



St. Paul Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting
Meeting held virtually
Tuesday, December 15, 2020 – 6:30 pm

X	Christoph Schmidt, Bridge Pastor	X	Dale Brainard, Member at Large
X	Tyler Kroschel, President	X	Chris Clark, Member at Large
X	Andy Stoyke, Vice President	X	Jaime Fraley, Member at Large
X	Julie Coozenoy, Secretary	X	Arlie Post, Member at Large
X	Chris Timmons, Treasurer	X	Karen Rozeske, Member at Large

Meeting called to order at 6:39 pm by Tyler Kroschel and opened with devotions by Tyler Kroschel and God Sightings.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A motion was made by Andy Stoyke to approve the consent agenda, Pastor’s, Committee’s & Financial Report. Seconded by Karen Rozeske. Unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of November 30, 2020	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$ 11,363.00
Total Revenue*	\$ 23,038.42
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$ 7,547.83
Net Income (after mortgage payment)	\$ 10,162.59
Mortgage Balance	\$ 366,814.88
Edward Jones Balance	\$ 39,057.71
<i>*This includes a Grant we received from Chisago County.</i>	

- The finance team discussed the proposed budget for 2021 during our December meeting. We went through each line item and discussed proposed changes. Chris Timmons took changes away to make updates to the proposal.

BRIDGE PASTOR’S REPORT:

Thank you to everyone at St. Paul for welcoming and calling me as your Bridge Pastor! I’ve enjoyed my first month with you and look forward to the short amount of time we will have together.

We continued our outdoor worship services through November. It was a learning experience for me to preach to a lot full of cars, but I think it went well. It was good to be able to meet some of St. Paul’s members, and their pets, if only through car windows! Many thanks to those who have helped with set-up, music, and video production for our outdoor services - this simply could not be done without good volunteer labor.

We had two good confirmation classes in November. Students recorded speaking parts to be used in Advent, and we assigned a virtual Old Testament video project to be completed in December. Looking forward to the resumption of classes on January 6th.

I’ve taken part in planning meetings with the WAM team, communications team, Sunday school and confirmation guides, and of course with our executive council and council. My impression is that everyone is looking for creative ways to do effective ministry in this time of pandemic. I’ve been impressed with the dedication and passion for how these teams approach their work, and I pray that this continues into the new year and into the next pastorate.

As always, please contact me with any church or pastoral concerns - I’m always willing to talk.

Yours in Christ,
 Pastor Christoph Schmidt

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Call Committee

- The Call Committee continues to meet. We had initial interviews with our candidates and will be inviting a couple back for second interviews in the beginning of January.

Children's Ministries

- Sunday School met two times in December virtually. This was our first foray into a virtual class, so we are still trying to figure things out. But it seems like the kids are enjoying interacting with each other on this platform. This past Sunday, Pastor Christoph was able to join the class and meet the kids, so that was exciting. We look forward to more classes where he is able to participate.
- We have continued the weekly family devotional series. This month, Pastor will be creating a devotional for the week of Christmas and we will be having this go out to the entire congregation as a way to see some of what the Sunday School kids have been doing.
- Finally, All of the youth in the congregation participated in coloring Christmas cards that were sent out to our community supporters and each family in the congregation. This project was a huge success and we ended up sending out about 130 cards. Included with each card was a business card with all of the church's contact
- The SPLASH kids have been meeting via Zoom each week. We're wrapping up our in-depth study of the characters in the Christmas story.
- The Christmas program is nearing completion. The kids recorded their lines and then we put their voices to puppets and recorded that. They also sang along to pre-recorded piano music and we'll have a virtual choir on the video. A couple kids performed piano pieces, and another child colored pictures to include in the video. We had a few band members record numbers to include as well. It will be shared with the church on Sunday.
- The Drive-Through Nativity prep has gone well. We had a multi-generational crew working on the set the last couple weeks. The communications team has done a nice job of promoting to the community. We hope to see large numbers of people driving through to hear the message.
- The confirmation kids have been working on their independent study of one of the characters in the old testament and creating a video to share with the others. They pre-recorded the lessons and Advent candle lighting for the December services.

