



St. Paul Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 18, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Pastor Dale devotion: We shared our God Sightings and Pr. Dale introduced us to the “The Mission Table book: Renewing congregation & communities” Pastor Dale read from the book a story of a boy and “The Table”. This book will be used as a study guide for the new 2023 Church Council beginning in February.

Call to Order & Roll Call - 6:58 p.m. Motioned by Deb C. second by Kathy M.

- **Members present:** Pastor Dale Stiles, Zella Oswald, Ruth Koehly, Kathy Mills, Deb Cowing, Karen Rozeske. **Absent:** Jaime Fraley, Chris Timmons, Dale Brainard, Adam Tilly.
- **Consent Agenda:** Motion made to approve by Kathy M., second by Karen R.
- **New business:** Advent Family Festival with SPLC Discovery Center students. Zella shared interest in more social events. Pastor Dale says SPLC Discovery Center Advent Family Festival is a good start.
- **Finance and Budget Report:** (per Chris T. email) - YTD offerings received has surpassed YTD giving amounts prior to pandemic. Above & beyond is set to be met, then we can begin to work on the current year deficit. “Good news ... great news, think of what we can do without that deficit!” says Pastor Dale.

As of October 18, 2022	ACTUAL
Total Revenue	\$198,018
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$172,381
Total Expenses (after mortgage payment)	\$220,333
Net Revenue (after Mortgage payment)	\$ -22,315
Mortgage Balance	\$271,734

Pastor's Report:

- The past month has been busy with weekly "The Table" prep. We worked our way through the five-week learning series, "Claimed: Wildly Loved By God!". Carrie and I are enjoying leading The Table worship together. We are intentional about recruiting volunteers from different generations to help lead parts of the service each week. I am really grateful for how The Table is evolving into what God hopefully intends it to be. We are averaging 50 people in attendance each week. Continued thanksgiving goes out to our kitchen/meal coordinators (Holly M. and Deb. C.) and all their helpers and those who have helped with set up and tear down each week. We start a new four-week learning series on October 26, entitled, "Together: Celebrating Community!"
- Discovery Center Update - New rain gutters have been installed all along the east side of the building over the Discovery Center playground, and over the main Discovery Center entryway. This is a \$2000 expense that the church paid out of our designated building savings account. We are working on an upcoming partner event with LADC (Advent Family Festival) that will be held after worship on Sunday, December 4. It will include games, crafts, and songs for all ages and our own Dee Wilkenson sharing her Yule Log story. All will be able to make their own yule log to take home. Details are being figured out still. A new church entry security system will soon be installed (paid for by LADC). This will not affect current church key holders. I have enjoyed leading chapel in our sanctuary for the preschoolers every Tue/Thurs of the second and fourth weeks of the month.
- I've been working on a four-week Advent learning series that will be shared during our Advent Holden Evening Vesper services. The Table meal will continue during Advent. All faith formation at The Table will be on break until after Christmas. The Advent theme will be promoted soon.
- I've been planning our annual Stewardship Sunday. This year it will be on Sunday, November 13. The theme of the day is, "Salvation Day Has Come To This Home!", based on the story of Zacchaeus in Luke 19 and how through a new understanding of stewardship, Zacchaeus came to understand his own salvation. His transformation from greed to generosity is a shining example of what God can do in our lives as we seek to better understand stewardship and our own salvation. Pledge cards and time and talent forms will be mailed out on Friday, November 4 and will be turned in during worship on Sunday, November 20.
- I've met with the Humble Bees and talked with Dale Brainard and his daughter, Christina, about raffling off one of Jan Brainard's completed, donated quilts. In addition to Jan's quilt, one other quilt from the Humble Bees, will be raffled off beginning Sunday, October 23. The winners of the quilts will be selected and

announced on Stewardship Sunday, November 13. Humble Bees will be present on Sundays before/after worship to sell tickets. The quilts will be displayed in the narthex throughout the next month. A lesser portion of the proceeds will go towards starting a Humble Bees fund with the remaining larger portion going towards our deficit reduction.

