



St. Paul Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, April 17, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Affirmations – Pr Dale & Council

- **Altar Guild** – Work on Easter decorations
- **Jeanne R. & Kim C.** – organ/piano/music
- **Wendy K.**– Humble Bee Quilting/Sewing Group
- **Kathy M.** – Organizing counters. Writing Sunday prayers.
- **Melissa N.** – for all of her kindness, hard work, and efficiency in the church office.
- **Claudia N.** – bookkeeping and paying the bills
- **Marc & Kathy M., Brandy T., and Dave H.** - cleaning/organizing maintenance room.
- **Carole E.** – Coordinating the Planting Hope campaign as our congregational representative to the Synod.

Call to Order & Roll Call - Zella O. 6:50pm

- **Members present:** Pastor Dale Stiles, Zella Oswald, Chris Timmons, Ruth Koehly, Kathy Mills, Deb Cowing, Karen Rozeske.
- **Consent Agenda:** Motion made to approve by Zella O. No new items to add to agenda.
- **Finance and Budget Report:** Chris Timmons

| As of April 19, 2022 | ACTUAL |
|---|---------------|
| General Fund Offering | \$82,154 |
| Total Revenue | \$94,037 |
| Total Expenses (before mortgage) | \$56,038 |
| Total Expenses (after mortgage payment) | \$72,022 |
| Net Revenue (after Mortgage payment) | \$22,015 |
| Mortgage Balance | \$293,921 |
| Edward Jones Balance | \$53,795 |

Pastor's Report:

- This past month has been primarily focused on Lent and Holy Week. Ongoing worship/sermon preparation has consumed much of my time. I am thankful for altar guild members and sanctuary housekeeping for all their time and efforts at making Lent and Holy Week and Easter so meaningful. Thank you!
- We also enjoyed celebrating with three of our young people as they received their first communion on Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. (Abigail Duax, Erin Olson, and Piper Pederson). They received their communion instruction on Saturday, April 9.
- We also completed our six-week Planting Hope Appeal emphasis with Bishop Lull's visit on March 27. To date, nearly \$2000 has been donated from members of our congregation toward this appeal of the Synod's. Thank you!
- Behind the scenes LADC (Lake Area Discovery Center) has been busy preparing our preschool rooms for their Family Fun Night on April 21. They held an all-day work-day on Monday, April 4. They have the rooms decorated and ready for the Fun Night and for individual family tours. They love the space and are eager to open up to serve families, hopefully September 1st. Much more info can be found on our church website under preschool link.
- I continue to serve on the Iringa Committee at the Synod office. We met via Zoom again on Monday, April 11. This is a great way to stay connected with Bega Kwa Bega and inform our congregation of any updated or new information regarding our partnership with Mtera and Mgoli.
- Confirmation resumes on April 27 and we are scheduled to confirm two ninth graders on May 22 (Madison Miller and Kristina Styoke).
- I am continually grateful for our Covid Response Team as we are still navigating safety policies. See Covid Team Report for more details.
- Worship schedule is complete through Labor Day. We will begin worshipping outdoors every other week again beginning Memorial Day weekend, Sunday, May 29.
- We have two baptisms scheduled on Mother's Day, May 8. Our children and youth will be leading worship for us at our Sunday School Celebration Sunday on May 15. Katie F. and Chris C. will be planning and coordinating this service. No communion will be offered at this service (I'll be on vacation May 11-18).
- Am now working on planning a new Bible Study series and potential Summer preaching series.
- In addition to every day worship/sermon/bible study planning and prep I continue to respond to pastoral care needs as they arise. I am so grateful for our members are so good at visiting, calling and checking up on other members in need. We are very good at "sharing Christ's love with joy" as our mission statement calls us to do.
- I am grateful for the new energy and level of enthusiasm that is being felt among our congregation. We are meeting our financial needs and worship attendance continues to

increase. We are definitely living into our new norm, and it is good. As always, please reach out if you have any questions or need any clarification. Thank you! Pr. Dale

Children's Ministry:

- The Sunday school kids are still working to stop Dr. H. from stealing Bible heroes. The last class will be May 15th. That day, the lesson will be brought into the worship service to help share with the congregation what they have been learning. Kids of all ages will help lead the service.
- There will be an end of the year celebration with the congregation after the service. The annual Mother's Day plant sale will be Saturday, May 7 from 9 A.M.-1 P.M. in the preschool parking lot, weather permitting. The proceeds go towards the youth curriculum for the following year.
- Pastor Dale held a first communion class on April 9th and 3 students attended. Erin Olson and Piper Pederson had their first communion on Maundy Thursday, and Abigail Duax had her first communion on Easter Sunday.
- The SPLASH kids had a lesson on Psalm 23 and Karen Rozeske helped them make bracelets to help remember each verse. They also had a lesson on the 12 disciples and will make one last video for the Sunday school.
- Confirmation has been on break during Lent. They will resume class next Wednesday. They will have one last class all together and then the 9th graders will meet to work on their stoles and faith papers. Confirmation will be held on Sunday, May 22.
- VBS will be August 1-4 from 5:30-8 P.M. We'll have an optional dinner from 5-5:30 P.M. The theme is Monumental-Celebrating God's Greatness. The parents were all polled and these dates/times worked the best for the most families. We're hoping for increased participation from our families with this change in time.
- We are looking at making a change to the education programming for next year. Most notably, we'd like to have "Sunday school" on Wednesday evenings, along with the confirmation and SPLASH programming. Early ideas are to have a meal that evening prior to classes starting.

COVID Response Team Report:

The Covid Response Team met via email again on April 14. The consensus was to remove the social distanced markings in the sanctuary for Easter Sunday and put them back in place until May 29 (as previously decided). There are legitimate reasons for this. If curious, please contact Pr. Dale or any member of the Team. Also, it was decided to remove the Sharing of the Peace signs from the book racks and the Sharing of the Peace time in worship all together (beginning Easter Sunday), until May 29 when we begin worshipping outdoors again. For now we will encourage members to continue sharing before and after worship as they are already doing. No changes made to how communion is served or offering is collected. The Team will continue to monitor the progression of the virus and any new variants that may come up.

Keenager Ministry Report: No Report

Visitation Ministry Team Report: The team visited: Pat C., Arnie R., and Josie P.

Old Business:

- **St. Paul Lutheran Discovery Center (Preschool) Update** - Pastor Dale updates in Pastor's report
- **COVID Response Update** - Pastor Dale updates in team report
- **ELCA Strategic Ministry Covenant/Goals, Hopes & Dreams Update** - Pastor Dale – Reviewed the goals set in May 2021. We've been making good progress on completion of two-year goals, including: creation of new quilting/sewing group (Humble Bees), re-opening of pre-school (LADC - St. Paul Lutheran Discovery Center to open 9/1/22), increase and improve our use and presence of our church's social media (facebook and instagram). Still much work to do on remaining goals (can be found on our website under Church Council tab.)
- **Planting Hope Synod Capital Campaign** - thanked Carole E. for her coordination as our congregational representative. See more in Pr. Dale's report.
- **Blood Drive Update** – Zella O./Kathy M. – Thursday, May 12. On for now. The presence of box elder bugs in church building is a potential issue. May have to spray. Will evaluate as the date approaches.

New Business:

- No new business.

Next Meeting

- Date & Time: May 24, 6:30 p.m. (date pushed back a week to accommodate Pr. Dale's vacation)
- Devotions: Deb C.

Adjourn: Ruth K. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Karen R. seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Closed with Lord's Prayer