



St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 20, 2021 – 6:30 pm

Meeting held in person in Choir Room

1. DEVOTIONS & GOD SIGHTINGS

- Pat Clearence provided the devotional. Each attendee shared a God sighting.
 - ✓ A brief discussion ensued regarding the vote that was taken via email to approve RISE cleaning the building.

2. CALL TO ORDER

- Meeting was called to order by President Kroschel at 6:54 PM

3. ROLL CALL – WELCOME NEW MEMBERS & PASTOR DALE

X	Dale Stiles, 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	Pat Clearence, Secretary	X	Zella Oswald, Member at Large
X	Chris Timmons, Treasurer	X	Karen Rozeske, Member at Large

4. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Approve Agenda

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

b. Finance & Budget Reports – Chris Timmons

- Chris stated that we are on track to take in more this year.

As of March 02, 2021	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$ 73,126 .00
Total Revenue	\$79,092.98
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$46,081.61
Net Income (after mortgage payment)	\$11,699.37
Mortgage Balance	\$345,775.28
Edward Jones Balance	\$43,628.67

c. Pastor’s Report

Pastor Dale suggested that we each come up with a list of goals for SPL. We will discuss them at the Council Retreat on May 22, 2021.

I am grateful for the many volunteers that have been working so hard to keep our mission and ministries going throughout the pandemic. I especially want to lift up our musicians and children, youth, and family volunteers. The musicians, worship leaders, Sunday School, SPLASH, and Confirmation leaders have done very well and deserve recognition. Thank you to them all! Others have been good about cleaning, repairing, organizing various closets and rooms at the church, as well. All such good work. Our staff, committee chairs, and elected leaders, too, have all been great. The church is flourishing in so many ways, when we stop and look around for a moment. Well done, to all.

Upcoming Vacation Dates - May 24 - 27 - There will be an on-call pastor available for emergency pastoral care needs. Carrie and I will be moving our daughter, Annica, home from Washington state.

New Member Orientation - Wednesday, June 9, 7:00 p.m.

New Member Reception - Sunday, June 20

Beginning in-person, indoor Bible study in May. Two midweek opportunities will be offered. Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. ELCA Daily Discipleship curriculum will be used.

Pastor Podcast Idea - no interest yet. Will continue to promote.

Met with Pr. Justin Grimm about Renewal Grant from ELCA. Council will need to come up with goals that we'll work towards reaching in the next two to five years. We will work on this at our upcoming retreat on May 22.

Been working with SPLC Covid Resonse Team to navigate logistics of reopening church building at beginning of May and for resuming indoor worship on May 30. They will be submitting a separate report to council.

Have met with Worship and Music team to determine logistics of indoor/outdoor worship, music/hymn selections, and musician schedule moving forward. Also visited with Claudia Nelson about Altar Guild duties once indoor worship resumes.

My wife, Carrie, will be beginning her seminary internship June 1 at Glen Cary Lutheran Church in Ham Lake. Her supervising pastor at Glen Cary Lutheran has asked if our congregation would like to share in some of her preaching/teaching duties and responsibilities. He's thinking he could schedule her to preach once/month at SPLC and possibly teach an occasional Bible study and offer some spiritual direction. This would provide additional ministry experience in a different context that would benefit her and us.

Upcoming five-week preaching series on church mission statement will begin on Sunday, May 30. It will take a deeper look at what it means to "Share Christ's Love with Joy" in our worship, in our fellowship, in our outreach, in our unity, and in our service.

Have been visiting in-person, virtually, and on the phone with both active and homebound members. If anyone knows of a member who would like me to visit or contact, please let me know. Thank you.

Have been working with Melissa, Office Admin., on weekly Refresh and ReNEWS digital newsletter, including writing a weekly message. Also working with Melissa to make sure church website and calendar are current and up-to-date.

Upcoming in May

Saint Paul Area Synod Assembly (Virtual) - May 14-15. Carole England and Arlie Post are our elected delegates. We are all registered.

Upcoming in Worship:

Sunday, April 25 - Brooks Allan Buccanero baptism

Sunday, May 2 - Rite of Confirmation

Friday, May 7 - Elizabeth Mae Brainard baptism

Saturday, May 8 - Janet Brainard Celebration of Life

Sunday, June 6 - Graduate Recognition

Sunday, June 20 - New Member Reception

Sunday, July 11 - Begin eight-week "Journey Together" intergenerational preaching/teaching series

d. Committee Reports

- Sunday School - Katie Fetterly

Sunday School has been busy over the last few weeks. During Lent the kids studied stories about forgiveness - what it means to forgive and to be forgiven. During this time the kids also colored Easter cards that were sent out to the congregation. Julie C. helped us get this mailing out.

