



**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**Congregational Council Meeting**  
*Meeting held in person or virtually*  
**Tuesday, September 15, 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 Coozenoy, Secretary	X	Arlie Post, Member at Large
X	Chris Timmons, Treasurer	X	Karen Rozeske, Member at Large

Meeting called to order at 6:48 pm by Tyler Kroschel and opened with devotions by Arlie Post.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

<b>As of August 31, 2020</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
General Fund Offering	\$ 13,204.00
Total Revenue	\$ 14,624.70
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$ 12,601.79
Net Income (after mortgage payment)	<b>-\$ 3,802.84</b>
Mortgage Balance	\$379,281.99
Edward Jones Balance	\$ 39,057.71

**FINANCE REPORT:** The finance team discussed the following items:

- Balances and the P&L.
- Plans for preparing the 2021 budget.
- Thoughts on hiring a full-time versus part-time pastor
- Update on Edward Jones signers

**INTERIM PASTOR’S REPORT:** For September, 2020

- I. Administration
  - a. Weekly staff meetings with Office Admin – Melissa and I continue to work remotely We will be in the office on Wednesday afternoons for mailings and Sunday prep as well as Bible Study and Confirmation.
  - b. I have begun meeting with folks individually or in small groups outside with masks on.
  - c. Weekly note from the Pastor in Refresh and ReNEWS
  - d. Weekly video from the pastor with Announcements and Devotion
  - e. Regular Zoom check-in with the Executive Committee
  - f. Covid 19 Team planning – The Preparedness plan is in live! This team will now meet monthly or as needed rather than weekly.
    - i. Prepared a worship survey for folks to weigh in on how they would like to worship this fall and winter. We received 26 responses so far. The team would like to keep the survey active and invite more response.
  - g. Monthly meetings with Saint Paul Area Synod Interims – now via zoom.
  - h. Monthly report to synod office
  - i. Communication Team has 3 volunteers so far. Loaves and Fishes/Stewardship has one and a list of folks to be in touch with. I expect both to be up and running by the end of the month. Prayer Team needs a new chair person.
  - j. 15 zoom meetings

## II. Education

- a. On-line Bible Study has 3-5 participants Wednesdays at 1pm and will continue into the fall on zoom and in-person. We will be outside as long as the weather permits then move inside the Fellowship Hall following the COVID Preparedness Plan. Zoom will continue to be an option.
- b. Confirmation classes are held outside in-person Wednesdays at 6pm as long as the weather holds. We do not have consensus among families regarding how to meet later in the fall and winter. So far 10 kids are participating. Confirmation theme this year is the Old Testament.
- c. 5 session Bible study on Isaiah "In the Days to Come..." began August 26<sup>th</sup> and goes through September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Held via zoom at 7:30pm on Wednesdays. There are 8 participants including 2 who had not participated in Bible Study before, one who was a member and hasn't been around for a while.
- d. Thankful to Joanna who continues to lead Children and Youth ministry so well! She has come up with some creative ideas for the Splash age kids this fall. Thankful to Katie Fetterly and Chris Clark for kicking off Sunday School and making the family devotions available for all of us!

## III. Worship

- a. Worship continues to be outdoors. Around 10 people sit outside of their cars each week. We have averaged 40 people in person each week. We average 90 views online both from Facebook and YouTube. We will discuss the Worship survey later in the meeting. There was one baptism in August.
- b. Theme for the Season After Pentecost, is The Book of Acts: The Holy Spirit Moves!
- c. 4 worship services; 4 sermons; 4 children's sermons
- d. We are back to celebrating birthdays and God sightings on Sundays in worship. Please remember to keep turning in those God sightings!
- e. See attached for readings through the summer
- f. Chris Timmons purchased a new camera and system for recording and livestreaming worship. It seems to be working much better! Thanks Chris! Also, Chris along with Chris and Kim Clark keep working on all the kinks and brainstorming ways for worship to improve. What a great team they are!! We are blessed!
- g. Thanks to those who have provided special music for worship. All are welcome to do that any time!
- h. Adopted and implemented new Transition Prayer

## IV. Pastoral Care

- a. Very excited for the fellowship activities that are happening thanks to the Fellowship Team!
- b. Pastoral care and congregational care
  - i. Regular phone calls with those who are not connected via internet
  - ii. Sunday Zoom Coffee Hour at 11am – average 2 participants – I'm thinking about taking a break from this for a couple weeks and then rebooting
  - iii. Birthdays and anniversary cards mailed twice a month
  - iv. I continue to slowly working my way through the directory calling each household to check in
  - v. Pastoral contacts: 25

## V. Consultant's recommendations

- a. The List of Loving Behaviors was adopted unanimously at the Annual Meeting. Tyler and Pat have created a large print banner that everyone can sign and hang in the narthex. A dedication will happen this summer.
- b. Ongoing
  - i. Fellowship opportunities – happening
  - ii. Establishing Personnel Team – Andy Stoyke and I are working on this
- c. 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 – I think you got some really good insight from the Ministry Site Profile survey. I am eager to see how that information can influence the congregation moving forward.

