



**St. Paul Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 21, 2023**

God Sightings: Everyone shared a God Sighting.

Called to Order by Deb Cowing at 6:56 p.m.

Members Present: Chris Timmons, Carole England, Deb Cowing, Karen Rozeske, Kathy Mills, Kristina Stoyke, Linda Welch, Pastor Dale Stiles

Members Absent: Ruth Koehly

Consent Agenda:

- New Business Items to add to agenda.
 - A vote needed to approve a new south parking lot pole LED light (header).

Treasurer's Report:

Through 3/20/2023	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$ 59,744
Total Revenue	\$ 71,213
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$ 49,685
Total Expenses (after mortgage payment)	\$ 65,669
Net Revenue (after Mortgage payment)	\$ 5,544
Mortgage Balance	\$ 244,408
Edward Jones Balance	\$ 40,999

Pastor's Report:

Highlights:

- **Annual Synod Toolkit and Conference Assembly** on February 25 at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church in Apple Valley. Carole England, Zella Oswald, Kathie Marabella and Pastor Dale attended. A great time for Conference business, learning workshops, Worship, and fellowship.
- **The Sandwich Project** was offered at the Table on February 15 and also after worship on February 26. Blessing Cards and 375 sandwiches were made and delivered to the

Immanuel Tabernacle Baptist Church in St. Paul. These sandwiches and cards are then distributed to the unhoused in the community.

- **Lenten Series continues**, “Just Wondering, Jesus ... Questions from the Roadside” Good and honest questions of faith and life are being asked by the congregation. Also enjoying Soup Supper on Wednesday before the worship with the Holden Evening Vesper Prayer. A special Thank You to all who help make these special evenings. There are generally 25-30 people attending.
- **Planning ahead for Holy Week and Easter Services.**
- **First Communion Instruction** is being offered and will be celebrated on Maundy Thursday if any show interest this year.
- **New Member Reception** - April 16, the Sunday after Easter during worship. Four families have committed with a few still considering. Deb Cowing is working on getting photos and brief biographies to be part of the bulletin that day. Melissa is ordering a cake and corsages.
- **Working to update the Ministry Site Profile and the co-pastor position description.** Steps of calling a part-time co-pastor were explained at our annual meeting and when approved by the church council, will be shared with the congregation and synod staff, probably sometime in May.
- **Regular contact with our Discovery Center Site Director**, Lily Strain, and staff. Enrollment for Summer and Fall is already looking good.
- **Attended two North Conference Pastor’s meetings.** One at Zion Lutheran in Chisago City with Luther Seminary Professor Emeritus, Paul Westermeyer, as guest speaker and he addressed some of the challenges our ELCA congregations are experiencing. The second meeting was at Trinity Lutheran in Lindstrom, MN with a guest speaker addressing congregational internet and technology needs.
- **I enjoyed my week of vacation** in Indianapolis. It was so fun to watch Tobie dive at Nationals. I expect this will become an annual time away for Carrie and me over the next few years. I hope!
- **SPLC will be providing 40 volunteers** to package meals at Hosanna Lutheran’s *Feed My Starving Children Mobile Food Packing Event* on April 19. This will be offered in place of The Table that night. Thank you to Julie Coozenoy for helping get this coordinated.
- **Deb Cowing will coordinate the annual Mother’s Day Plant Sale** fundraiser for the Sunday School program. Volunteers are needed as the sale gets closer. Please consider helping out!
- **Melissa and I continue to work together** to make sure our social media, website, and weekly congregational email (ReFresh & ReNews) are all current and up to date. Please let us know of any needed or recommended corrections/changes.

- **Carrie S., Joanna K., and Lily Strain** (Discovery Center Site Director) have begun initial planning conversations for VBS. We will be offering it in partnership with the preschool this year!
- **I continue to call on** (in-person/phone/Zoom) with various church members and visitors, as needed, for counseling, prayer and/or pastoral care needs. Please reach out (or encourage others to reach out) as/if needed.
- **I'm happy to see increased worship attendance** over the last few weeks. This is a good sign of growth and vitality in our church. Keep on inviting your friends and family!

Ministry Team Reports:

