

**St. Paul Lutheran Church**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday, December 17, 2024**



**Gathered** at 5:30 for Social Time

**Devotions:** Led by Kimberly Bahls. Philippians 4:6-7. Kimberly read the verses to us twice so we could absorb and think about what was said. "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

**Call to order** at 6:05 p.m. by President Deb Cowing

**Present:** Andy Buccanerro, Kimberly Bahls, Deb Cowing, Chris Timmons, Carole England, Christina Fashner, Karen Rozeske, Linda Welch, Kristina Stoyke, Pr. Carrie and Pr. Dale Stiles

**Consent Agenda:** A motion was made by Kimberly Bahls to accept the agenda. Seconded by Andy Buccanerro. Motion carried.

**Affirmations:**

- A Thank you to Christina Fashner and Sally Lijedahl for shopping for care packages for college students.
- Thank you to Brandi Timmons for organizing The Angel Tree and gifts. Also for decorating the board in the narthex.
- Thank you to the parents of the children in the Christmas program for all the practices at home. A special thanks to Christina and Pam for their work on the program.
- Thank you to Matt Rauner for his intentional welcoming of people on Sunday mornings. Thank you also to Matt for painting the ceiling of the Sanctuary above the altar where it had leaked.
- Thank you to all the faithful cleaners who keep the church looking good. See the list in Pastor Carrie's report.
- Thank you to Carole England for planning and providing monthly activities for the seniors at St. Paul Lutheran.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris Timmons and Treasurer Andy Buccanerro continue to work together. Since September, our average revenue per month has been \$22,963. Our average expenses per month over that time have been \$27,372. That's a difference of \$4,409 per month. If that trend continues, we will expand our current general fund bank balance of \$18,156 in roughly 4 months. Expenses for the early part of the year are typically higher due to winter utility bills and snow removal. With that in mind 3 months is a more conservative estimate.

<b>Through 11/31/2024</b>	<b>ACTUAL</b>
General Fund Offering	\$182,001
Total Revenue	\$248,137
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$231,228
Total Expenses (after mortgage payment)	\$289,836
Net Revenue (after Mortgage payment)	(\$41,699)
Mortgage Balance	\$150,355
Edward Jones Balance	\$46,866

### **Pastor Dale's Monthly Report:**

Highlights Include:

- Nov. 22 - Discovery Center Grandparents/Special Friends Day
- Nov. 23 - Pat Crawford Funeral
- Nov. 27 - Thanksgiving Eve Worship
- Dec. 4 - West of 55 Birthday and Christmas Celebration.
- Dec. 4 & 11 - Advent Soup Suppers and Evening Vespers
- Dec. 15 - Children's Christmas Program
- Generally, Advent and Christmas planning are always a highlight!

Upcoming:

- December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship, 4:00 p.m.
- December 29 - Service of Lessons & Carols
- January 12 - ENGAGE (Baptism): Worship - Why We Worship the Way We Do?
- January 26 - Annual Congregational Mtg. - 10:30 a.m.
- February 2 - ENGAGE (Lord's Prayer): Worship - Why We Worship the Way We Do?

Ongoing:

- Coordinating church maintenance repairs/needs when/as needed (especially as relates to Discovery Center)
- Social Media updates and announcements
- Weekly worship and music planning
- Pastoral care and counseling (includes visiting homebound/hospitalized)
- Synodical Committees (Iringa and BKB Post Secondary Scholarship)
- North Conference Rostered Leaders Gathering (monthly)

## **Pastor Carrie's Monthly Report:**

### Appreciation-

- For the cleaners the preschool bathroom cleaners: Deb Cowing, Christina Fashner, Melissa Nelson, Dale and Carrie Stiles
- Brandi Timmons for all the organizing of the Angel Tree
- Sally and Christina Fashner for buying college care packages
- Sally Lijedahl and Christina Fashner for shopping for care packages for college students
- All who helped make the Christmas program so fun! And run so smoothly.
- Pam Heaton, Christina Fashner, Holly Maeckelbergh, Kim Clark, and Chris Timmons

