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St Stephen's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting

August 8th, 2013

7:00 p.m.

Agenda

1. Devotions - volunteer needed (5 minutes)
2. Adopt minutes from June Council meeting (5 minutes)
3. Q & A on Committee Reports (10 minutes)
4. New Business:
 - a. Council Meeting Schedule (5 minutes)
 - b. St. Paul Synod Every Council Visit (5 minutes)
 - c. Other new business
5. Old Business
 - a. MVMS Lease Agreement (5 minutes)
 - b. Other old business (5 minutes)
6. Adjournment

Meeting Notes

1. Meeting was called to order at 19:04 by president Debbie Pirkl.
2. Devotions: Jessica gave a devotion on courage inspired by her experience with kids at Courage Center. These kids are dealing with the impact of cancer on them and loved ones.
3. Adopt minutes from June Council meeting
 - 3.1. M/S/C to approve. (M=motion = Bergeson, S = second = Morganson, C = carried.
4. Committee reports.
 - 4.1. Finance: Council discussed the proposed land sale.
 - 4.1.1. Who has authority to authorize the transaction?
 - 4.1.2. The initial offer was \$275,000 but appraisal came in at \$390,000. The committee thinks \$350,000 gross is possible. We will likely have to pay a 6% realtor commission.
 - 4.1.3. History: the most recent process started with a motion and vote at the January 2011 congregation meeting. The congregation authorized the finance committee to re-visit sale of the property and determine if and when to sell. Finance decided to move forward with a realtor.
 - 4.1.4. Exec has to approve the realtor's contract.
 - 4.1.5. Per the constitution, the congregation must approve sale of property. Approval requires a 2/3 majority of those at a duly called congregation meeting. It takes about 3 weeks to send out notices and set up a special congregation meeting. The property under discussion is West of the parking lot and totals about 10 acres of which 6.6 acres are buildable.
 - 4.2. Finance: Darcy raised several questions related to St. Stephen's sponsorship of the Boy Scout Troop 248.
 - 4.2.1. Who do they report to? Our troop is part of Northern star council. They have the highest paid exec in scouting and the lowest record for scholarships. Darcy has made them aware of her personal concern regard this. Can St. Stephen's provide more influence?
 - 4.2.2. Pastor John: Scouts need a chartering organization. We own some of their equipment. We don't pay their fees to the Council. They use our facility. Lowell Meyer is the St. Stephen's liason to Troop 248.
 - 4.2.3. Do scouts receive money from our fund raisers? John: no.
 - 4.2.4. Troop 248 demographics generally match St. Stephen's. Garlough kids are in Pueblo de Fe.
 - 4.2.5. Scout trailer (destroyed during a recent storm; it was parked on the West side of St. Stephen's parking lot near the cell tower when a big storm came through and dropped a mature Cottonwood tree square in the middle of the trailer crushing it flat. The trailer was fully loaded and ready for a scout camping trip the next morning. Miraculously, the only gear destroyed was 2 trash cans but the trailer was a total loss. The Troop

- purchased the trailer. Insurance covered \$2000 of the \$4000 total. Beth Hostager of our Finance committee will meet with adult leaders of the troop and will offer our help in covering the balance of the loss.
- 4.3. Missions: Patty Longard is recruiting members for this committee.
 - 4.4. Note to new committee chairs: We all have mailboxes near the soda machine. Check your box periodically.
5. New business.
- 5.1. Calendar. Several members prefer meetings on Wednesdays vs the traditional Thursdays. There were also some Thursday conflicts with school calendar. Council agreed to try Wednesdays at 7pm for September through December 2013: Dates: 9/18, 10/23, 11/20, 12/18 7pm. The next annual meeting will be 1/26/14
 - 5.2. Synod: The synod has a goal to meet with every council in the synod this year. Someone from the synod would come to one of our council meetings to observe and also present highlights of synod stuff and how we might interact with them. Pastor John says the synod hasn't done this for four years. They are us. Likely dates are September or October.
 - 5.3. Youth and education:
 - 5.3.1. Wednesday, 9/18 will be the start of this year's WILD. This is our third year of Wednesday "Sunday school". The evening starts with community dinner at 5:30.
 - 5.3.2. JOY is also going to Wednesday nights. 3-5 year olds are welcome too.
 - 5.3.3. VBS: was a wild success this year serving 50+ kids.
 - 5.3.4. John and Cassie will send invitational notes to VBS attendees.
 - 5.3.5. We are looking for Sunday to be church family time; ie. not segregated by age groups. We want Intergenerational. That means no Christian stink eye (be tolerant when kids don't act perfect).
 - 5.4. Evangelism: Steve Morganson. The welcome center schedule will go up in September. We need 2 groups per Sunday; one for each service.
 - 5.5. Pastor John
 - 5.5.1. September 8 is the 25th birthday of the ELCA. The theme for the celebration is God's work, our hands.
 - 5.5.2. Lectionary: Luther seminary has developed a new series of readings intended to teach the bible stories. The nationwide church will start this multi-year cycle in September.
 - 5.5.3. Via de Christo: coming to St. Stephen's this fall. Cassie and John will be helping lead. If you've ever considered the Via, this is as convenient as it gets. Contact previous attendees for info.
 - 5.6. Pastor Cassie:
 - 5.6.1. Luther students are encouraged to join a local congregation. Cassie extended an invite the last couple years and this year we got a bite. Keith (last name?) was raised Baptist but is now studying at Luther. He will help teach confirmation and lead worship. Please help him feel welcome.