- **Worship & Music:** Continues with weekly selections for worship, such as hymns, special music, and worship assistants. Jeanne R., Kim C., and Pr. Dale work together on this.
- **Building & Grounds:** Marc Marabella is in process of replacing furnace filters for our 13 furnaces! Also new dishwasher detergent was ordered and delivered. Renewed interest and new members are needed for Building and Grounds Team. This request will go into the bulletin.
- **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. The quilt hanging in the front foyer (between the glass doors) was made by Karen R. and long armed by Wendy K. Thank you so much for this beautiful addition.
- **Global Mission Team:** No formal monthly meeting. A meeting for interest in a trip to Tanzania was held on Sunday, March 19 after worship. There are 19 people interested in taking a trip to our partner parishes in Tanzania. A time to meet again will be scheduled and the group will discuss dates for this trip.
- **Children, Youth, and Family:** Submitted by Joanna K. and presented by Kristina S. – Faith Formation classes are on break during Lent. VBS preparation is getting underway. VBS dates are July 10-14 from 9am-12pm. The registration form is ready to send out once we get confirmation that we're doing the community picnic on the 13th and whether we want to do a formal FMSC packing event which is typical on Tuesday evening (11th). Lucy Stoyke will create a mockup of a t-shirt idea. I've started creating a spaceship to go with the Stellar theme using the barrels from the train decoration 2 years ago. Lily (preschool director) was given a copy of the leader manuals so they can begin their planning. They will attend the opening and closing with the large group but break out on their own for the other sessions. We'll do our stations as in years past. Carrie talked to Lily about how the preschool students usually pay for VBS. It's covered in their regular tuition. VBS donation links have been in ReFresh and ReNews (and on website) for several weeks. No donations have come in to date. Deb C. is coordinating the annual Mother's Day Plant Sale. It will be May 13 from 9am-1pm.

- **Altar Guild:** Nothing new to report. New members are needed. This request will go into the bulletin.
- **Finance Team:** No meeting this month. Claudia N. is out of town. New members are also needed for this Team. Talk to Pr. Dale or Chris T. if interested.
- **The Table:** Has not met because of the Wednesday evening Lenten worship and soup supper. The Table will resume the Wednesday after Easter (4/12). An Aldi account has been set up for Deb C. and Holly M. to order food supplies online and delivered to the church. The church will be billed directly.

New Business

- **Church Cemetery Records** have been requested to be returned to the church office from former church secretary, Kim Olson. A motion for this request was made by Carole E. and seconded by Deb C. The motion was carried. Kim has agreed to bring them in to Melissa when she returns home this Spring.
- **Church Phone System:** The current system continues to not work and doesn't serve the needs of our church any longer. When someone calls in about 50% of the dialog is lost from the line cutting in and out. There are also too many phone lines for the amount of staff and activity in our building now. Pr. Dale, Melissa N., and Chris T. all suggest a new/different system is needed. Melissa N. will call Midco for an evaluation of our current system, costs, and services and bring recommended system, costs, and services to our next council meeting for decision. Depending on when Melissa gets the information, the information could be sent to Council and a decision could be made via email, as well.
- **A vote needed to approve the LED south parking lot pole light.** The Ground Force snow plow company accidentally knocked over our North parking lot pole and light. Their insurance will cover all replacement costs (\$4220) for that pole and new LED light. Per Jerry Nelson's recommendation the Council agreed that while equipment is onsite to install new pole/light we should have them install a new matching LED light on the South pole. The cost of the LED header alone is \$676. Karen R. made the motion to approve the \$676.00 expenditure (from our building fund) for an LED light (header) to be installed on the south parking lot pole. Chris Timmons seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Ongoing Business

- **Open Council Member-at-Large position:** Marc Marabella has agreed to serve in this position that was vacated when Deb C. moved into the position of Council President. Marc will serve for 7 months (July – January). Marc will also serve as Council liaison to

Building and Grounds Team. A motion was made to accept Marc M. as Member-at-Large by Pastor Dale and seconded by Karen R. The motion was carried.

- **Church Cleaning Plan/Update/Evaluation:** The church cleaning has been going good. The building is being cleaned every Friday and tidied up again on either Sunday afternoon/evening or Monday morning, by volunteers. Carole and Steve England have created a list of cleaning duties for the Friday cleaners along with a cleaning schedule that runs through September. Thursdays or Saturdays would also work for cleaning. It was suggested a church cleaning sign-up sheet be displayed on the table (along with our other signup sheets) in the Narthex. Brandi T. has also created a list of cleaning duties for a Sunday or Monday volunteer. These lists are available on the table in the narthex. We are so grateful for the volunteers that are sharing their love and time with our church in this way.
- **Annual Mother's Day Plant Sale:** Deb C. will coordinate this year. She has met with Kelly W. from Wosika Farm and Garden to make arrangements for plant sales this year. There will be no publicized pre-ordering option as in previous years. It is recommended that people contact Kelly W. directly for any specific pre-ordering. Deb will talk to Katie Fetterly to compare last year's pricing to this years. 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 each of these documents have been created by Pr. Dale and given to the council members to review and be ready to discuss and edit (if/as needed) at our next council meeting. Per the Vision for Shared Pastoral Ministry that was presented and approved at our annual meeting in January, the creation of and approval of these documents by the Council is the next step in the process. The projected beginning date of this position is still July 1.
- **LADC Discovery Center (Preschool) Update:** The preschool is now 80% full (208 spots out of 250 spots). Fall 2023 enrollment is already at 67% full (168 spots out of 250 spots). This is good news! Enrollment for Summer WOW program is also up enough to keep our site open and running throughout the Summer. A recruiting event will be in conjunction with the Mother's Day Plant Sale. They will also have activities for the children and tours for 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.

- **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.

Next Meeting:

- Tuesday April 18, 6:30 p.m.
- Devotions: Linda W.

Adjournment:

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

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Carole England