



St. Paul Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 18, 2023

Devotion – Led by Linda W. “God’s Perfect Timing” – Miracles happen according to God’s planned and designed purpose. Keep the faith because God is never early, never late, but always on time. Ecclesiastes 3. Eight suggestions were handed out for “what to do while we’re waiting for God’s timing to happen.” Thank you for the reminder, Linda!

Called to Order by Deb Cowing at 6:45 p.m.

Members Present: Chris Timmons, Deb Cowing, Karen Rozeske, Kristina Stoyke, Linda Welch, Ruth Koehly, and Pastor Dale Stiles. **Members Absent:** Carole England and Kathy Mills.

Consent Agenda:

- No new items were added to the agenda.

Treasurer’s Report: Chris T. reported that our financial numbers are consistent with previous years and are right where they typically are at four months into the year. No cause for concern at this time.

Through 4/18/2023	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$ 74,639
Total Revenue	\$ 90,825
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$ 64,920
Total Expenses (after mortgage payment)	\$ 86,232
Net Revenue (after Mortgage payment)	\$ 4,593
Mortgage Balance	\$ 239,880
Edward Jones Balance	\$ 40,999

Pastor’s Report:

- **Finished up Lenten season** and learning series, “Just Wondering, Jesus: Questions from the Roadside.” Holy Week (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thurs., and Good Friday) went well. Thanks to all those who participated in many and various ways.
- **Easter Sunday** - April 9 - A great morning. 160 people present! Good energy. Great music. Grateful for all volunteers who helped decorate for Easter.
- **Seven New Members Received** on April 16. (Amy, Andy, Brooks Bucanerro; Tricia and Dale Thompson, Kimberly Bahls, Steve Greseth)
- **Tanzania Trip Planning.** Initial trip interest meeting was held on 3/19. Twenty-two people expressed interest. Carrie and I attended a trip planning workshop at the synod office on 3/23. We held a trip

planning meeting at church on 4/3. Nineteen people remained interested. We are now down to seventeen. We are currently deciding on travel dates that will be sometime in July 2024. Once dates are decided more information will be communicated to the congregation.

- Have continued to evaluate **volunteer church cleaning** progress. So far, so good. Thankful for all who have volunteered to clean. More volunteers would be appreciated.
- Met with representative from **Midco to look at new phone system options**. Chris T. and Melissa N. also were a part of this and a proposal will be shared with the council.
- In conversation with Bishop's Assistant, Pastor Justin Grimm at synod office about our **vision for shared pastoral ministry** that was approved at our annual meeting in January. He confirmed this will be a "targeted call" for Carrie and shared next steps. Carrie was formally approved for ordained ministry on 4/13 and completed her two year internship on 4/16. She will be assigned to St. Paul Area Synod on 5/23. In the meantime our council will complete and submit our updated Ministry Site Profile and position description. Per our constitution, Council will appoint a six member Call Committee to formally interview Carrie after she has been assigned to the synod. Once interviewed the Call Committee will recommend her to the Council, who will then call a special congregational meeting for the purpose of formally voting to extend her the part-time co-pastor position beginning July 1. Deb C. will share all this with the congregation in a Temple Talk at the beginning of worship on May 7.
- **The Table has resumed** on 4/12. Feed My Starving Children mobile food packing event on 4/19. Forty volunteers have signed up! So proud of our church!
- **Summer Plans** have been made and promoted including: Adult Bible Study Potluck picnics once/month; Campfire and S'mores on Wednesday nights in June; Outdoor worship; and VBS Community Picnic.
- Ongoing **pastoral care and counseling**. As always, please let me know if there is someone I should be visiting or calling on.

Ministry Team Reports:

- **Worship & Music:** Many contributed to our beautiful Lenten, Holy Week, and Easter worship services. Many thanks to all! Jeanne R., Kim C., and Pr. Dale continue to select music and hymns for worship. Altar Guild continues to faithfully set up/clean up communion and tidy up the sanctuary, weekly. Many others (including worship assistants, ushers, greeters, and prayer team members) are involved in making worship happen. Thank you!
- **Building & Grounds:** All furnace filters have been replaced. Thank you, Marc M.! There is a long list of facility needs and repairs. Property & Grounds Committee is meeting this Thursday.
- **Humble Bees:** Meet twice monthly, Monday and Saturday. Quilt kits continue to be prepared. The Children's busy bags were checked and ready for little worshippers. Work on a new project for future graduating high school seniors. New, interested members have been coming! Great news!
- **Global Mission Team:** Still no formal Team meeting until after Tanzania Trip dates and participants have been finalized. Grateful for so much interest in the trip. Seventeen members of SPLC are currently interested. Trip deposits and final commitments are due June 1 for a July 2024 trip.
- **Children, Youth, and Family:** Sunday school (Kid's Table) has 3 more lessons planned after the Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) event on 4/19. Their focus is "families." SPLASH has 2 more lessons planned after the FMSC event. They have been doing the lessons that correspond to The Table themes. The Rite of Confirmation service will be May 21. In addition to the Wednesday classes, the ninth grade confirmands (Lauren Kroschel, Tucker Pederson, and Conner Fraley) will be meeting on May 2, 11, and 16 to work on their stoles and faith statements. Brandy T. helps with the stole making. The Annual

Mother's Day Plant Sale fundraiser will be May 13 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. As usually, funds raised go towards the cost of children's and youth education curriculum. VBS will be July 10-14 from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Registration forms are currently available. Donation requests are on the bulletin board in the Narthex and QR codes are also on the board linking folks directly to the Amazon and Group.com wish lists. Joanna is using Thrivent Action grants for VBS supplies/decorations and for t-shirts. Lucy S. is working on a t-shirt image. The spaceship is nearing completion. Joanna can always use folks who want to volunteer to help with other decorations. We will also need adult volunteers the week of VBS. Volunteers should fill out a registration form as well. The community picnic will be July 13 at 5:30 p.m.