- Still looking for a choir director. Have a couple conversations with potentially interested members. Still praying and discerning for the right person. Let me know if interested.
- Met with directors from the RISE cleaning group to verify and confirm our cleaning contract. With the opening of the Discovery Center and now using the church kitchen again, their cleaning duties have expanded. A new contract and list of cleaning duties was made. We now pay \$200/week.
- With Jeanne Richards out recovering from her surgery, Kim C. and Sheila B. have both stepped up to lead alternating weekly music for worship. I am beyond grateful for both of them and the gifts they so generously offer. We continue to pray for Jeanne's speedy recovery and return to us as soon as she's ready.
- I am soon to be meeting with Pr. Justin Grimm, one of the Bishop's Assistants at the synod office, regarding our strategic ministry goals and their potential financial assistance for 2023. I am continually grateful for the synod and its ongoing support of our congregation during this critical time of redevelopment. I'm excited to share with him how much progress we have made in a relatively short amount of time.
- Ongoing pastoral care concerns. I meet in person, over the phone, and even virtually still, with many of our members as a way of counseling, listening, and simply checking in. I am grateful for members of our Visitation Team who continue to visit our few homebound members regularly.
- I enjoyed some time away with Carrie and Annica in Colorado as we celebrated with Annica, her 21st birthday. I am grateful for time away with family and for Pastor Richard Baumann, who filled in for me that Sunday. I have one week of vacation left that I plan to take after Christmas.

Global Missions Team Report:

Attendance: Dave & Fran N., Pastor Dale, Kathie M., Claudia N., Carole E., Ruth K.

Agenda Items: Balances and scholarship funds, scholarships for Mtera

- Current balance in Scholarship Account: \$162.82
- GMT will commit \$1200 Plus administration fee of \$144, motion made by Kathie M., seconded by Claudia N. Motion carried
- Pastor Dale will notify the Bega Kwa Bega Scholarship Committee of this commitment of funds to Mtera by Nov. 1.

- Scholarships for Migoli: current balance in Scholarship Account: \$1661.23
- GMT will not send more funds as the current balance should cover 2023 Scholarships. Motion made by Kathie M., seconded by Claudia N. Motion carried
- Pastor Dale will notify the Bega Kwa Bega Scholarship Committee of this intention of funds already held by Migoli by Nov. 1.
- Total Funds are due by January to the Synod Bega Kwa Bega Office. Students begin in January and half of the funds are used at that time. The second half is then used in June.
- Ruth Koehly volunteered to make an announcement in Church Sunday 10-16-22 regarding the need for Scholarship funds and an invitation for new members to GMT.
- Pastor Dale will have something written in the bulletin this week that funds are limited in our Scholarship fund due to Covid and the lack of fundraising in the past few years.
- The Global Mission's balance held at St. Paul Lutheran at this time is \$1321.00.

Additional Global Missions Items: Not on the agenda

Ideas for future fundraising

- Creation Vacation. Spring will be best for planning and organizing. Carole will talk with Jenn and Julie to find out forms used and lists of names. More workers are needed in order to offer another Creation Vacation.
- Tanzanian Dinner or Lunch
- A possible Sunday morning with an African preacher and or choir. Ideas may come from Fish Lake Lutheran and Prince of Peace Maplewood.
- Weekly or semiweekly small article in the Refresh & Renew. Each member takes a turn at putting together something for the newsletter. Fran will do the first one.

*Future meeting dates: December 12 @ 5:30, January 9 @ 2:30, February 13 @ 2:30.

Submitted by Carole England.

Old Business:

- **Blood Drive at SPLC:** November 11 - continue to promote, and sign up! Thanks to Zella O. and Kathy M. for coordinating.

New Business:

- Kathy asked about Creation Vacation. Global Missions Team is exploring possibility of offering it again. It would need someone to coordinate it. Zella will volunteer to be part of Global Mission team.
- ELCA Strategic Ministry Covenant/Goals, Hopes & Dreams Discussion - will re-evaluate goals based on where we are as a church in the new year with new council.

- Ideas for 2023 theme:
 - Look at a “Renew and Anew” committee for 2023. This would be a committee with the purpose of “renewing” past things/social events that have been part of St. Paul Lutheran and begin or “anew” things/social events moving forward creating a balance of old and new. Things that generate a “sense of mission” for the church.

Next Meeting

- Date & Time: November 15, 6:30 p.m.
- Devotions: Karen R.

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

Closed with Lord’s Prayer