We have now moved into our unit on Joy. The kids are learning about all the joy that God has given to us and how to be joyful in each and every day.

Coming up in May we again will be holding the Mother's Day Plant Sale. The sale will be held over two days. Saturday, May 8th from 8:30 am to 11:00 am and Sunday, May 9th, before and after the worship service. This year we are excited to receive a Thrivent grant to help offset the costs of the sale. We thank the Nordhousens for their generous application on our behalf. Some of this grant is being used for advertising. We have been working with Julie C on the communications team to create flyers, a newspaper advertisement and hopefully some signs for the street.

As we wrap up this year for Sunday School, we have been planning curriculum for next fall. We are excited for the fun things that we have on tap!

- WAM - Kathie Marabella

Pr. Dale reminded us his and the Council's Installation will take place during the April 18 service. Justin Grimm from SPAS will be attending.

Rite of Confirmation for five young people is scheduled for May 2, outdoor service is planned. Discussed how communion will look during "in-church" services beginning May 30. The COVID Response Team is lead on this.

Musician schedules - Kim and Jeanne will work together to sort out who is available. We need more singers for the StPL Music Team. Pr. Dale will work with Jeanne and Kim to select hymns/songs for Sunday services.

Tentatively plan for May's WAM meeting to be held in-person at church.

- Communications - Julie Coozenoy

Local Paper Advertising

- Pastor Dale contacted the Chisago & Forest Lake papers about doing a story announcing him as our new pastor – hoping to combine this story with information about our current & upcoming worship schedule.
- o Pastor Dale will contact Melissa to see if she received any information about advertising in the local papers for Holy Week. If no information, contact will be made to see if we can still advertise.

Window Decals/Stickers

- The council asked the communications team to look into purchasing window stickers for vehicles.
- See attached list for company names to contact.

o Team members will contact these companies to get pricing and a sample of their product.

- In the future, we will look into purchasing t-shirts/sweatshirts to sell to the congregation

Ways you can contribute to the church?

- There are many ways members can contribute to the church – from monetary donations to volunteering of their time & talent. There are also other ways to contribute – donating your aluminum cans, shopping on Smile Amazon, pledging your Thrivent dollars to SPL, etc. We want this information conveyed monthly through CC; with the information always available on the website.

o Pastor Dale will work with Melissa to include the information, monthly, in CC and on the website.

Advertising to the Community our schedule change

- Are we doing any advertising to announce we have returned to (weather permitting) drive-in worship and the summer schedule beginning on May 30th with outdoor/indoor worship?

o See above for Pastor Dale contacting papers

- With the return of drive-in worship, we recommended a return of the hostess/hospitality team to assist members. We have seen many visitors with the arrival of Pastor Dale.

o Pastor Dale will work with Melissa to schedule and increase the bulletin count

Visitor Bags/New Member Kits

- Pastor would like the Communications team work with developing a visitor bag/new member kit
- o Add to next agenda

Personalized Greeting Cards – from the church

- We want to offer support to those who are mailing out birthday/anniversary cards to congregational members.

Those whom are mailing, want the age of recipients (mainly children), and to be sure their information is current. The communications team will work to ensure they receive a monthly birthday/anniversary list.

o Julie Coozenoy found a report in PowerChurch that gives the team the information they need – see attached. This report can easily be run each month – to ensure all information is as accurate as we have – and sent to Kathy & Carole.

- Fran Nordhausen created many beautiful cards -- birthday, sympathy, thinking of you and Easter to be used for outreach to the congregation. Carole England will continue to send out the “specialty cards” each month – and the Birthday/Anniversary cards will continue to alternate between Kathy Mills and Carole England. The Easter cards will be sent to our non-email members and various other members.

Easter Cards from Youth

- The Youth – Sunday School through Confirmation -- are coloring Easter cards to send to all congregational members and local businesses. Sunday School Coordinator worked with Julie Coozenoy to create the cards, inserts (with Holy Week information), mailing labels, etc.
- This project was first done with Christmas cards and very well received. Everyone loved receiving a card colored by one of our youth – could have been a three-year-old, or a teenager.