### Highlights:

- Advent Planning-Do Not Be Afraid
- Christmas program
- Wild Faith for Littles on Saturday, November 23
- The Angel Tree- dropping off all the gifts at The Little Foster Shoppe for foster children in Minnesota

### Ongoing

- Preaching and Pastoral Care
- The Table and learning
- HEAL group
- Spiritual Direction group meeting once a month
- Creation Care and pollinator garden planning
- The Mortgage Appeal

### Upcoming and Planning For

- Engage:Worship on January 12 on Holy Baptism
- Youth Mission Trip to Milwaukee-August 3-8
- Sandwich Project with Discovery Center on Wednesday January 22, 2025

### **New Business:**

- **Mortgage Payoff Special Appeal - UPDATE** - Per Pastor Peter Reuss's plan, Pastor Dale and Pastor Carrie have been inviting "lead gifts" for the mortgage payoff. As of December 23rd (at publishing of these minutes) a total of nine lead gifts have been committed, totaling \$34,550. \$22,600 of that total has already been received. Seventeen letters were sent and follow-up phone calls and in some cases, visits, were made. There are others to be followed up with. This is a great start!
- **Action Item Follow-up:** Reimagining the Cry Room in the sanctuary into a Prayer Room. This action item was completed last month.

### **Ongoing Business**

- **2025 Annual Budget** - Continued conversation and planning.

- **2025 Annual Congregational Meeting** - Sunday, January 26, 10:30 a.m. Continued conversation, planning and preparation. Reports need to be submitted by January 3. Church Council Position Openings - Linda Welch, Kristina Stoyke, and Deb Cowing complete their terms on Church Council this January. Their transition creates openings for two Member-at-Large positions and the role of President. Current Member-at-Large Christina Fashner has agreed to serve a two-year term as President. Chris Janelle has accepted to complete Christina's remaining one-year term as Member-at-Large. Additionally, Steve Greseth and Thomas Stoyke have agreed to serve in the two full-term Member-at-Large positions. These open positions have begun being publicized on Sunday, Nov. 10 and will continue to be through Sunday, Dec.22. Anyone interested in serving in one of these roles should notify either pastor or a member of council. Beyond these names, no one has expressed interest yet. This will likely be our final ballot with any nominations still to be asked from the floor.
- **New Action Items are Needed** and review additional SPLC Strategic ministry and Mission Goals. This will be tabled until all the new Council Members are in place.
- **New Church Sign** - Completed! Well Done!
- **Bridge the Gap Update** - the initial \$30K has been matched! Well Done!
- **LADC Discovery Center** (Preschool) Update - reached our 80% enrollment (86%). A \$2500 enrollment bonus lease payment has been received!

### Ministry Team Reports

- **Creation Care Team** (Kristina) - No Update
- **Worship & Music** (Pr. Dale/Pr. Carrie) - Advent and Christmas planning
- **Building & Grounds** (Pr. Dale) - Paint touchup in the Sanctuary (above chancel) is completed
- **Senior Group** (West of 55) (Carole E.) - December's birthday and Christmas celebration was well attended with 4 round tables used. Potluck was great, jeopardy and trivia was fun, ending with the Nativity Story (left/right) and the passing of surprise gifts.
- **Humble Bees** (Karen) - Quilt raffle made \$935. Quilts won by Pat Miska, Kathy Mills and Chris Janelle
- **Children, Youth, and Family** (Pr. Carrie/Kristina/Christina) - Christmas Program practice and planning is going well. ( Attendance was 208 in church and 48 online) Mission trip planning. Comments by many that they love to see the children in worship and included in the service.
- **Altar Guild** (Kimberly B.) - No report.

### Next Meeting

Tuesday, January 21, 6:00 p.m

Devotions: Christina Fashner

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn by Kimberly Bahls and seconded by Kristina Stoyke.

### Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Carole England, Secretary