- 5.6.2. Sitraka: we will be welcoming Sitraka, our new youth director, this Sunday (8/12). Nate H will be leading the music.

- 6. Old business.
 - 6.1. MVMS (Montessori). They have agreed to the new lease. They will be painting and carpeting room 106. We need to install a gutter to eliminate water leakage into that room.
 - 6.2. Youth director: Sitraka has a new office on the first floor.

- 7. Upcoming events:
 - 7.1. 9/15: Homecoming. Includes a fruit bowl or egg bake pot luck and basket raffle.
 - 7.2. 9/18: Devotions: Patrice Katzenmaier will do devotions at our next meeting.
 - 7.3. 10/2: feed my starving children. Takes 90 volunteers to fill the place.
 - 7.4. 10/12: Cosettas dinner at St. Stephens followed by a concert at Bethel. We will car pool to and from Bethel. Cost is \$35 for the evening.
 - 7.5. 11/2: game night and haunted house. Family event.

- 8. Adjournment
 - 8.1. MSC to adjourn at 20:16.
 - 8.2. We closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Ruff
Secretary

Committee Reports

Education

Reference: Email from Tanisha Pikula dated 8/6/13 10:14

Christian Education Meeting

Attendees: Cassie Nault, Darcy McKenzie, Michelle Steffan, Tanisha Pikula

August 1st 2013 7:00-8:00pm

Discussions:

- 1. Rally Day: Sept 15th with a basket raffle and potluck egg bake and fruit bowl (Darcy will make the fliers, posters, and the Update)**
- 2. JOY-will move to Wed nights from 6-7pm and will offer for 3yr-1st**
- 3. W.I.L.D.- will be 2nd-5th grade Wed. nights 6-7pm with dinner at 5:30pm**
- 4. Education hour on Sundays-we will hold off on this until Christmas program rehearsal.**
- 5. W.I.L.D. Sunday service-we will plan this for the spring again.**

Michelle and I will get together soon to plan the education materials to be used for JOY and W.I.L.D. and get the schedule made for the year as well.

Evangelism and Membership

Reference: Email from Steve Morganson dated 8/12/2013 14:32

Sorry for getting these out late. It was a hectic month.

1.Pastor John , Mark and I attended the Evangelism Seminar at Luther Seminary. We will review our notes at the next meeting to determine if there are any ideas applicable for St Stephens.

2. Six welcome packs were delivered this month.

3 Mark has agreed to coordinate the Ice Cream Social.

4 Some concerns have been brought up regarding copy rights if we televise Gerrit's concerts on Town Square. I have sent a copy of the program for the Memorial concert to Town Square for comments.

Regards

Steve

Fellowship

Reference: no update as of 8/8/2013 18:00

Finance

Reference Email from Mike Bonk dated 8/7/13 07:31

I was not able to attend the Aug 1 meeting but here are the notes from Beth Hostager. Thanks Beth.

Mike,

Here are notes from the Finance committee meeting tonight. Let me know if you want me to turn these comments into more official committee minutes.

