



St. Paul Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, December 21, 2021, 6:30 p.m.

- **Devotions & God Sightings** led by Chris Clark
- **Meeting called to order** by Tyler Kroschel
- **Members present:** Pastor Dale Stiles, Zella Oswald, Jaime Fraley, Chris Timmons, Andy Stoyke, Tyler Kroschel, Chris Clark, Karen Rozeske and Dale Brainard (virtually).
- **Consent Agenda:** Agenda approved by Zella Oswald and seconded by Andy Stoyke. Motion carried.
- **Finance and Budget Report:** Chris Timmons

As of December 21, 2021	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$178,246.95
Total Revenue	\$218,294.22
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$175,767.85
Total Expenses (after mortgage payment)	\$239,703.85
Net Revenue (after Mortgage payment)	\$ -21,409.63
Mortgage Balance	\$311,421.68
Edward Jones Balance	\$43,628.67

Pastor's Report:

- **Monthly Ministry Highlights include:**
 - 11/21 - Dominic Maeckelbergh First Communion
 - 11/24 - Thanksgiving Eve Worship
 - 12/5 - Advent/Christmas Decorating and Greening of the Church! Thank you, everyone who was able to help!
 - 12/6 - SPAS Planting Hope Campaign Planning with Carole England (SPLC representative)
 - 12/11 - Drive-Thru Nativity Rehearsal
 - 12/12 - Drive-Thru Nativity

- 12/13 - SPAS Iringa Committee Mtg. (Zoom)
 - 12/14 - Finance Team Mtg.
 - 12/19 - Sunday School Christmas Program Rehearsal
- Ongoing Ministry Highlights:
 - Advent/Christmas Worship and Music Planning
 - Administrative Planning and Maintenance. Signed up for a new church management cloud-based software provider (Breeze). Melissa N. and I have begun gradually transferring membership info/data over from PowerChurch. Claudia N. and Chris T. will begin transferring of and maintaining offering/financial data in January. We have until March to complete and update relevant/accurate data before annual PowerChurch subscription ends. This has been much needed upgrade and improvement as we continue to determine accurate membership data.
 - Following the conclusion of our "What's Your Story?" Stewardship Appeal, have been monitoring incoming 2022 financial pledges and comparing with 2021 financial pledges. Chris T. can report in detail on this, but overall, an increased number (11) of pledges were submitted in 2022 from 2021, resulting in a higher amount pledged in 2022 than in 2021. This is good news and what we hope to see. Thank you, as I always say, for your ongoing and consistent generosity!
 - Adult Bible Study has continued to meet during Advent. Thankful for this group, too! Dee W. shared her Yule Log devotion with us on 12/15. A new "Lutheranism 101" study series will begin with this group on 1/5/22.
 - Advent Midweek worship has been a blessing to many! I am grateful for the sacred space that many took advantage of this Advent season. Those who helped lead the Holden Evening Vespers did a great job, too. Continually grateful for Chris T. who makes the online presence possible with his AV abilities. Thanks, Chris!
 - RISE Cleaning Group continues to do a great job for us. They come every Friday at 9:00 a.m. Please let the church office know if you see anything in need of cleaning and we'll be sure to let the RISE group know. This has proven to be a very healthy and blessed partnership for us.
 - LADC Service/Lease Agreement - been in conversation with Janet Miller from Lake Area Discovery Center, our Church Council Exec. Comm., and our attorney-in-residence, Tom Miller to review, approve, and sign the Service and Lease Agreement in order to re-open our preschool space. This too, is an exciting and sure to be, a blessed, partnership that will be so good for our church.
 - Looking Ahead to Epiphany and Lenten seasons. Have scheduled the SPAS Planting Hope Campaign to coincide with the Lenten Season. Bishop Lull will be

us to preach on Sunday, March 27 as we conclude our emphasis of the Planting Hope Campaign at SPLC. Much more to come on that! Carole England is our SPLC Planting Hope representative and can answer questions about it.

