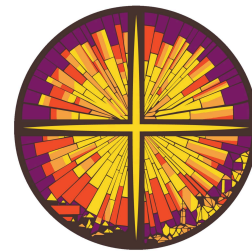


St. Paul Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, November 19, 2024



Gathered at 5:30 p.m. for Social Time

Devotions: Led by Linda Welch. Praising God - Psalm 150:2 and 1 Thessalonians 5 and 16:8 Thankfulness. We all shared what we were thankful for, mostly family, children, church community and others.

Call to Order at 6:05 p.m. by Vice President, Karen Rozeske. President Deb Cowing took over when she arrived at 6:30 p.m.

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

Consent Agenda: A motion was made by Andy Buccanerro to accept the agenda. Seconded by Christina Fashner. Motion carried.

Affirmations:

- Thank you to the team of Kimberly Bahls, Carole England, Zella Oswald and Wendy Hazzard for creating and moving the prayer corner into the old cry room. It has been well received.
- Thank you to Karen Rozeske for the new banner.
- Thank you to Cindy Gruett for her continued work in changing the banners as needed.

Treasurer's Report: Chris T. and Treasurer Andy B. continue to work together.

Through 10/31/2024	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$164,490
Total Revenue	\$221,636
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$205,471
Total Expenses (after mortgage payment)	\$258,751
Net Revenue (after Mortgage payment)	(\$37,115)
Mortgage Balance	\$150,344
Edward Jones Balance	\$46,866

Pastor Dale's Monthly Report:

Highlights Include:

- October 13 - New Member Reception (fourteen new members were received! 28 total YTD for 2024.)
- October 13 - Welcomed Pastor Judy Simonson to worship to bring greetings and appreciation to SPLC.
- October 15 - 22 - Vacation to Washington State.
- October 20 - Welcome Guest Pastor, Marla Amborn. She again enjoyed her time with you.
- October 27 - Reformation/ENGAGE/Bible Sunday - This was a great day of celebration and learning!
- November 10 - Stewardship Sunday
- November 17 - Pledge/Commitment Sunday
- All Church Sign funding received! Footing and Frame has been installed
- Generous response to Tanzanian Secondary School Scholarships - \$5000! (Will fund 10 students for one year)

Upcoming:

- November 24 - ENGAGE: Worship Sunday (Theme: Holy Communion)
- November 27 - Thanksgiving Eve worship
- December 1 - First Sunday of Advent and Greening of the Church
- December 4, 11, 18 - Midweek Worship and Soup Suppers
- December 8 - Next Bridge The Gap Sunday (from Apathy to Mission)
- December 15 - Annual Children's Christmas Program during worship
- December 24 - Christmas Eve Worship, 4:00 p.m.
- December 29 - Service of Lessons & Carols

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 last three months: Christina Fashner, Sally Lijedahl, Becca and Justin Marsters, Paulette Miller, Emily Stegner, the Stoyke Family, Linda Welch, Fritz Wheatley

Highlights

- Finished the book study "I think you are wrong (but I am listening)" by Sarah Stewart Holland and Beth Silvers
- Bibles Milestone- for 3rd Grade and Preschool and Engage:Worship
- Bishops Theological Convention Oct. 13-15

- The Table service project- tie blankets for Camp Noah, an Lutheran Social Service Program for kids in areas of trauma (mostly natural disasters)

Ongoing

- Preaching and Pastoral Care
- The Table and learning for all ages
- HEAL group
- Spiritual Direction group meeting once a month
- Organizing meals for The Table
- Youth Mission Trip to Milwaukee-August 3-8
- Creation Care and pollinator garden planning

Upcoming and Planning For

- Advent Planning-Do Not Be Afraid
- Wild Faith for Littles on Saturday, November 23
- Engage:Worship on November 24
- Stewardship and planning for next year
- Christmas Program on December 15 with the Discovery Center
- Lefsa Fundraiser for Mission Trip

