



St. Paul Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting
Meeting held virtually through Zoom Conferencing
Tuesday, May 19, 2020 – 6:30 pm

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

X	Sarah Friesen-Carper, Pastor	X	Dale Brainard, Member at Large
X	Tyler Kroschel, President	X	Chris Clark, Member at Large
X	Andy Stoyke, Vice President		Jaime Fraley, Member at Large
X	Julie Coozennoy, Secretary	X	Arlie Post, Member at Large
X	Chris Timmons, Treasurer	X	Karen Rozeske, Member at Large

Meeting called to order at 6:45 pm by Tyler Kroschel and opened with devotions by Julie Coozennoy.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of April 30, 2020	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$ 10,837.00
Total Revenue	\$ 11,039.30
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$ 12,935.83
Net Income (after mortgage payment)	\$ -1,249.38
Mortgage Balance	\$395,724.31
Edward Jones Balance	\$ 35,916.68

FINANCE REPORT:

- There was no finance meeting.

INTERIM PASTOR’S REPORT:

- I. Administration
 - a. Weekly staff meetings with Office Admin – Melissa and I check in on FaceTime several times a week and are connected via email and text message many times a day. We both work from home regularly. Melissa goes to the office to mail the weekly mailing for folks without internet. I will be in the office once a week to prep for Sunday Drive In worship.
 - b. Weekly note from the Pastor in Refresh and ReNEWS
 - c. Weekly video from the pastor with Announcements and Devotion
 - d. Regular Zoom check-in with the Executive Committee
 - e. Communications survey for congregation – to be sent this week
 - f. Covid 19 Team planning
 - g. Monthly meetings with Saint Paul Area Synod Interims – now via zoom
 - h. Monthly report to synod office
- II. Education
 - a. On-line Bible Study has 4-7 participants Wednesdays at 1pm which will continue into the summer. I’m going to experiment with an evening Acts Bible Study beginning in June.
 - b. Confirmation class wrapped up on April 29th. The students adapted well to having class on Zoom. Confirmation for 9th graders will be held May 31st. There are 10 students.
 - c. Adult Forum on Sunday – Suspended for now
 - d. Weekly content for Youth and Adult Bible Studies for our At Home Faith Formation curricula. The communications survey asks about use of these resources and if people would use them over the summer.

III. Worship

- a. Video worship was a great alternative for much of our congregation. I received much positive feedback from those who “attended.” I am so grateful to Chris Timmons who managed the video production, Julie Cozennoy who posted the videos, Kim Clark and all the musicians, and the readers. You all have been amazing and adaptive! God is good!
- b. The Easter Theme, apart from “making it through tough times creatively together” was “New Life. The Theme for the next long season including Pentecost and the Season After Pentecost, is The Book of Acts: The Holy Spirit Moves! Each week we will read part of one chapter of Acts working our way through the entire book by the end of November. The idea behind this is that Acts is the story of the Holy Spirit working in and through the early church. As we read how the Spirit moved them we can also ask, “How is the Holy Spirit moving us?” It will be interesting to see how this plays out in the middle of a pandemic. But We know and trust that the Spirit still abide in and with us!
- c. 5 worship services; 5 sermons; 5 children’s sermons
- d. See attached for readings through the summer
- e. First Communion will be postponed again until the families and I determine a time we feel confident to have a class and celebrate communion.