- Thankful also for our monthly Mobile Food Shelf Mission and for all those who are so committed to keeping it going and for those that it continues to serve. Thank you!
- Pastoral Care needs continue to be met as I am aware. Please contact me if you, or someone you know, would like a visit or phone call from me. Our Visitation Team is also available for visits and communion.

- Upcoming:

- I'll be on vacation 12/27 - 12/30. Pr. Sarah Kerkes, Zion Lutheran, Chisago City, will be on call for me.

Children's Ministry Report:

- The Sunday school kids (and a few SPLASH and confirmation aged kids) have spent the month working on the Christmas program. They practiced after church on Sundays and before the Advent services on Wednesday. Holly Maeckelbergh took the lead for this project. During the process, we picked up some extra kids/families. We're hopeful that they continue to join us after Christmas. They performed the traditional telling of the Christmas story on 12/19.
- The SPLASH kids have continued meeting on Sunday evenings. We took some time to learn the books of the Bible, and we explored how Christmas carols came to be and which verses of the Bible relate to each song. We wrapped up 2021 creating the puppet videos for the Sunday school kids next year.
- Confirmation has taken a break during Advent. However, the kids were encouraged to attend the Advent services. We had our second annual Drive Through Nativity on 12/12. Many confirmation kids and their families assisted with the telling of the story. We had roughly 25 cars drive through and hear the story. We had one car come from the Fish Lake Lutheran area to come support us and a handful of others saw our ad in the paper. We also had a sign down by Casey's directing people to the church on Sunday afternoon. By all accounts, everyone enjoyed the experience. We were also able to collect a van full of donations for the Wyoming Family Pathways food shelf.

COVID Response Team Report:

- The COVID Response Team continues to meet via email as needed. The most recent email thread was from December 13. The question of safety precautions in anticipation of larger indoor crowds on 12/19 and 12/24 was raised. Also, communion distribution will be evaluated again in January to see if/when we might begin processing forward for communion again. We're monitoring the omicron variant for now and will evaluate in mid January. There is no reason to discontinue mask wearing and social distancing (when able) for now. We are continually grateful for the

congregation's understanding and patience. Please contact a member of the Team with any questions, feedback or concerns.

Keenager Ministry Report:

- Keenagers met on December 10 and a total of 7 present. We had a very nice social time.

Visitation Ministry Team Report:

- The Team visited Barb Hasting, Jose Peterson, Arnie Rudnick & Pat Crawford.

Old Business:

- COVID 19 Team Update- Please see the updated meeting notes and we are going to work on updating the congregation via the Parish Nurses Corner in ReFresh and ReNews for where to find this helpful virus/vaccine/testing information.
- Tyler Kroschel made the motion to recommend a "Yes" vote on the proposed bankruptcy agreement between the Boys Scouts of America and the Bankruptcy Court, as recommended by Tom Miller.

New Business:

- Lake Area Discovery Center Update. We have officially accepted and signed the Service and Lease Agreement with Lake Area Discovery Center. Our new church preschool will be named St. Paul Lutheran Discovery Center and is scheduled to open in Summer or Fall of 2022. Registration will open on January 3, 2022. Tyler K. formally closed the license for All God's Children Preschool.
- 2022 Budget Proposal Discussion. We are having our quarterly finance information meeting after worship on January 9 to review 2021 finances and introduce our 2022 proposed budget. Treasurer Chris Timmons will lead this discussion. Dale B. made a motion to approve the proposed budget and Karen Rozeske seconded. All approved the budget.
- Hybrid Annual Meeting Format (In Person/Google Meet). This meeting will be on Jan 30 at 10:30 a.m.
- 2021 Annual Ministry Team Reports due to Melissa N. by January 10.
- Need for more Worship Assistants and Communion Servers. Will be better at asking for more people to volunteer. Melissa N. will use sign up genius to have people sign up and ask for 2 extra people to do communion each Sunday. Melissa N. will be rechecking the lists of people signed up for readers, worship assistants, and possibly greeters. If anyone is interested please reach out to Melissa N.

Next Meeting

- Date & Time: January 18, 6:30 p.m.
- Devotions: Andy Stoyke

Adjourn/Pray: Dale B. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen R. seconded the motion. Motion carried.