New Business

- **Church Council Position Openings** – Linda Welch, Kristina Stoyke, and Deb Cowing complete their terms on the Church Council this January. Their transition creates opening 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 one of these roles should notify the pastor or a member of council.
- **Exec. Committee Update** was given to the council. The Exec. Committee met on Tuesday, Nov. 12.
 - Andy's Financial Update on Stewardship Sunday, Nov. 10th was well done.
 - Discussion and planning for a mortgage payoff appeal beginning in January 2025 as part of our fourth goal of Bridge The Gap (Becoming Debt Free).
 - Discussion of the Stewardship For All Seasons Training which begins in May.
- **Mortgage payoff appeal** was discussed. Unlocking Financial Freedom to Expand Our Mission of Sharing Christ's Love with Joy. Paying off the Mortgage is our ticket out of redevelopment and will free up approximately \$64,000 annually. This is the right time to proceed with this appeal as it will allow us to be flexible to respond to the needs in our congregation and community with new ministry opportunities. The momentum is here now. Pastor Dale and Pastor Carrie will reach out to some individuals with an invitation with the opportunity to give a lead gift. A Case for Support has been created explaining this special appeal. Rev. Peter Reuss, an ELCA pastor and certified fundraising executive who serves God by guiding congregations, synods, and other ministries to discern God's

vision met with the council in a Zoom call at 6:30 p.m. Following the Zoom call and a short discussion, a motion to move ahead with this mortgage special appeal was made by Kimberly Bahls and seconded by Karen Rozeske. Motion carried unanimously. Details of the appeal will continue to be developed before being presented publicly at the Annual Congregational Meeting on January 26, 2025. An introduction of it will be included in the Written Annual Report that is made available two weeks prior to the meeting.

- **Additional Redevelopment Funding!** The ELCA Domestic Ministry and Mission office has granted St. Paul Lutheran another \$5000 in redevelopment funds for 2025. St. Paul Area Synod will contribute an additional \$10,000. Praise the Lord! These were unexpected funds! God provides!

Action Item Follow-Up

- **Reimagining the current Cry Room** in the sanctuary into a Prayer Room. This will be used for Prayer Team use, weekly individual meditative prayer space and pastoral prayer/counseling space, etc. Kimberly Bahls and Carole England invited Zella Oswald and Wendy Hazzard to help with this task. The room is ready and now in use. This action item is complete.

Ongoing Business

- **New Action Items are Needed.** Review additional SPLC Strategic ministry and Mission Goals: This has been tabled until after the first of the year and the new council members are present.
- **New Church Sign Update** - All funding has been received, including the gift from the Hallberg Foundation. All city permits have been granted. New footing and frame has been installed. Production of the sign is about 50% complete.
- **Bridge the Gap Update** - current funds raised are \$28,728/\$30,000. The quilt raffle funds are earmarked for BTG. Due to early completion of this part of the appeal, we will be able to shift emphasis from donation match to mortgage payoff in 2025.
- **LADC Discovery Center (Preschool) Update** - They have reached their 80% enrollment (86%) which means an additional \$2,500 in lease payments. They have been asked to provide an annual report to be included in St. Paul Lutheran's Annual Written Report.

Ministry Team Reports

- **Creation Care Team (Kristina)** - Applying for a grant to use toward a pollinator garden
- **Worship and Music (Pr. Dale/Pr. Carrie)** - Advent planning. A new banner has been made by Karen Rozeske. Cindy Gruett changes the banners as needed and Amy Buccanerro has offered to help with this task.
- **Building and Grounds (Pr. Dale)** - Janet Miller from LADC is applying for a \$20,000 grant to use towards replacement of two classroom exterior doors. The bid was estimated at \$24,000. LADC will cover any cost over the grant.
- **Senior Group (Carole E.)** - Wednesday November 13 was a Progressive Lunch. Starting at church with appetizers then off to either Hudon's or Gatzow's for soup and finishing at the church with dessert with a short bible lesson. Looking ahead on December 4 we will celebrate Pr. Carrie's 55th birthday with a potluck and some Christmas trivia.
- **Humble Bees - (Karen)** - The current quilt raffle continues. Quilt given by Mary Haselbauer which will be raffled in the spring. More pocket bookmarks are being made.

- **Children, Youth, and Family (Pr. Carrie/Kristina/Christina)** - Working on the Christmas Program. Looking forward to a Mission Trip for 7-12th grade youth to Milwaukee, WI. Two other churches will be joining along with St. Paul Lutheran. This is through Service Learning Camps.
- **Altar Guild (Kimberly)** - Everything is going good. The new keyless door lock on the sacristy is nice. Thanks to Chris and Brandy Timmons for donating and installing the new lock.

Next Meeting

- Tuesday, December 17, 6:00 p.m.
- Devotions: Kimberly Bahls

Adjournment. Motion to adjourn by Chris Timmons and seconded by Deb Cowing. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Carole England, Council Secretary