IV. Pastoral Care

- a. Pastoral care and congregational care
 - i. Regular phone calls with those who are not connected via internet
 - ii. 2 opportunities for virtual fellowship during the week – Tuesdays at noon, Sundays at 11am – No one attended on Tuesday for 2 consecutive weeks so that one is cancelled moving forward. Sundays has between 5 and 10 attendees and will continue even with Drive-in Worship.
 - iii. Every member phone calls to determine what people need and how they want to be connected
 - iv. Birthdays and anniversary cards mailed regularly
 - v. I am slowly working my way through the directory calling each household to check in
 - vi. Names, photos, and future plans for graduating seniors are being collected. We will recognize them on June 7th in worship

V. Consultant’s recommendations

- a. Breakthrough Prayer Initiative – we continue to pray in worship
- b. The List of Loving Behaviors was adopted unanimously at the Annual Meeting. Tyler and Pat are working to create a large print banner that everyone can sign and hang in the narthex.
- c. Ongoing
 - i. Communications plan/Team – on hold for now
 - ii. Fellowship opportunities – virtual coffee hour
 - iii. Establishing Personnel Team
- d. Yet to Come
 - i. Mutual Ministry Team/healthy, proper channels for concerns and feedback and teaching the congregation to utilize them
 - ii. Further training for congregation and leadership on conflict transformation
 - iii. Governance – especially clarifying teams and duties and updating the constitution
 - iv. Clarifying identity and purpose – this will go hand-in-hand with the work around our financial future

Worship Plans May 24 – August Ascension – Season after Pentecost

THEME The Book of Acts: The Holy Spirit moves the church!

May 24 Ascension Sunday

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Luke 24:44-53

May 31 Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; John 20:19-23

June 7 Holy Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1-2:4a; Acts 3:1-10; Matthew 28:16-20

June 14

Exodus 19:2-8a; Acts 4:1-22; Matthew 9:35-10:8 [9-23]

June 21

Jeremiah 20:7-13; Acts 4:32-5:11; Matthew 10:24-39

June 28

Jeremiah 28:5-9; Acts 6:1-7; Matthew 10:40-42

July 5

Zechariah 9:9-12; Acts 6:8-7:2a, 51-60; Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 12

Isaiah 55:10-13; Acts 8:26-40; Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 19

Isaiah 44:6-8; Acts 9: 1-19; Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 26

1 Kings 3:5-12; Acts 10:1-6, 9-18, 23b-36, 44-48; Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

August 2

Isaiah 55:1-5; Acts 11:1-4, 16-26; Matthew 14:13-21

August 9

1 Kings 19:9-18; Acts 12:1-19; Matthew 14:22-33

August 16

Isaiah 56:1, 6-8; Acts 13:1-6, 13-33; Matthew 15:[10-20] 21-28

August 23

Isaiah 51:1-6; Acts 14:8-20; Matthew 16:13-20

August 30

Jeremiah 15:15-21; Acts 15:1-19; Matthew 16:21-28

COMMITTEE REPORTS (as submitted by Director or Team Leads)

All God's Children Preschool

- Most of my families have come and received their belongs except for about 5 students. Julie Hyrkas has been doing some massive cleaning with the storage upstairs, the preschool supply room, the 2nd preschool room, and the Director's office. Julie Hykas' girl scout troop has started working on the playset. Currently, they have just repainted. They will be using the main support of the playset but will be providing more stability on the platform the kids stand on and adding some additional items to the playset. Julie Hyrkas is planning on hopefully doing an end of year party for the kids even if it means it will be done in August. She also wants to do a small ceremony for the kids graduating and planning on doing that outside using our stage for outside worship. Not sure when that will take place yet. Julie Hyrkas and Michelle Dubois are planning on working on the preschool by-laws this summer and getting them updated.

Education Report

Confirmation:

- The last day of confirmation classes for the 2019-2020 school year was held on April 29, 2020.
- Confirmation Sunday is planned for May 31, 2020. There will be ten students confirmed this year, they are:

Carlie Beaudette	Eva Lundblad	Harper Timmons
Isabel Esget	Parker Moser	Katie Zak
Lindsey Galatowitsch	Rhiana Mclean	
Sydney Hubrich	Mackenzie Nenn	
- In the past confirmation stoles were created as a class during a retreat. Due to CDC and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines, this year the stoles are to be completed by the student and their family at their individual homes. Pastor Sarah provided direction via email with example photos of previous years' stoles. Brandy Timmons delivered the stoles to the confirmands' homes on Friday May 15th.
- The remaining red felt fabric for the stoles will now be stored in the newly remodeled education room.