- **Altar Guild:** Four new members have been added! Grateful for such interest. A meeting will be held in May, led by Brandy T. and Karen R.
- **Finance Team:** No meeting this month. Claudia N. is still out of town and Chris T. work schedule conflicted. New members are still needed for this Team. Talk to Pr. Dale or Chris T. if interested.
- **The Table:** The Table resumed after Easter on 4/12. The current learning series is "Faith: The Wandering Life" A study of the Apostle's Creed. Our last night of The Table for this program year will be May 17 and will include potluck for the meal.

New Business

- **Council approval needed to cover cost of hydraulic lift for overhead sanctuary light bulb replacement and repair:** Deb C. shared that she and her husband, Steve, have a contact who could loan us a lift at no charge. What a gift! Pr. Dale will reach out to members of the property and grounds committee to see about getting a crew together to do the work.
- **Church Membership Update and Church Photo Directory Plan:** A representative from Unique Church Solutions (Church Membership and Photo Directory Services), Bret Musselman (formerly from LifeTouch) reached out to Pr. Dale and Melissa N. about assisting with our membership roster update and member photo directory. Bret has openings in October and November of this year to assist our church. No vote was necessary, but the council agreed that the timing is right to update our membership roster and get a new church photo directory. Pr. Dale and Melissa N. will contact Bret to get us on the schedule for Oct./Nov. 2023. More information will be shared at upcoming council meetings and, when ready, with the congregation.

Ongoing Business

- **Church Cemetery Records:** On Tuesday, April 18, Kim O. and Dave H. returned all church cemetery records to the church office for safe keeping and administration. Pr. Dale and Melissa met with Kim and Dave to receive the materials and learn how to administer sale and maintenance of plots. Dave will remain primary contact for cemetery concerns and Kim will still be available for consult as needed. Thank you to Kim and Dave!
- **Church Phone System UPDATE:** Pr. Dale and Melissa N. met with a representative from Midco (our current phone/internet service provider) to hear about upgrade options for our currently outdated and dysfunctional phone system. We were presented with a cost estimate that includes four new phones (three in church offices and one in fellowship hall) and an increase in internet bandwidth, and the features that come with the new phones. The estimate is \$100/month more than what we are currently paying – a \$1200 annual increase (\$800 for the remainder of 2023). After discussion a motion

was made by Karen R. to accept the proposal and schedule the new phones and system for installation. Chris T. seconded the motion. The motion passed. Pending additional Finance Team feedback, Chris T. will contact Midco to schedule the installation.

- **Church Cleaning Plan/Update/Evaluation:** All agree that the current system of volunteers cleaning is working. All of our volunteers are happy to help. There is a signup sheet on the table in the narthex with available dates to sign up to clean. More volunteers would be appreciated. The council will continue to monitor and evaluate this. The building will see less use during the Summer months which should lessen some of the cleaning needs. Talk to a member of the council if you have questions or concerns about the cleaning.
- **Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale:** Deb C. shared that we are in need of volunteers to sign up to help. There are some who said they could help but haven't signed up yet. Please sign up on the sheet in the narthex if you're able to help. The preschool staff will be onsite this year and will offer games, activities, and crafts for children. Also the playground will be open and tours of the classrooms will be offered to any potentially interested families. Sale will be from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- **Part-time Co-Pastor Position Description and Ministry Site Profile:** Initial drafts of these two documents were handed out at March Council meeting. After discussion and review a motion was made by Linda W. to approve both documents for submission to the synod office. Ruth K. seconded the motion. The motion passed. Pr. Dale will submit the documents to the synod office. Both documents will be made available to the congregation two weeks prior to a special congregation meeting (date TBD) for the purpose of voting on extending the part-time co-pastor position.
- **LADC Discovery Center (Preschool) Update:** Summer and Fall (2023) enrollment numbers are up! LADC assures us that this is very good for our site, especially in their first year of operation. A recruiting event will be held in conjunction with the Mother's Day Plant Sale. The Discovery Center staff will also have activities for the children and tours for interested parents during the sale.
- **ELCA Strategic Ministry Covenant/Goals, Hopes & Dreams discussion:** Again, being considered a church in redevelopment (and receiving redevelopment funds from the Synod and ELCA) we need to continue to create and evaluate our strategic ministry goals and objectives. A recurring update/account of how we're doing with these goals needs to be sent to the Synod office. This will take place during our Spring Church Council retreat scheduled for May 18 at the Rozeske home in North Branch. A discussion of potential short-term (6 month) special giving appeals (if needed) will also be had.
- **Spring Church Council Retreat:** Karen R. has graciously volunteered her home for the retreat which was decided to be held May 18th, from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Our regularly scheduled Council meeting (5/16) will be combined with the retreat. A discussion of food to be shared was had. Karen and Ron will provide grilled brats and buns. Ruth K. and Deb C. offered to bring salads. Chris T. will bring hors d'oeuvres (cheese, crackers, and such); Kristina S. will bring chips. Carole E. will bring apple and cherry pie with Door County cherries!
- **UPDATE on Parking Lot Light Pole Replacement:** Insurance money (\$4220) from snowplow company (Groundforce) was received. As soon as replacement parts are delivered NEI Electric from White Bear Lake will install. Delivery of parts is expected later this week (potentially Thursday).

Next Meeting:

- Thursday, May 18, 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Adjournment:

- Karen R. made the motion to adjourn. Second by Kristina S. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Pr. Dale Stiles (in Carole England's absence)