



St. Paul Lutheran Church

Council Retreat & Meeting

September 28, 2019

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

X	Sarah Friesen-Carper, Pastor	X	Chris Clark, Member at Large
X	Tom Miller, President	X	Dale Brainard, Member at Large
X	Tyler Kroschel, Vice President	X	Arlie Post, Member at Large
X	Julie Coozennoy, Secretary	X	Jon Quale, Member at Large
X	Katie Fetterly, Treasurer	X	Karen Rozeske, Member at Large

Meeting called to order at by Tom Miller and Arlie Post opened meeting with devotions.

COUNCIL RETREAT

- The council identified four areas to continue the healing process of our church
 - Continue reading and holding discussion times to review the book “Congregational Fitness”
 - Create a Breakthrough Prayer to be used both during worship and at home
 - Develop a Behavioral Covenant for all members to follow
 - Educate church members on how to facilitate healing conversations between members who have had or have conflict
- Looked at vision of where the church will be in six to ten months.

COUNCIL MEETING

CONSENT AGENDA

- **A motion was made by Tyler Kroschel, seconded by Arlie Post, to approve the consent agenda (with three additions), Pastor’s, Committee’s & financial report. Unanimously approved.**

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of August 31, 2019	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$ 10,026.00
Total Revenue	\$ 10,822.39
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$ 6,670.42
Net Income (after mortgage payment)	\$ 4,151.97
Mortgage Balance	\$424,009.18

FINANCE REPORT:

- We opened with a prayer by Pastor. There were several discussion points:
- The office has been having problems with the phone system and we have a couple handsets that do not work. We agreed that we would do some research into what options are out there at different price points and look at the issue again at our October meeting.
- We began budget talks. In particular, we discussed the possibility of bringing back a custodial position if we end up having the means to do so. Shirley put together a job description from a few different documents. That is being sent to council to discuss. We also had Jerry look into the snowplowing contract for the upcoming season. The copier contract has another year on it so we don't need to discuss that now.
- Questions were raised about funds that come in for the cemetery and whether we are charging for perpetual care. We agreed we needed to look into this. Also, there was a question on where the cemetery records are actually stored. Those should be in custody of the church.

- We discussed the need for the finance office to have a credit card for the instances where it is our only option of paying. We are finding that more online retailers are going away from an invoice account and solely to a credit card system. Finance team recommends having one card with the treasurer's name on it that is kept locked in the finance office and used for only these kinds of purchases.
- There was discussion on realigning the bank cards with the people who need them. Recommendations being that Julie Hyrkas should have a preschool debit card in her name and should be removed from the Youth account.
- We did have some brief discussion on what our 2020 budgetary vision should be. What should our goals be? Katie suggested that we need to be saving, even if only a little bit and would like to see that in the upcoming budget. The team was going to think on this to discuss at our next meeting.
- It was noted that the Workers comp audit would be completed in September.
- Reminder to Church Council we committed to raise \$7,500 in fundraising
- The funds in our Edward Jones account came up for renewal. Those funds were renewed into one year savings accounts.

PASTOR'S REPORT:

From Pastor Sarah, Interim Pastor, September 18, 2019. Note: I will organize my report by the general duties of pastor as well as the specific agreements per the Covenant for Interim Pastoral Ministry. These categories may change over time and I am open to suggestions.

I. Administration

- a. Weekly staff meetings with Office Admin
- b. Weekly meetings with Council President
- c. 1 Finance Team meeting – also 2 meetings with Treasurer and 1 with Financial Assistant
- d. 1 meeting with Jan Taylor re: Funeral Luncheons
- e. 1 meeting with Julie Hyrkas re: All God's Children Preschool (I will attend board meetings as able)
- f. 1 Council, 1 Exec Team meeting
- g. Weekly devotions for adults and for families in Refresh and ReNews

II. Education

- a. 1 meeting with Joanna re: education plan and coordination
- b. Weekly Bible Study 1:30 pm studying the Lectionary
- c. Splash coordinator – Paulette Miller (2 meetings); 1 parent support (more needed) curriculum chosen and downloaded; begins September 25th 6:30-7:30
- d. Confirmation – Curriculum chosen and arrived; adult guides selected and met (1 meeting; could use one more adult guide); begins September 25th 6:30-7:30; 2019-2020 theme: "What it means to be a Lutheran." Format includes large group study and prayer with small group discussion and activities.
- e. Adult Book Study Sundays at 10am – *Congregational Fitness* – 19 signed up; exploring Facebook discussion group