Mission Trip:

- On Thursday May 14, 2020, Brandy Timmons received an email from YouthWorks stating that all 2020 summer trips were cancelled. We had already requested a cancellation of our 2020 trip, so this does not impact St. Paul Lutheran youth and adults. The cancellation policy remains the same as outlined in the April 2020 Church Council update.

VBS:

- Based on the likelihood for need to continue social distancing and limiting group sizes this summer, we have decided that an in person VBS in July is not feasible. Many volunteers are in the "at risk" category or work in the health care field and it does not feel safe to gather with this large of a group.
- Joanna attended a Zoom meeting with other church youth leaders discussing VBS options this summer. Many are saving their already purchased curriculum for next year, which is our current plan. A few churches are sticking with their theme and creating "grab bags" with the crafts, etc. for each day and holding a Zoom or other sort of method of streaming the live music portion. Others are holding out hope for later in the summer. One church decided to shift the focus to family service projects in the building and on the grounds, i.e. build a picnic bench, paint, build a sandbox, etc. Another church has decided to pair up younger families with kids with elders in their congregation. Each month there's a new surprise. In May, the kids surprised the elders with May Day baskets. In June, the elders will surprise the kids. Another church has created pen pals in the same way, mixing up the generations. I feel that we could attempt one of the later ideas if there is interest.

Sunday School and SPLASH:

- Education continues in the At Home Faith Formation format. Links and education can be found on the church website.
- The annual Mother's Day plant sale fundraiser was held on Saturday, May 9. Despite the social distancing requirements that made for a different shopping experience than usual, it was a great success. We surpassed our goal and will be able to purchase the digital curriculum for next year. We owe a huge thank you to Wosika Farms, Jodie Beaudette and Katie Fetterly for coordinating, and all of our volunteers and shoppers. More details will be in Katie's fundraiser report.

Praise Band

- On March 26, 2020, prior to MN's Shelter in Place order going into effect, the Praise Band met in the evening to record several songs for future worship services – which included music for Palm Sunday and Easter. Tyler, Kim, and their children met one additional time on March 31, 2020 meeting the requirements of the Shelter in Place order, to record traditional songs for Palm Sunday and Easter. These recordings were used for services until May 3, 2020.

- Beginning the week of April 26, the band began working on a plan to record music virtually from each of our homes. Kim creates a base track of just the piano and sends it out to the other band members. They each listen to the piano track using headphones while playing or singing along and recording themselves. They send this recording back to Kim, and she mixes it together using the GarageBand software. Kim then sends the complete mp3 file to Chris Timmons where he adds the lyrics. The band has been performing this way since Sunday May 3. Band members participating in this virtual format are Kim, Tyler, Pat, Dave, and Chris Clark.

OLD BUSINESS

- **Insurance Coverage for Financial Volunteers:** Moved to June agenda.
- **Paycheck Protection Program:** SPLC has received the \$21,416 PPP payment, of which ~\$4,000 has already been spent on payroll. We must spend 100% of the money by July 8th to enable us to be eligible for loan forgiveness. The funds must be used at least 75% on payroll expenses (including benefits), and the remaining on expenses (mortgage, utilities).
- **Sunday School Classroom Space:** Meeting was held between the AGC Director and the SS Coordinators to discuss usage of the second AGC classroom (currently not being used by AGC). This room has already been emptied (by AGC) and will now be used as a SS gathering room. AGC may still use it for refrigerator use, snack prep, etc.
- **Sunday School Plant Sale:** see attached report
- **Financial Audit of SPLC:** Networking with other professionals to assist in the audit
- **Loving Behaviors Poster:** A beautiful poster depicting SPLC's Loving Behaviors was created by Pat Clearence. *Thank you, Pat, for your work on this.* The poster will be printed and hung in the church.

