pastor requested that the custodian staff be included in the bi-weekly staff meetings.
 - **A motion was made by Pastor Grant to have custodial staff (they would be paid for this) attend bi-weekly staff meetings. Seconded by Shirley Zierke and unanimously approved.**
- Shop with Scrip: Looking into the possibility of this being a churchwide fundraiser to help with general funds. More information will be brought to the June meeting

Next Meeting: WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20 (executive session to follow)

Devotions: Julie Hyrkas

A motion was made by Julie Coozenoy to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Tom Miller and unanimously approved.

Submitted by:

Julie Coozenoy

Julie Coozenoy

St. Paul Lutheran Council Secretary

Summary of Motions Made at May Church Council Meeting

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