III. Worship

- a. 1 WAM Team meeting
- b. Began implementing blended worship style
- c. Working on a new bulletin format
- d. Working with WAM to continue to evaluate blended worship style
- e. Working with WAM to create Healing Worship service
- f. Working with Global Mission Team on Tanzania Sunday – 1 meeting
- g. Weekly Preschool Chapel began September 18 – W/Th 10am
- h. 5 sermons, 5 Children's sermons, and 5 worship services
- i. Began weekly Prayer Wednesdays at 1pm

IV. Pastoral Care

- a. 3 home visits, 1 baptism
- b. Many of my listening/information gathering meetings with individuals and groups have also involved pastoral care – about 20 or so.
- c. Met twice with Prayer Team, 1 meeting with Visitation Team

V. Consultant's recommendations

- a. 1 meeting with Susan and 1 phone call
 - i. Received more information re: Breakthrough Prayer Initiative, Behavioral Covenant, and Facilitated Conversations
- b. Breakthrough Prayer Initiative – began planning and discussing with Prayer Team; crafted draft prayer
- c. Book Study *Congregational Fitness*
- d. Encouraging individuals to have conversations
- e. A lot of listening with more to do!

VI. Miscellaneous

- a. Monthly meetings with Saint Paul Area Synod Interims
- b. 1 meeting with Pastor Justin Grimm
- c. Monthly report to synod office

COMMITTEE REPORTS (as submitted by Team Leads)**All God's Children Preschool**

- No Report

Building & Grounds

- No Report

Education Report

- Sunday School began on September 8th. Chris and Katie have taken the lead on SS. We are looking for volunteers to co-lead and other volunteers to read the story at the beginning of the class. They are doing a rotational curriculum and focusing on the creation story this month. The kids are learning a song to go with the lesson and will sing it in church in October.
- SPLASH began September 25th. Paulette Miller is leading the group. There were 6 kids in attendance the first week, but more may join in later weeks.
- Confirmation also began September 25th. Pastor Sarah is leading the program. They will not be going to Gustavus this fall for a retreat. If they do a retreat, it will be local and likely at the church.
- We put out feelers to see how many kids would be interested in going on a Mission Trip to northern Minnesota this summer and/or the national youth gathering in Minneapolis in 2021. At this time only two kids responded that they're interested in the Mission Trip. If we get a larger group, we will go forward with fundraising and other planning. Jodie Beaudette has fundraising plans if we get more interest.
- Janelle Albee and Joanna are looking to start up handbells again this fall. We have invited youth 7th grade and older to join handbells.

Communications

- No Report

Counters

- No Report

Global Missions

- No Report

Loaves & Fishes

- No Report

Martha's Servers

- No Report

Outreach

- No Report

Prayer

- We opened the meeting by sharing Highs and Lows in our lives and praying.
- Prayer Team assignments were made for October services.
- Pr. Sarah informed the team about a planned Breakthrough Prayer Initiative at St. Paul Lutheran. We reviewed a draft, asked questions and offered input.
- Ended the meeting with prayers of intercession, followed by the Lord's Prayer.