### **Worship Plans September The Season after Pentecost**

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

- September 6 Ezekiel 33:7-11; Acts 16:16-34; Matthew 18:15-20
- September 13 Genesis 50:15-21; Acts 17:16-33; Matthew 18:21-35
- September 20 Jonah 3:10-4:11; Acts 18:1-11; Matthew 20:1-16
- September 27 Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32; Acts 19:1-7; Matthew 21:23-32

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Education Report**

#### **Sunday School**

- Sunday school began 9/13 with 7 Sunday School age kids and 3 SPLASH aged kids. They met outside after church. The SPLASH 5/6 kids have been invited to join them while they are meeting outside. The current plan is to meet every other week after church, weather permitting, and start out all together to read the story and then break out into two smaller groups.
- Chris and Katie have been working hard over the summer to get the new Sunday School/Old Preschool room painted and ready for when we are back in person. It is a much larger room than we had imagined in our heads so it has taken a bit longer than we anticipated. There is one small corner left to paint and vinyl decals have been ordered and hopefully installed sometime soon!
- We met after worship for our first Sunday School class of the fall. It was great to see everyone. We are still trying to navigate how Sunday School is going to look this fall in light of not really being able to be in the building. After speaking with several parents this past Sunday we have decided to offer outdoor Sunday School immediately following worship service every other week until it gets too cold to meet outside. We will reassess what format Sunday School will be in come the end of October.
- The SPLASH kids are also joining us for the fall as their numbers are low and meeting in person was difficult to coordinate. Chris and Katie will be working on making sure there is SPLASH age content available for each class going forward.
- The dates we are anticipating having Sunday School after worship are as follows:
  - September 27, 2020
  - October 11, 2020
  - October 25, 2020
  - November 8, 2020 (Temperature dependent)
- If outdoor service is cancelled for the week due to inclement weather, we will also cancel Sunday School and reschedule it for the next week. We will try to do outdoor classes as long as we have outdoor worship, which is highly dependent on when the snow comes!
- We have asked for two parental volunteers each week to help lead the small groups. We anticipate breaking the class into two groups based on age. One with the SPLASH kids and possibly older Sunday School kids and another with the younger Sunday School kids. Each small group will talk about the story for the week with their small group volunteer.
- We are looking forward to classes this fall, despite things being different.

#### **SPLASH**

- There are only 4 or 5 SPLASH aged kids. We will meet via Zoom when the weather gets colder. The plan is to do a deeper dive into the Christmas story and have the kids write the script for themselves and the younger kids. We'll then put the narrative to life using puppets and song, hopefully engaging a larger group of participants as the puppet characters. We'll put that together on video to share with the congregation.

**Confirmation**

- Confirmation began 9/9. We will meet outside in the parking lot as long as the weather cooperates. We had to meet via Zoom for the first meeting due to rain. Current guides are Angie Olson, Andy Stoyke, and Joanna Kroschel.
- A message will be sent out this week to determine interest in going on a Mission Trip next summer. Due to limitations on fundraising and uncertainty about travel, we'll likely go somewhere within MN if possible.

**WAM Report**

- The team reviewed our current worship outdoor services - "feels like church".
- At this time, we do not feel that worship could be moved indoors.
- Noted that sound quality has been an issue at times.
- Appreciate communion even if it is not "what we are used to".
- Briefly discussed ways we might enhance our music.
- Noted that both Kathie Marabella and Tyler Kroschel have agreed to fill in for Pr. Sarah on a Sunday morning if necessary due to illness.

**OLD BUSINESS**

- **Metro Dining Club Cards / Operation Christmas Child:** SPLC will not sell Metro Dining Club Cards this year or participate in Operation Christmas Child.
- **COVID Response Team (Safety Team):** The team is recommending we continue on the track we are on – worshipping outside or online. What are our other options? Continue livestreamed, drive-in worship (how cold can we handle), very limited in person seating. With in person, would come additional cleaning. We would need volunteers to clean, usher, etc.? The Council will meet with the Safety Team on Monday, October 5 to further discuss options for the fall/winter.
- **Ministry Site Profile:** The completed Ministry Site Profile will be submitted to the council within the week.

**NEW BUSINESS**

- **Give to the Max Day:** SPLC will participate in Give to the Max Day on November 19, 2020. This day is back for its 12th year of raising funds for non-profits.
- **Senior Pastor Job Description:** We need to update the Senior Pastor Job Description to be submitted with the Ministry Site Profile.
- **Worship Survey:** The worship survey results were discussed. The survey will be sent out, under separate cover, to encourage more results on this survey.

**A motion was made by Arlie Post to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chris Clark. Unanimously approved.**

**Date & Time: Tuesday, October 20, 2020 at 6:30 pm**

**Devotions: Jaime Fraley**

*Julie Cozennoy*

Julie Cozennoy

St. Paul Lutheran Council Secretary

**Summary of motions made at September Church Council Meeting**

- **A motion was made by Arlie Post to approve the consent agenda, Pastor's, Committee's & Financial Report. Seconded by Karen Rozeske. Unanimously approved.**
- **A motion was made by Arlie Post to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Chris Clark. Unanimously approved.**

**Summary of motions made via Email between the August and September Council Meeting**

- **On August 25, 2020 Pastor Sarah made a motion to approve the August Church Council Minutes via email. Seconded by Tyler Kroschel. Majority approved.**