



# St. Paul Lutheran Church

## Congregational Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 15, 2019

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE			
X	Sarah Friesen-Carper, Pastor		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 6:30 pm by Tom Miller and Jon Quale opened meeting with devotions.

### CONSENT AGENDA

- A motion was made by Jon Quale, seconded by Karen Rozeske, to approve the consent agenda (with two additions), Pastor's, Committee's & Financial Report. Unanimously approved.

### FINANCIAL REPORT

As of September 30, 2019	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$ 14,141.00
Total Revenue	\$ 51,233.53*
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$ 15,760.45
Net Income (after mortgage payment)	\$ 35,473.08
Mortgage Balance	\$424,009.18
Edwards Jones Balance	\$ 38,077.96
<i>*Includes insurance check for roof repairs</i>	

### FINANCE REPORT:

- Shirley opened the meeting with a prayer. We then had ice cream to thank her for her long service to SPLC and the finance team.
- We discussed a number of topics related to the finances of SPLC:
  1. Portico Benefits. Open enrollment is coming up and SPLC needs to determine what benefits plan we are offering to Pastor Sarah. We discussed what Pastor needs/wants and what the church will be able to afford. Pastor Sarah's benefits are about \$100 more a month than Pastor Grant because she has a family plan rather than just insuring herself like Grant was. We decided to continue with the Gold + plan that Pastor already is on.
  2. Thrivent offers financial seminars that we could purchase the course pack and facilitate the class ourselves. There was some interest among the finance team in offering one or more seminar. We will look into what might be the right fit for the congregation and/or pair up with local churches to do a larger seminar.
  3. Council had tasked the finance team with looking into refinance possibilities. Jerry let us know that when we refied the last time, we locked into the rate and repayment plan until 2022. To refinance before then would cost us a 2.5% penalty on the principal remaining at the time of a subsequent refi. It was the opinion that this is a non-starter since the penalty alone would cost \$10,000. There would be additional closing costs and other related fees that come with a refi.
  4. We then talked about the larger budget. We had some discussion on what giving might look like in 2020. Since it is unknown what members are going to pledge, we focused more of our discussion on the expenses.
    - a. Snowplowing - we did get a bid back from Thornell Siding for a plow contract this winter. This is the contractor we have been using for several years. His bid did increase to \$75/hr, but overall it was felt that we still were getting a better deal than we could get elsewhere based on past bids.

- b. Other Mortgage options - We had put aside a larger sum in the designated savings in the building and grounds fund to cover any roof costs. Now that we are finding that our out of pocket costs are about \$2800, we feel comfortable recommending using some of the set aside funds to offset the mortgage payments in 2020. What is being proposed is to take \$2500 a month from the savings and use \$2000 toward our regular monthly payment and \$500 toward an additional principal payment.
- c. Starting the discussion with the congregation regarding end of the year gifts. Specifically, in regard to those who need to give for tax purposes. We threw around the idea that we could try to have these be earmarked to pay down the mortgage.
- d. There was a brief discussion on the what if in regards to selling the building. Since we still have over \$400,000 to pay on the mortgage, and a lot of work would need to be done to make the building sellable, the consensus was that now was not the time to sell since it would likely be at a loss.
- e. We discussed giving envelopes again. Claudia is going to talk to our vendor to see what options we have. They sounded like they were willing to work with us to create a better package to fit our needs. We also need to go through the list again to remove old members and to make a renewed effort to add anyone who really would like envelopes.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** From Pastor Sarah, Interim Pastor, October 9, 2019

**I. Administration**

- a. Weekly staff meetings with Office Admin
- b. Weekly meetings with Council President
- c. 1 meeting with Treasurer
- d. 1 Council retreat
- e. 1 Global Missions pre-meeting
- f. 1 Council Secretary meeting
- g. Organizing Nominating Committee with Tom Miller
- h. Weekly devotions for adults and for families in Refresh and ReNEWS
- i. October monthly letter Refresh and ReNEWS

**II. Education**

- a. Weekly Bible Study 1:30 pm studying the Lectionary
- b. Confirmation – Wednesdays 6:30-7:30; 2019-202 theme: “What it means to be a Lutheran.” 14 students and 3 adult guides
- c. Adult Book Study Sundays at 10am – *Congregational Fitness* – 19 signed up; Facebook discussion group launched