Communications

- Talked about the possibility of adding prayers to weekly Refresh & ReNEWS. This could be the same list that is prayed for weekly and is currently included in the weekly announcements (attached to the bulletin). Karen Carlson explained the process her and Melissa are currently using for updating these prayers.
- Discussion around having a general prayer for families in R&R. We could list xx number of families each week and say a prayer for them (going through the membership directory)
- Could we/should we include birthdays in R&R or should we do family general prayers?
- Pastor Christoph shared he receives a post card from a church that prayers from him – he never attended that church – but it means the world they have him in their prayers. Could we incorporate some sort of postcard going to people on our prayers?
- Carole England contacted the Chisago and Forest Lake papers to check on pricing for advertising. Advertising weekly is price prohibited. It was agreed we would advertise in the papers for our Christmas activities – Drive Through Bethlehem, Advent, Christmas Eve Services.
- Nextdoor was recommended as a way to communicate to our local community – at no cost.
- We will be setting events on Facebook for higher visibility.
- Reminder for everyone to “Like” posts on FB, this help increase our visibility.
- Team called looking for a Santa Anonymous – some Christmas program SPLC could work with this year. No one was doing these programs – because of COVID. It was decided we will list various organizations that families may choose to support.
- Jaime Fraley's kids have already created beautiful Christmas cards to be included with December's Food Truck. Thank you!

WAM – Worship, Arts & Music

- Reviewed and discussed how virtual services are going. Will make some minor changes - as we can – to include music credits, announcements, etc.
- Children's Christmas program - will be released Dec. 20. Working to include the puppets.
- "Drive-thru" Christmas - Dec. 20. Still looking for help with sets.
- Christmas Eve - learned pre-recorded music is done. Communion will be included. Folks can be in their cars or socially-distanced outside. We will have a "mailbox" for offerings. The plan is to decorate the amphitheater with twinkle lights.

OLD BUSINESS

- **2021 Budget:** The budget will be finalized in the coming weeks.
- **2021 Council Elections:** Continuing to look for names to serve - council secretary, two members-at-large
- **Worship Services:** Prerecorded worship services are going well, hoping to do an outdoor Christmas Eve worship service.
- **Call Committee Update:** Call committee reported they held successful first interviews with the candidates. Will be holding second interviews in January.
- **Worship Services for November/December:** The council agreed with WAM's recommendation to move worship services to all online, effective Sunday, November 29th. There will be Wednesday evening worship advent services – available online.

NEW BUSINESS

- **A Continuing Resolution:** In order for the Annual Meeting to be held virtually, we need to adopt a resolution to our constitution:
 - **Tyler Kroschel made a motion for the period of December 2020 through June 2021 the congregational council moves that congregational meetings will have the option to be held electronically. Voting will be permitted by voice vote or visual display of vote. Julie Coozenoy seconded. Unanimously approved.**
- **Annual Report / Annual Meeting:** Office Administrator is beginning to reach out to get team reports. Looking into the details of how to hold an annual meeting virtually.

A motion was made by Dale Brainard to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tyler Kroschel. Unanimously approved.

Date & Time: Tuesday, January 19, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Devotions: Pastor Christoph

Julie Coozenoy

Julie Coozenoy

St. Paul Lutheran Council Secretary

Summary of motions made at December Council Meeting

- **A motion was made by Karen Rozeske to approve the consent agenda, Pastor's, Committee's & Financial Report. Seconded by Arlie Post. Unanimously approved.**
- **Tyler Kroschel made a motion for the period of December 2020 through June 2021 the congregational council moves that congregational meetings will have the option to be held electronically. Voting will be permitted by voice vote or visual display of vote. Julie Coozenoy seconded. Unanimously approved.**
- **A motion was made by Dale Brainard to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Tyler Kroschel. Unanimously approved.**

Summary of motions made via Email between the November and December Council Meeting

- **On December 7, 2020 Karen Rozeske made a motion to approve the November Church Council Minutes via email. Seconded by Jaime Fraley. Unanimously approved.**