



St. Paul Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, February 15, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

- **Devotions & God Sightings** led by Pastor Dale
- **Welcome new Council members** - Ruth Koehly, Deb Cowing, Adam Tilly, and Kathy Mills
- **Meeting called to order at 7:04 p.m.** by Zella Oswald
- **Members present:** Pastor Dale Stiles, Zella Oswald, Chris Timmons, Ruth Koehly, Kathy Mills, Deb Cowing, Karen Rozeske, Adam Tilly, and Dale Brainard.
- **Consent Agenda:** Motion made to approve by Karen R. Seconded by Deb C. Agenda approved.
- **Finance and Budget Report:** Chris Timmons

As of February 15, 2022	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$26,919
Total Revenue	\$35,764
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$19,106
Total Expenses (after mortgage payment)	\$24,434
Net Revenue (after Mortgage payment)	\$11,330
Mortgage Balance	\$302,698
Edward Jones Balance	\$53,795

Pastor's Report:

- The past month has been busy with Annual Meeting prep and planning. I am grateful for the number of members in attendance at the meeting and for the good discussion and well-run meeting. Special thanks to outgoing council members, Andy Stoyke, Chris Clark, and Tyler Kroschel. Also have been busy planning Above and Beyond Deficit Reduction Appeal. It kicked off on January 30 and to date \$6240 has been received. Many envelopes are being taken and turned in of all different amounts. I'm excited and thankful for this appeal and the opportunity it presents to reduce our deficit - above and beyond our regular giving. I met with Pr. Justin Grimm at the synod office and they have

committed another \$15K to SPLC for 2022. \$5K of that has already been received and the remaining \$10K will be dispersed quarterly (\$2500) to us throughout 2022. I am grateful for the partnership we share with the synod and for how much they want to see us thrive. I continue to be in contact with executive director, Janet Miller, of Lake Area Discovery Center (LADC) about the reopening of our preschool next Fall. No significant updates are available at this time. They will be gradually moving in some of their equipment and supplies in preparation for reopening. I remind everyone that all of their used preschool space is to be shared with our church as described in the service and lease agreement which is available to all members to review if interested. Contact Pr. Dale if you'd like a copy to review. I'm grateful that Wendy Krona has taken the lead on initiating a new quilting/sewing group at SPLC. They have had one interest meeting and plan to meet the first Saturday of each month and the third Monday beginning in March. This group is for all experienced and inexperienced quilters/sewers. The Synod Toolkit is scheduled for February 26. All church members are encouraged/invited to attend. There are many and various workshops offered that may be of interest. More info and to sign up can be found in your weekly Refresh and Renews email. I'm thankful that our Global Mission Teams agreed to use some of their funds to purchase a new braille machine to help with learning for the blind students at Mtera Secondary School in the Iringa Diocese of Tanzania. This a very important gift and one we can all feel good about providing. Thank you! I've been busy planning for the Lenten season that begins with Ash Wednesday on March 2. The theme is "Journey of Stones". Midweek Holden Evening Vespers services will again be offered on Wednesday nights. I'm thankful too, for Brandy and Chris Timmons for their work getting the sanctuary ready for the Lenten season. I'm hopeful too, that with the Covid Response Team's recent updates to our safety practices that we can continue with processional communion for a while beginning on Sunday, February 20. I hope all are aware though, that depending on new variants or reemergence of previous variants that we may need to go back to more cautious practices. We're praying not to have to! Thanks again, for everyone's patience and understanding. We're also hoping to hear soon from the Synod about a worship and technology grant we applied for that will help us update and improve on our online worship presence. I am grateful for the ongoing commitment that so many have to worshipping with us online, both near and far away. I have been present for some individuals/couples and families for pastoral care needs that have arisen in recent weeks as well. I am always honored and privileged to be invited into people's lives in such ways as we pray that God continues to bless, guide, protect, and direct. I'm excited for this new church council to begin and to see how everyone's gifts will shape and form us into what God has in store for 2022. As always, let me know if you have any questions or would like to visit in person, online, or on the phone. Peace, Pastor Dale

Children's Ministry Report:

- Sunday school has moved their programming to an every other month format. Attendance has been pretty good. The kids are determined to figure out who the mystery speakers are behind the puppets.
- SPLASH spent some time in January learning about the variety of different churches out there. This past Sunday, they celebrated the Super Bowl with a friendly round of Bible Jeopardy. It was a very entertaining and competitive game.
- Confirmation continues to meet on Wednesday evenings. The lessons this month have been centered on quitting, rejection, failure, and judgment. With Lent around the corner, we'll move the lessons around Jesus.
- I submitted a grant proposal to the synod to help fund a potential change in programming for next fall. We still need to have discussions around the logistics, but we'd like to move all youth education to Wednesday evenings and include a meal and possibly a short worship service. We'd like to make this an intergenerational learning opportunity and open it up to the community.
- VBS planning has begun. The tentative dates are Aug. 1-5 from 5-8pm. We are in discussions about using the GROUP curriculum as in years past, or switching to the free SPARK or ELCA curriculum. Regardless of curriculum, we will scale back the decorating this summer.

COVID Response Team Report:

- The Team met to review church safety practices in light of declining omicron cases and continuing congregational member feedback. It was decided to cautiously move forward while clearly communicating that we will revert to stronger safety measures if/when needed. The decision was made to begin processional communion again on Sunday, February 20, to leave the social distance markings in the pews but to update the yellow caution tape with something more attractive/appealing to all (especially visitors), and to return hymnals to pews starting Sunday, February 27. Mask-wearing will continue indefinitely at this time.

Keenager Ministry Report:

- We had a nice turnout for the Valentine luncheon. It was in memory of Eileen Ramse. Mark, her son, joined us also. We had such a nice visit with him. There were a total of 7. It was very nice.

Visitation Ministry Team Report:

- The team has sent notes out to everyone. We've talked to Josie Peterson on the phone. We took communion to Barb Hastings and Arnie Rudnick.

Old Business:

- St. Paul Lutheran Discovery Center (Preschool) Update - LADC will begin moving in supplies over the next few months. It was reiterated that a copy of our lease agreement is available for members that would like to read the agreement.

- ELCA Strategic Ministry Covenant/Goals, Hopes & Dreams Update - Pastor explained the need for goals related to our ministry grant from the ELCA for the benefit of the new council members. We will continue to monitor the goals and set priorities over the next year. It was asked if we need to pay back the ministry grant and it was clarified that we do not.
- Planting Hope Synod Capital Campaign (submitted by Carole England) - This is a 3-year campaign that is offering an opportunity to contribute along with 120,000 other Lutherans in the Synod in these four areas:
 - Inviting neighbors into life in Christ
 - Renewing the congregations of the synod
 - Raising up the next generations of leaders
 - Investing in a transformative project on the East Side of St. Paul with Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota.

Between February 27 and April 3, our congregation will be sharing more details about each of the initiatives listed above and we will invite the congregation to financially support The Planting Hope Campaign. On March 3, Commitment Sunday, we will invite members of the congregation to indicate interest in supporting the campaign by completing a statement of intent. More information is available at www.spas-elca.org/planting-hope.

- Blood Drive Update - The blood drive is scheduled for 5/12/2022 at this time. This can go on the church calendar. Zella O. and Kathy M. are contacts if anyone has questions.

New Business:

- Annual Meeting Evaluation - Discussed how we felt the meeting ran. It was suggested that we have an official sign-up sheet next year as some members commented on the lack of one. Role was taken on our new church software, but it was agreed that a paper sheet was a good idea for next year.
- Appoint Council Member Committee Liaisons - Changes/additions to the copy pastor passed out. Building & Grounds - Adam; Global Missions - Ruth; Quilting - Deb; Worship Team - Pastor Dale; Red Cross Blood Drive - Kathy; Tech Team - Chris T.
- Updating Church Membership Roster - The ELCA guidelines/process will be followed for this. It will begin in fall of 2022. A new church member photo directory is scheduled for May, 2023. It will be good to have our membership updated by then.

Next Meeting

- Date & Time: March 15, 6:30 p.m.
- Devotions: Zella O.

Adjourn/Pray: Ruth K. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathy M. seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:32 p.m. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.