Members in attendance: Jessica Donahue, Mike Buatla, Sue Clark, Beth Hostager, Pastor John and Stewardship chair, Dean Eisfelder

Land Sale

- Jessica will be in touch with you to discuss the land sale prior to the Exec / Council meetings next Thursday.
- We need guidance from the Executive Committee on who needs to approve the sale, etc. We need to check the motion that was approved at last year's congregational meeting.
- The developer has been informed of the \$390,000 appraisal and we are waiting for a revised offer from him in response.
- If a revised offer from the developer is not high enough, we agreed the land should be placed on the market at \$390,000.
- We will work with the real estate agent Mike Butala has been in contact with if the land does get put on the market. This realtor connected us with the developer who has expressed interest in the land and will also be representing the owners of the lot to the west of our land when they decide to sell their property.
- While we didn't set a minimum offer we'd accept from the developer (or any other buyer), the general consensus seemed to be around \$350,000. A lower offer might be considered but we aren't in immediate need of the money so it may make sense to test the market.
- Mike Butala will contact the City of West St. Paul one more time to confirm whether their interest in the land has changed (not likely).
- In addition to the appraisal costs (\$750) we will also incur title costs, survey costs, and a realtor fee (6% but perhaps negotiable).

Insurance Claim

- We discussed the status of the insurance claim for the damaged Boy Scout trailer and tree removal.
- We agreed that a meeting should be scheduled with representatives from Troop 248 to discuss the relationship between St. Stephen's and the Troop as it relates to property, gain a better understanding of how the finances of the Troop work, determine what their expectations/needs are with regard to replacement of the trailer, etc.
- We discussed whether the Men of St. Stephen's dedicated account might be available to cover some of the costs of a new trailer. The Boy Scouts have consistently supported the Meatball dinner.

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- I will find a date/time for us to meet with Lowell Meyer (Church liaison for Troop 248), Paul Quehl (Troop 248 committee chair).

For those of you who attended the meeting, feel free to add to or edit any of the comments above.

Beth

From: "Mike Bonk" <mbonk333@gmail.com>
To: "Dave Bergeson" <davidb4858@aol.com>, "Mike Butala" <mjbutala@bremer.com>, "Beth Hostager" <bethhostager@comcast.net>, "Jessica Donahue" <jd1028@yahoo.com>, "Sue Clark" <we3clarks@usfamily.net>, "Abra Gillman" <abra@ststephenswsp.org>, "Dean Eisfelder" <s_eisfelder@q.com>
Cc: "Debbie Pirkl" <dpirkl@comcast.net>, "Pastor John" <john@ststephenswsp.org>
Sent: Monday, July 29, 2013 3:57:24 PM
Subject: Aug 1 Finance Committee meeting

I will not be in town for the Thursday, Aug 1 Finance Committee meeting. Beth has indicated that when a meeting falls so close to the end of the month it is sometimes rescheduled. I assume this is to allow a bit more time to get financial results out.

I am reluctant to delay this Thursday's meeting because Mike Butala has received the appraisal on the property. The appraisal is significantly more than we have been offered and we need to respond to the contractor that is interested in the property. I suggest that those who can attend should meet on Thursday and discuss the property sale so it can be reviewed with the Church Council and Executive Committee next week. That meeting has been moved up to August 8th. I will email my thoughts on the property sale to Mike. The Finance Committee could also discuss June financial results. Would someone please take notes.

The September Finance Committee agenda will include:
July and August financial results
2014 planning and budget process
Purpose and availability of funds in dedicated accounts

Please let me know if there is anything you would like to see on the agenda for September.

Sincerely,
Mike

Missions

Reference Email from Patty Longard dated 8/7/2013 23:39

Missions Committee meeting Thursday August 1st

- 1) We reviewed the Mission budget, noted that we still have a cushion of over \$1000 for Loaves and Fishes, as well as ~\$60 from Fair Trade sales that has not been allocated.
- 2) In spite of our surplus in Loaves and Fishes, we will continue regular Pots and Pans offerings, the next being this Sunday August 11th
- 3) Get To Know Your Neighbors has had a slow start, but we are starting to see some participation in the congregation. We will re-address this program in September to decide how we will proceed with this matching funds project.
- 4) We discussed involvement with the September 8th service project - Missions has committed to making sandwiches for homeless people, will be planning more through the month. Details to follow
- 5) Future Plans - looked into the next months, we have decided to offer our help to the Youth Program with the Operation Christmas Child project in October. We have also decided to step out from the Holiday Botique this year, and focus our efforts in other directions.
- 6) Question arose on how we the Missions Committee are to be involved with the Strategic Planning Task Forces pertinent to Missions. Looking for direction in this area.
- 7) The Fellowship Garage Sale for Tanzania was a huge success. We will be discussing further with Fellowship and Beth Hostager how to best utilize the funds that were raised.

Respectfully submitted

Patty Longard

Pastor's Report – John Snider

Reference: Email from Pastor John dated 8/7/2013 14:49

The work of the church continues, even with free evenings in July!