SPPRT

- No Report

Visitation

- No Report

OLD BUSINESS

- Roof: Final bill was received, included two additional items that were not in the initial bid. Working with the insurance company and contractor to resolve these items.
- Sealcoating & Crack filling of Parking Lot: Sealcoating – the Building & Grounds committee recommends doing the sealcoating with church volunteers over a three-year period – 1/3 each year. Sealcoating entire parking lot is anticipated to be \$10,000 (material only). Crack filling – contractor did do what we contracted him to do. Cracks less than ¼” are not recommended to be filled.
- Computer Update: first phase of computers has been installed; second phase will be installed first week of October.
- Constitution / Bylaw Amendments Update: Reminder to council members to review the constitution for changes needed.
- Emotional Support / Service Animal: We reviewed the request from Kathy Mills to continuing having her emotional support animal at church. Jon Quale met with Kathy Mills to discuss.
 - **A motion was made by Jon Quale, seconded by Karen Rozeske to grant the request to continue allowing Kathy Mills’ Emotional Support Animal to attend select church events, with the next review on June 1, 2020, and the following adjustments: Dog must be muzzled and on leash at all times, no exceptions. Dog must lay on a blanket or towel on the outside of groups, not next to people, or in center of circle. Unanimously approved.**
- Safeguarding God’s Children: Dates to be picked for upcoming classes
- Operation Christmas Child: Currently Metro Dining Club cards are being sold on Sunday mornings to offset the cost of shipping for this project. Donations of small items are requested to fill box. See table in the Narthex for additional details.
- Upcoming Fundraisers & Events:
 - Fundraising – Scrip: We continue to offer this easy fundraiser weekly. We are hoping to get more of the church to support this fundraiser. With this fundraiser, we could easily raise the money to offset our deficit.
 - Fundraising – Fall Bake Sale: We will have a bake sale on November 17 with the proceeds going to the general fund.
 - Event – Advent Joy: This will be changed to a possible spring event.
 - Event – Yule Log: Dee Wilkinson will tell the story and teach everyone how to make a Yule Log.
 - Event – Lefse Making: Sunday, December 22 after worship service

NEW BUSINESS:

- Prayer Initiative: One of the recommendations the consultant Susan made was to have a Breakthrough Prayer (universal prayer) all members of the congregation pray – both during Sunday worship and daily. Pastor brought forth a prayer that has been reviewed by the prayer team.
 - **Tom Miller made a motion to accept the Breakthrough Prayer, using all three bible verses. Seconded by Katie Fetterly and unanimously approved.**
- Behavioral Covenant: Another recommendation Susan made was to create a Behavioral Covenant for our church to follow. A team will be put together, along with congregational input, to create this covenant.

- Credit Cards:
 - A motion was made by Tyler Kroschel to remove Kathy DiMeglio's name from the All God's Children's Preschool's debit card and add Julie Hyrkas' to All God's Children. Remove Julie Hyrkas from youth account debit card. Apply for a finance office credit card. Seconded by Jon Quale. Unanimously approved.
- 2020 Church Council Nominating Committee: Pastor Sarah will be asking various individuals to serve on the nominating committee.
- 2020 Budget: Began preliminary review of the 2020 budget
- Building Use Contracts: two requests for use of St. Paul Lutheran was received
 - Jon Quale made a motion to accept the requests for use of St. Paul Lutheran Church from the River Valley Girl Scout Troop #55013 (for 01/11/2020) and for the family of Josie Peterson for her 90th birthday party (on 11/02/2019). Seconded by Karen Rozeske. Unanimously approved.
- Shrubs around building: It was brought to the council's attention that members are concerned for their safety leaving the church because of the oversized shrubs surrounding the building. We will bring this to the attention of the building & grounds committee to see if they could assist in trimming or removing shrubs this fall.
- A motion was made by Katie Fetterly to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Arlie Post. Unanimously approved.

Date & Time: Tuesday, October 15 at 6:30 pm

Devotions: Jon Quale

Submitted by:

Julie Coozenoy

Julie Coozenoy

St. Paul Lutheran Council Secretary

Summary of Motions made at September Church Council Meeting

- A motion was made by Tyler Kroschel, seconded by Arlie Post, to approve the consent agenda (with three additions), Pastor's, Committee's & financial report. Unanimously approved.
- A motion was made by Jon Quale, seconded by Karen Rozeske to grant the request to continue allowing Kathy Mills' Emotional Support Animal to attend select church events, with the next review on June 1, 2020, and the following adjustments: Dog must be muzzled and on leash at all times, no exceptions. Dog must lay on a blanket or towel on the outside of groups, not next to people, or in center of circle. Unanimously approved.
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The following motion was made via email between the August and September Council Meeting:

- On August 21, 2019 Tyler Kroschel made a motion to accept the August Council Minutes (as amended). Katie Fetterly seconded. Unanimously approved.
- On September 19, 2019 Julie Coozenoy made a motion to accept the donation of quad chairs (from the Millers) to be used in the education area. Seconded by Katie Fetterly. Unanimously approved.