**III. Worship**

- a. 1 WAM Team meeting
- b. Began implementing blended worship style
- c. New bulletin format to begin October 20
- d. See attached for outline of worship through December
- e. Working with WAM to create Healing Worship service – November 27, 2019
- f. Weekly Preschool Chapel– W/Th 10am
- g. 4 sermons, 2 Children’s sermons, and 5 worship services (including 2 funerals)
- h. Weekly Prayer Wednesdays at 1pm
- i. Working with Cindy Gruett and Food Truck volunteers to emphasize food collection for the food truck in worship
- j. Welcomed Rev. Peter Harritts, Rev. Andrea Mlalawi and the Tanzania choir for worship October 6<sup>th</sup>
- k. Planning for Breakthrough Prayer Initiative, Reformation, All Saints Sunday, and Stewardship Pledge Sunday in October and November

**IV. Pastoral Care**

- a. 2 home visits; 1 hospital visit; 7 other
- b. 1 Prayer Team meeting

**V. Consultant's recommendations**

- a. Breakthrough Prayer Initiative – Prayer is complete; initiated October 13
- b. Book Study *Congregational Fitness* – ongoing
- c. Encouraging individuals to have healing conversations
- d. Working on Stewardship plan for the fall
- e. Planning Healing worship
- f. Selected items to work on with Council – breakthrough prayer, behavioral covenant, and facilitated conversations
- g. A lot of listening with more to do!

**VI. Miscellaneous**

- a. Monthly meetings with Saint Paul Area Synod Interims
- b. Monthly report to synod office

**Worship Plans October 2019 – Epiphany 2020**

- October 6, 2019 Tanzania Sunday
- October 13, 2019 Kids Sunday School presentation, Breakthrough prayer Initiative Kick-off, Food truck
- October 20, 2019 Begin Fall Stewardship Focus
- October 27, 2019 Reformation Sunday/ Stewardship
- November 3, 2019 All Saints Day/Stewardship
- November 10, 2019 Stewardship, Food Truck
- November 17, 2019 Stewardship Commitment Sunday/ Kids Sunday School presentation, Bake Sale
- November 24, 2019 Christ the King Sunday
- November 27, 2019 Thanksgiving and Healing Worship 7pm

**Year A**

- December 1, 2019 Advent 1 (Pastor Sarah gone)
- December 4, 2019 Wednesday Worship 7pm
- December 8, 2019 Advent 2/ Kids Sunday School Presentation (?), Food Truck/ Yule Log fellowship event
- December 12, 2019 Wednesday Worship 7pm
- December 15, 2019 Advent 3
- December 18, 2019 Wednesday Worship 7pm
- December 22, 2019 Advent 4, Lefse Making fellowship event
- December 24, 2019 Christmas Eve
- December 29, 2019 Christmas 1
- January 5, 2019 Christmas 2/Epiphany

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

- No Report

**Building & Grounds**

- PMCS (Preventative Maintenance Checks & Service) is being done on all furnaces for fall.

**Education Report**

- On October 13, the Sunday school kids presented their first lesson rotation on the creation story. They read the story and showed the congregation their paintings representing each day. There is a SignUpGenius for the guest readers each week. On 10/16, a small group is meeting to discuss plans for the Christmas program.
- SPLASH has 7 regular attendees. The kids seem to enjoy the new location and structure.

- We put out feelers to see how many kids would be interested in going on a Mission Trip to northern MN this summer and/or the national youth gathering in Minneapolis in 2021. At this time only four kids responded that they're interested in the Mission Trip.
  - Our first fundraiser will be Christmas plants. Jodie Beaudette is in charge of that. Carrie Reed has offered to help organize other fundraisers. Joanna has reached out to a friend's church to see if there is any interest in a joint mission trip.
- Katie Edwards has been taking donations for Operation Christmas Child.