Community/Outreach Events

- The monthly food truck is a wonderful outreach project our congregation supports. The communications team would like to help promote additional congregational support by reminding the congregation they can drop-off food for this ministry at our weekly worship services, or while the church is open.

o Additional communication will be accomplished through the bulletin, CC and website

- Aluminum Cans – We want more visibility on the collection container that all are welcome to drop off cans.

o Rosie Quale (asked Jon) to find out pricing on a vinyl sign to put on the outside of the aluminum can collection container in the church parking lot. The sign will say “Cans for Christ” with our stained-glass logo – or similar.

- Covid Safety Team – Joanna Kroschel

The Covid Safety Team has been meeting Monday evenings to prepare for the return to in person worship on May 30th. In no particular order, some of our decisions/discussions the past few weeks include:

- No need for pre-registration as of now since numbers will likely be lower during the summer months and holiday weekend however sign in will be required.
- If the need arises, we will have overflow seating in the fellowship hall. We are working on installing a TV in there with the goal of having the service live streamed if needed. Logistics are still being worked out as to the best way to hardwire this.
- “Singles” or “couples” may join with others to make groups of no more than 6 in a pew. • Pews will be taped off to allow for social distancing. We will be meeting in person next week to measure and determine exact floorplan.

- We will take a picture shortly after worship has begun to know who was seated near whom in case we need to do contact tracing.
- Dave Hasselbauer is in charge of coordinating the ushers. The ushers will seat people as they come, likely front to back. They will also usher people out in reverse order.
- Socializing should be done outside.
- Masks will be required.
- Offering will continue to be collected as we have been with outdoor services, using the slot box.
- Communion will take place in the pews, not at the rail or via intinction. Pre-packaged communion cups will be distributed by the ushers. Mini garbage bags will be taped to the back of the pews to collect the garbage. Parishioners will be asked to remove and discard the garbage bags after the service. We'll move a garbage can to be near the sanctuary exit.
- Ushers will be responsible for cleaning up any forgotten garbage in the pews. The Alter Guild will reset the bags after Rise has been in to clean.
- Singing will be done with masks on.
- The Rise cleaning service did their first cleaning on 4/19. They will clean every other week. To limit any possible disruption to their schedule, they will not be in the Monday immediately following a service; rather they will be in the Monday after the church has been "empty." If there is any exposure in the building, the recommendation is to not use the building for 72 hours. We felt we would know about any potential exposure prior to their entry, thus limiting any potential exposure to their staff. The cost for this service has been covered by four families from the church.
- We will leave doors and windows open as much as possible while the building is in use to promote airflow.
- We will do a church wide cleaning day on May 1, inside and out.
- At this time, we should not be having food in the building.
- We discussed leaving the hymnals and Bibles out of the pews. A big concern was the communion elements and garbage possibly ruining the books. As long as everyone is careful, we will leave them in the pews for now.
- We will have index cards for addresses at Jan's memorial rather than a guest book.
- Need to discuss with Dale, but should/could we live stream Jan's memorial for those who can't attend safely in person?
- Melissa will be back in the office in May.
- We have letters drafted to send out to the congregation. They are attached to the minutes.
- Pastor Dale will announce and we'll have on the screen, that if you have symptoms after attending a service, you should contact the church office immediately.
- If, after a service, we discover someone to have Covid, or suspected Covid, Pastor Dale will contact the county for recommendations. We will send out an email to the congregation to notify everyone of a possible exposure. The Covid team will also call anyone that was at the service to leave a message regarding possible exposure.
- We discussed whether we should install touchless paper towel dispensers. The actual dispensers are \$30-130 each. We have 11 dispensers throughout the church. They are battery operated, and the paper towel rolls cost twice as much as the current rolls. We discussed potentially doing just the bathroom dispensers and doing the rest later. However, the hospitals still have hand turn dispensers. So, it is likely not worth our expense. We do have hand sanitizer stations throughout the church, including around the corner from the main bathrooms.

Childrens Ministries – Joanna Kroschel

- Sunday school has continued to meet outdoors after church.
- SPLASH has been meeting via Google Meet on Wednesday evenings and using the Re: form curriculum. The kids and I have been having some great discussions. As of this past Sunday, April 18th, we will meet Sundays after church to work on projects to prepare for VBS.