NEW BUSINESS

- **Confirmation Students:** The following students names were brought forth for confirmation in our faith, and adult status within our church.
 - **Pastor Sarah made a motion to approve the following students to be confirmed and receive full adult status within the church: Carlie Beaudette, Isabell Esget, Lindsey Galatowitsch, Sydney Hubrich, Eva Lundblad, Rhiana Mclean, Parker Moszer, Mackenzie Nenn, Harper Timmons, Katelyn (Katie) Zak. Seconded by Tyler Kroschel. The motion was unanimously approved.**
- **Confirmation Day:** Confirmation has been planned for May 31. Discussion was held around how to make the logistics work – who can get out of their cars, how to see the students, etc. It was decided to send an email to the families to see if they would prefer to hold confirmation on May 31 or wait until a time when more people could be involved.
- **Vacation Bible School (VBS):** Due to the limitations of the size of groups who can meet, the social distancing guidelines, etc., it was recommended we cancel in person VBS for 2020. The VBS leaders may look into other possibilities for this summer (virtual).
 - **Julie Cozenoy made a motion to cancel in person VBS for the summer of 2020. Karen Rozeske seconded. Unanimously approved.**
- **Reopening the Church:**
 - Pastor is recommending we create three teams to work on the processes needed during the pandemic: Communications, Congregational Care, and Safety. Each team to function throughout the pandemic – potentially at least one year from March 2020.
 - Discussion was held around when Pastor Sarah and Melissa would return to working in the office. Due to concerns for their safety, it was determined they would continue to work remotely.
- **Drive In Worship:** Will begin this Sunday. There are very specific guidelines everyone will need to adhere to for SPLC to be able to hold drive in worship; including cars parking 6 feet apart, no one out of their cars, etc. All the guidelines will be sent out in this week's newsletter.
- **All God's Children:** Presented the council with their proposed budget for the 2020-21 school year. The council will review the budget and vote on it at the June council meeting.

- **Church Mutual Application:** Church Mutual is the company the church has their insurance through. They are offering *CM CARES COVID-19 Protecting the Greater Good Recovery Fund Grants*. SPLC applied for a \$2500 grant to be used to increase our ability to provide for our food pantry program. We would like to use \$2500 to purchase and distribute additional food. A decision should be made within the next month.
- **Ministry Site Profile:** A team is being formed to start the process of creating our Ministry Site Profile. This is the first step necessary in the call process. It is our hope this profile will be completed by fall.

A motion was made by Arlie Post to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Andy Stoyke. Unanimously approved.

Date & Time: Tuesday, June 16 at 6:30 – Building tour at 6:00 pm (to be determined)

Devotions: Chris Timmons

Submitted by:

Julie Coozenoy

Julie Coozenoy

St. Paul Lutheran Council Secretary

Summary of motions made at May Church Council Meeting

- **A motion was made by Andy Stoyke to approve the consent agenda, Pastor's, Committee's & Financial Report. Seconded by Dale Brainard. Unanimously approved.**
- **Pastor Sarah made a motion to approve the following students to be confirmed and receive full adult status within the church: Carlie Beaudette, Isabell Esget, Lindsey Galatowitsch, Sydney Hubrich, Eva Lundblad, Rhiana Mclean, Parker Moszer, Mackenzie Nenn, Harper Timmons, Katelyn (Katie) Zak. Tyler Kroschel seconded the motion and unanimously approved.**
- **Julie Coozenoy made a motion to cancel in person VBS for the summer of 2020. Karen Rozeske seconded. Unanimously approved.**
- **A motion was made by Arlie Post to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Andy Stoyke. Unanimously approved.**

Summary of motions made via Email between the April and May Council Meeting

- **On April 22, 2020 Tyler Kroschel made a motion to approve the April Church Council Minutes via email. Seconded by Chris Timmons. Unanimously approved.**