#### **Communications**

- No Report

#### **Counters**

- No Report

#### **Global Missions**

- No Report

#### **Loaves & Fishes**

- No Report

#### **Martha's Servers**

- No Report

#### **Outreach**

- No Report

#### **Prayer**

- No Report

#### **SPPRT**

- No Report

#### **Visitation**

- No Report

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

- Roof: The final bill for the repair of the roof is \$81,288.35. This includes \$2,800 that SPLC is responsible for -- \$2,500 (insurance deductible, already paid) and \$300 (additional repairs not covered by insurance).
  - **A motion was made by Tom Miller to pay PEI the amount of \$78,788.35. Seconded by Jon Quale and unanimously approved.**
- Computer Update: waiting on the last two computers to be installed.
- Safeguarding God's Children: Arlie Post is working on updating the wording for the Safeguarding Policy. Social Media training may be added to the training. Current classes are scheduled for:
  - Sunday, October 27 at 6:30 pm
  - Sunday, November 3 at 11:00 am
- Events: Lefse Making – Sunday, December 22 at 10:00 am. Arlie Post will be coordinating this effort. We will be advertising for equipment, experience or interested in help to "prep" the potatoes, please contact Arlie Post.
- 2020 Nominating Committee: The following individuals have agreed to serve on the nominating committee to find potential council members for upcoming vacancies: Pastor Sarah, Tom Miller, Brandy Timmons and Sean Fraley.
  - The openings for the 2020 Church Council are: 3 Members at Large, Treasurer, President (Vice-President is willing to vacate his current term as Vice-President and run for President), Potential Vice-President position.
- 2020 Budget: Holding on further discussion until pledges are received

- Operation Christmas Child: Dale Brainard updated the council on OCC. OCC is selling Metro Dining Club cards to help offset the cost of shipping the boxes. The current cost of shipping is \$9/box (donations are accepted for this). OCC is also looking for donations to help fill the boxes – stop at their table in the narthex for additional details.
- Service & Emotional Service Animals Guidelines: Dale Brainard reviewed the existing guidelines and brought suggested updates. Council will review these suggestions and discuss at an upcoming council meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Katie Fetterly brought to the council's attention the balance in the checking account (once the roof bill has been paid).
  - **Katie Fetterly made a motion that in the event our finances (checking account) falls short of meeting our financial responsibilities (payroll & bills) we will move money (up to \$10,000) from our emergency fund to general checking with the intent to replace to cover funds. If funds needed exceed \$10,000 church council will be contacted. Jon Quale seconded. Unanimously approved.**
- Due to the projected lack of attendance at the November council meeting, it was decided to move the meeting.
  - **A motion was made by Julie Cozennoy to move the November council meeting to Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Seconded by Katie Fetterly. Unanimously approved.**
- Finance Position: We need to be aware there is currently a person who has been volunteering their time doing the financial payables/receivables jobs at SPLC. This person does not want to continue doing the job forever. Looking into options for replacing this person. Office Administrator may be able to pick up some of these duties.
- Stewardship Sunday: Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. Third quarter giving statements will be mailed shortly and a separate letter with pledge cards will be mailed after that. (Letters will be available for pick-up on Sunday mornings to help cut down on the cost of mailings).
- The WAM committee has requested permission to upgrade the wireless microphone used on Sunday mornings.
  - **Arlie Post made a motion to check with the sound equipment tech people on to what we need and then to purchase a new wireless microphone system (up to \$500). Karen Rozeske seconded. Unanimously approved.**
- Congregational Covenant: No update at this time
- Personnel Committee: Keep on the radar that SPLC is in need of a Personnel Committee and we will be working toward creating/instituting this team.

**A motion was made by Tyler Kroschel to adjourn the October Church Council Meeting. Seconded by Tom Miller and unanimously approved.**

**Date & Time: Tuesday, December 3 at 6:30 pm (note date change)**

**Devotions: Tom Miller**

Submitted by:

*Julie Cozennoy*

Julie Cozennoy

St. Paul Lutheran Council Secretary

#### **Summary of Motions made at October Church Council Meeting**

- **A motion was made by Jon Quale, seconded by Karen Rozeske, to approve the consent agenda (with two additions), Pastor's, Committee's & Financial Report. Unanimously approved.**
- **A motion was made by Tom Miller to pay PEI the amount of \$78,788.35. Seconded by Jon Quale and unanimously approved.**
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**The following motion was made via email between the September and October Council Meeting:**

- Pastor Sarah made a motion on October 9<sup>th</sup>, to make an announcement in the bulletin and weekly Refresh and ReNEWS to collect gifts of money and gift cards to support the Byl family. Gifts will be collected on October 27<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Tyler Kroschel. Unanimously approved.