Summer has been a good time for **small groups**. The **Men's Renewal Group** continues to meet with an average of 15 men at each meeting. The **"Breakfast with St. Augustine"** had a total of seven attend though never at the same time. His "Confessions" was inspiring and challenging. **Bible and Breakfast** also continues to be well supported, about 15 as well, with a different group of participants. I continue with a group of pastors on a weekly basis using the **12 steps for spiritual growth** and find it very valuable.

If you are looking for a small group experience the **Via de Cristo weekends** (Oct. 17-20 for men; October 24-27 for women here) are an excellent introduction. Both Pastor Cassie and I are deeply involved and spending lots of Sunday afternoons getting ready, along with many members of St. Stephen's. We would welcome your questions and interest.

Of course the adding to our staff of **Sitraka Rakotoarivelo** as full time Director of Children and Youth Ministries is the most exciting news of the summer. Pastor Cassie, Leisha Tays, our committee and Interserve did a marvelous and detailed search and Sitraka was the clear leading candidate. We are blessed to have him multiply the ministry of Christ here. We'll introduce him this Sunday and officially install him on **September 22**.

August will be the final month **Leisha Tays** will be with us. She has done a super job. We are very happy that she and Sitraka will have much of August to overlap and securely hand the baton.

The **strategic planning group for worship** held their first meeting. It was decided to be co-chaired by Sondra Paton and Mike McHugh. Other members included Kathy Canniff, Janelle Woods and Cathy Harms. Brent Harms and I are serving as advisors. Others are always welcome and in this and all strategic planning groups.

Speaking of worship Pastor Cassie and I are suggesting a change from the Common Lectionary to the **Narrative Lectionary** beginning this September. This series of scriptures recognizes a progression through the Old Testament and limits the number of scriptures per Sunday, hoping to create more focus.

Another worship update is the **"God's Work Our Hands" Sunday, September 8th**. Along with the rest of the ELCA celebrating our 25th Birthday, we will have a brief worship service and an opportunity for everyone to serve.

Together we are multiplying Christ's ministry here!

Pastor's Report – Cassie Nault

Reference: Email from Pastor Cassie dated 8/8/2013 10:47

Hi Everyone,

Summer is going by way too quickly and fall is just around the corner. Here are the highlights of what's happening in my areas at St. Stephen's:

- "Sonwest Roundup" **Vacation Bible School** is happening this week; we have exactly 50 children who have participated, 12 Youth Volunteers, and about 10 Adult Volunteers. Leisha Tays, our Interim Youth Minister, has done a wonderful job of coordinating the event and we've also been happy that our incoming Director of Children's and Youth Ministries volunteered to come a week early to help with the event.
- We're getting **Sitraka Rakotoarvielo's Youth and Children's Ministry Office** situated in what was formerly the Bride's Room (room 209). A group of about 10 youth and parent volunteers set the office up, under Leisha Tays' direction. Thanks to Jan Perkins for coordinating so many of the details!
- A small group of parents has been looking at the "**Sticky Faith**" Parents Curriculum together. We're only two sessions in, but we've already had great discussions and after our experience with the material, we're thinking of making this material the focus of our Lenten theme.
- Spread the word about our schedule for **Upcoming First Sundays** at 10:45am worship: September 15th: Nate Houge, October 6th: AGAPE*, November 3rd: Rachel Kurtz; December 1st: Tangled Blue. These are great Sundays to invite friends and neighbors to join us for worship.
- Christian Education and Youth Committees are working hard to get ready for the fall schedule. We're currently seeking **Guides for JOY, WILD, and Confirmation classes**; along with volunteers to assist with leading Senior High Youth Group meetings this year. Prayerfully consider whether you might be able to join us in helping with 6 sessions of any of these classes; we provide training and it's a very rewarding experience (You learn right along with the kids!) If you have questions, speak with Deborah Ellis (Confirmation), Michelle Steffen or Janell Woods (WILD), Tanisha Pikula (JOY), or me (Youth Group).
- Sitraka and I are leading a group of volunteers to the **Ministry "Charge Conference"** in Minneapolis on Saturday, August 24th to prepare for leading the Children's and Youth Ministries this fall.
- There is the possibility that we will have some **Luther Seminary students joining us as Teaching Parish students** this coming academic year; this is a program in which Luther Seminary Masters of Divinity students are linked with a local congregation while they study at the seminary. I'll share more details if we have any students commit to us as their congregation.

Peace,
Cassie

Property and Maintenance

Reference: No update as of 8/8/2013 18:00

Stewardship

Reference: No update as of 8/8/2013 18:00

Worship and Music

Reference: No update as of 8/8/2013 18:00

End of File.