



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

- **Devotions & God Sightings** led by Zella O.
- **Meeting called to order at 6:52 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 Ruth K. Agenda approved.
- **Finance and Budget Report:** Chris Timmons

| As of March 15, 2022 | ACTUAL |
|---|---------------|
| General Fund Offering | \$61,897 |
| Total Revenue | \$78,121 |
| Total Expenses (before mortgage) | \$38,336 |
| Total Expenses (after mortgage payment) | \$48,922 |
| Net Revenue (after Mortgage payment) | \$29,129 |
| Mortgage Balance | \$302,698 |
| Edward Jones Balance | \$53,795 |

Pastor's Report:

- The last month has been busy planning and leading Lenten services. Ash Wednesday was a moving service (3/2) that kicked off the season. We began our Lenten "Journey of Stones". I am thankful for Altar Guild members who have been so helpful with preparing for the season and for worship each Sunday and Wednesday. Thankful also for musicians, Jeanne, Kim, and all the vocalists. It takes many people to provide authentic, meaningful worship week after week. We also laid to rest our friend, Eileen Ramse, on Feb. 17. I am grateful for the care and compassion SPLC demonstrated towards Eileen's sons and family. Beginning the first Sunday of Lent we have been promoting the St. Paul Synod's "Planting Hope" campaign each Sunday. Bishop Lull will be with us on March 27

to invite us to participate in the campaign. Carole England is our Planting Hope congregational representative. Thank you, Carole! The Confirmation class is on a Lenten break (3/2 - 4/20). They will resume on April 27. 9th graders will meet through May to prepare for their Rite of Confirmation. Continued appreciate for each of the kids and for parents, Joanna K. and Andy S. for their help leading. I'm thankful too, for Joanna K., Katie F., and Chris C. for their ongoing leadership with our children and youth. They are constantly busy planning and leading Sunday School and SPLASH. Joanna has begun planning for VBS as well. The COVID Response Team continues to monitor and make recommendations regarding our church safety policies. See their report for more details. I'm grateful for them as it has not been an easy role for them. The preschool staff are looking for a date in April to hold a St. Paul Lutheran Discovery Center Celebration Event that will showcase our preschool and staff for interested families as they generate interest for a Fall 2022 opening. This will also be open to church members. More info to come. I am grateful for our property committee who is always at the ready as needed. Recently they have repaired a furnace and a urinal and are always looking for ways to maintain and organize our building space. Thank you! In addition, I have been busy planning weekly bible studies, writing sermons, worship planning, and providing pastoral care. I am thankful for our Visitation Team who are so faithful at calling on and/or visiting our homebound members. They do good ministry. I am continually grateful for my partnership with Melissa N. in the church office. We make a good team and she is always a friendly and welcome presence to members and visitors. She is eager to help as needed, so don't hesitate to let her know if there's something you need. As always, if you or anyone you know is in need or want of a pastoral visit, please let me know! Thank you. - Pr. Dale

Children's Ministry: No Report submitted. Annual Plant Fundraiser is scheduled for May 7th. VBS scheduling is underway. Planning on first week of August.

COVID Response Team Report:

- The Team met via email again the first week of March. As always, there are varying thoughts and opinions and considerations when deciding how to proceed. This Team deserves great respect for their collective thoughtfulness and wisdom shared as we determine how to carefully proceed as a congregation. The following update was decided and publicized beginning on March 11.

COVID-19 Response UPDATE - March 7, 2022

Dear Friends,

On February 24, the CDC issued new Covid-19 guidance, which we have been carefully weighing as we determine our next steps at SPLC. The new recommendations are due

to current high levels of vaccination and high levels of population immunity from both vaccination and infections, as well as the reduced numbers of positive COVID-19 transmissions, hospitalizations, and deaths from COVID-19.

According to the COVID-19 Community Level tracker, Chisago County is now designated as low risk. This is good news, and means that people may choose to mask based on personal preference. However, anyone with symptoms, a positive COVID-19 test, or known exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask.

With that said, we have decided on two significant changes to our COVID-19 safety protocols at SPLC, both effective on Sunday, March 27. (this date follows all of our local school district's Spring breaks.)

Face coverings while in the building will be recommended, but not required. After worship coffee hour and fellowship will resume.

In addition to these changes, our social distanced seating will remain in place until Sunday, May 22. After that, we begin alternating worship outdoors every other Sunday for the Summer.

Throughout the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, the health and safety of one another at SPLC has been our top priority and we are proud of how we have responded. This time is no different. We will continue to monitor COVID-19 transmission in our local and surrounding community and, per CDC guidance, will adjust our safety protocols as appropriate. As always, if you feel sick, have a cough, fever, or any flu-like symptoms, please stay home, for your sake and for the sake of your fellow SPLC friends. In gratitude for your ongoing patience and understanding,

SPLC COVID Response Team

Jerry Nelson, Arlie Post, Dave Hasselbauer, Joanna Kroschel, Katie Fetterly, Pastor Dale

Keenager Ministry Report: No Report

Visitation Ministry Team Report:

- The team visited: Pat Crawford, Arnie Rudnick, Barb Hastings, Wendy Hazzard & Her mother.

Old Business:

- St. Paul Lutheran Discovery Center (Preschool) Update - LADC is planning on an open house/celebration event in April to introduce the new preschool to the church and community. Student registration and family tours of the space continue to happen.
- ELCA Strategic Ministry Covenant/Goals, Hopes & Dreams Update - We have accomplished the start of a quilting group, the re-opening of the preschool, and the improvement of our social media/technology use to further our mission/ministry. Council will look at remaining goals/objectives and be ready to discuss next month.

- Planting Hope Synod Capital Campaign - is currently underway. Bishop Lull will be with us on Sunday, March 27 to invite our participation in the campaign. Carole England is our congregational representative.
- Blood Drive Update - The blood drive is scheduled for 5/12/2022. Kathy Mills is main contact if anyone has questions.

New Business:

- Synod Assembly - Pastor Dale has registered Carole England and Arlie Post for the assembly as our elected delegates. Zella Oswald plans to attend as a visitor. If anyone else would like to attend as a visitor, let Pr. Dale know. Cost is \$65.
- SCRIP Fundraiser - we will sell any remaining cards and then encourage interested members to use the RaiseRight app. No more cards will be purchased and sold.

Next Meeting

- Date & Time: April 19, 6:30 p.m.
- Devotions: Jaime F.

Adjourn: Ruth K. made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kathy M. seconded the motion. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.