- Sam Kroschel and Adam Stoyke completed the First Communion class with Pastor Dale and had their First Communion on Easter Sunday.
- Confirmation has been meeting in person on Wednesday evenings. The 7th and 8th graders are done for the year while the 9th graders work on Faith papers, stoles, and finalizing plans for confirmation on May 2. This is in place of the traditional spring retreat.
This year's theme for VBS is Rocky Railway – Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through. The dates will be July 26-30 from 9-12. An email with the registration form was sent to everyone that attended VBS two years ago. A link has also been in Constant Contact for the past two weeks. A donation request list has also been in Constant Contact. I could use support in getting donations in sooner rather than later so we can prepare. Typically we go as a large group on the Tuesday night of VBS to Feed My Starving Children. However, as of right now, Feed My Starving Children is not accepting large groups of volunteers. Hopefully that changes. Typically we have a community picnic on Thursday evening of VBS week. I'm going to guess that Covid won't allow that this year, but it's something to keep on our radar. Brandy Timmons and I reorganized the VBS storage room and Tyler helped assemble shelving in the room to hold all of the totes. You can now walk in there again!
- The annual plant sale fundraiser will be May 8 from 8:30-11am and May 9 prior to and after worship. Assuming the weather cooperates, we will have the plants set up in the preschool parking lot and do the sale outdoors. This location will be more visible to the general public and hopefully we get a few more people to stop in when they see it. In addition, we will be out of the way for Jan's memorial service preparations. We do have a Thrivent Action grant to use for advertising. With council's blessing, Joanna's mom has agreed to provide embroidered dish towels to sell (flowers, butterflies, Mother's Day sayings, and religious themes) with the profit going to offset the cost of summer Bible camp for any kids that would like to attend. They would be sold during the plant sale. Profits from the plant sale cover the cost of the youth curriculum the following year.

5. **OLD BUSINESS**

- a. Safeguarding All God's Children - Zella O. will speak to Arlie P. about the plans
- b. Church Bell Update – Dave Haselbauer is hoping to have this working in time for the May 30th service.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

- a. COVID 19 Team/Reopening
 - The Building will open on May 3, 2021 and the 1st inside service will be held on May 30, 2021.
 - A letter was mailed to members stating the details of holding our first inside service.

- b. Council Retreat (May 22nd at Chris Clark residence)

Our Church Council is meeting for their Annual Church Council retreat at the home of Chris and Kim Clark on Saturday, May 22.

In addition to talking about our theme of *"Everyday Spirituality: Discovering a Life of Hope, Peace, and Meaning"* a significant portion of our time together will be spent on compiling a list of short (immediate - 2 years) and long (2-5 years) term goals for our congregation. This is an important part of the process for obtaining congregational re-development funds from the Saint Paul Area Synod and ELCA, which was introduced to our Council and Call Committee as an important and necessary key to calling me as a full-time, experienced pastor.

As the Church Council prepares to make decisions about congregational goals, your input is important and would be appreciated. Please, if interested, take a few minutes to answer the following questions and share them with the Church Council:

- 1) What do you value most about Saint Paul Lutheran Church?
- 2) What is Saint Paul Lutheran's greatest strength?
- 3) What is the purpose of Saint Paul Lutheran Church?
- 4) What immediate changes do you hope to see happen at Saint Paul Lutheran?
- 5) What do you envision at Saint Paul Lutheran in *two* years?
- 6) What do you envision at Saint Paul Lutheran in *five* years?
- 7) In what ways are you hopeful for the future of Saint Paul Lutheran?
- 8) In what ways will you commit to assuring your hopes are fulfilled?

- c. Stewardship/Fundraising plans
 - Pastor Dale has an idea to be revealed soon!
 - Some of the suggestions were as follows:
 - Script cards; involvement with Stagecoach Days (unsure if it will happen this year);
 - Vendor sales in the parking lot; get involved with local parades.

- d. Lawnmowing
 - Chris and Tom Miller will volunteer time to mow.
 - May 1 is scheduled for yard clean-up.

- e. Summer Musicians
 - Kim Clark will arrange the schedule for in-house music.
 - Pastor Dale will contact some bands that he knows.
 - Pastor Dale offered to lead with his guitar when needed.

- f. VBS (food)
 - Details are still being worked out.
 - The kitchen would need to be thoroughly sanitized before using.

- g. Jan Brainerd's Celebration of Life Service
 - Saturday, May 8th, 2021.
 - Meet and Greet at 11:30 / Service at Noon
 - Will set up for Facebook Live
 - Joanna will need volunteers for decorations

7. NEXT MEETING

- Tuesday, May 18, 2021 @ 6:30 PM
- Devotions: Chris Timmons

8. ADJOURN & PRAY

- A motion was made by Jaime Fraley to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Chris Clark. Unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned at 8:58 PM.
- Pastor Dale finalized the meeting with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Pat Clearence

Pat Clearence, St. Paul Lutheran Council Secretary