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Agenda

1. Devotions - Patrice Katzenmaier (5 minutes)
2. Adopt minutes from August Council meeting (5 minutes)
3. Q & A on Committee Reports (10 minutes)
4. Old Business
 - a. Discussion on Land Sale Meeting (10 minutes)
 - b. Strategic Planning Update (10 minutes)
5. New Business
6. Adjournment

Attendees

										<4									
										c=Committee Focus		d=Devotions		e=excused					
N			chair	% att	dev.	focus	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11		
							6/20/13	8/8/13	9/18/13	10/23/13	11/20/13	12/18/13	1/16/14	2/20/14	3/20/14	4/17/14	5/15/14		
1	Treasurer	Dave	Bergeson	x	100%	0	0	x	x	x									
2	Finance	Mike	Bonk	x	67%	0	0	x	x	e									
3	Vice President	Jessica	Donahue	x	100%	1	0	x	d	x									
4	Stewardship	Dean	Eisfelder	x	67%	0	0	x	e	x									
5	Financial Secr	Brent	Harms	x	33%	0	0	x	e	e									
6	Fellowship	Patrice	Katzenmaier	x	100%	1	0	x	x	d									
7	Missions	Patty	Longard	x	33%	0	0	x	e	e									
8	Youth and Family	Dane	McKenzie	x	33%	0	0	x	e	e									
9	Youth and Family	Darcy	McKenzie	x	100%	0	0	x	x	x									
10	Evangelism	Steve	Morganson	x	100%	0	0	x	x	x									
11	Pastor	Cassie	Nault	x	100%	0	0	x	x	x									
12	Education	Tanisha	Pikula	x	100%	0	0	x	x	x									
13	President	Debbie	Pirkl	x	100%	0	0	x	x	x									
14	Secretary	Andy	Ruff	x	100%	1	0	d	x	x									
15	Pastor	John	Snider	x	100%	0	0	x	x	x									
16	Property & Maint	Justin	Woods	x	100%	0	0	x	x	x									
17	Property & Maint	Dan	Youness	x	33%	0	0			x									
18	Worship & Music	Chris	Youngren	x	33%	0	0			x									
	count	18	18	18		3	0	16	12	14	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		

Meeting Notes

1. Meeting was called to order at 19:10 by president Debbie Pirkl.
2. Devotions: Patrice Katzenmaier (who just had a new grandchild yesterday) gave a devotion contrasting the old with the new.

Steve Morganson volunteered to lead the devotion next month.
3. Adopt minutes from June Council meeting
 - 3.1. M/S/C to approve. M: Steve Morganson. Second: Justin Woods.
4. Meeting time: Several council leaders also lead JOY, WILD or confirmation. Those programs finish at 7:00 which leaves no time to transition to Council meeting. Council discussed and agreed to start the October meeting at 7:15 instead of 7:00pm.
5. Committee reports.
 - 5.1. September meeting notes for several committees were broadcast successfully including: Evangelism, Stewardship, Finance, and Missions. There were no reports from Fellowship or Property. Did committees meet? Send notes? Patrice sent Fellowship notes but not to all. She will resend.
 - 5.1.1. General request: If your committee meets: take notes and cc Email to all Council members. If you do not meet in a given month: please send an Email to all saying: We did not meet this month.
 - 5.2. Youth and Education. Debbie noted that our Interserve consultants suggested these committees be combined. Pastor Cassie said Youth and Education intend to maintain separate committees but work closely together. They will meet jointly for the first 10-15 minutes and then finish their meetings separately. Many activities are joint: Ex: Rally Sunday was run by Fellowship, Youth, and Education...
 - 5.3. Pastor Cassie: 3 seminary students will be working with us this year. The seminary encourages them to work with a congregation. The intent is to help them connect and engage outside of academic theological setting. Our students include:
 - 5.3.1. Mandy who speaks Spanish and was attracted by our Pueblo de Fe connection. She will be working with them.
 - 5.3.2. Keith who will be working with the confirmation group.
 - 5.3.3. Caitlin (Sitlake's wife) who will be working on Adult Ed with the Mickelson's and their committee.Please welcome them and thank them for their service.
 - 5.4. Stewardship. Eisfelder. Looking for volunteers to do temple talks this Fall.
6. Old business
 - 6.1. Land sale: President Pirkl gave a re-cap of the Congregation Meeting 9/15/13 regard sale of the west portion of our property (ref: meeting notes published separately). There were good questions and discussion. The motion passed

overwhelmingly but not unanimously. The surveyors are surveying the entire property to help us define boundaries for both parcels. The sale is contingent on approval of their site plan by the city of WSP.

- 6.1.1. Numbers: Appraisal was for \$390,000. The offer is for \$380,000. Estimated expenses are \$32,000.
- 6.1.2. The congregation approved tithing 10% of the net to missions.
- 6.1.3. Members suggested we consider putting some or all of the money in the Foundation. The Foundation is a separate entity currently led by Dave Paton. The Foundation manages money like an endowment so that earnings are available to the congregation but principle is not spent. Dave will come to the November council meeting to discuss this option.
- 6.1.4. If sale proceeds don't go into Foundation, the default option as recommended by Finance is the Capital Reserve account. With that option, principle and earnings are accessible for congregation purposes.
- 6.2. Strat planning process (Brent was unable to attend tonight).
 - 6.2.1. Pastor John gave a short summary of Brent's 9/16 update to exec. Generally: The Worship committee is well along in their process and will present results to date for input at the October council meeting. The other 3 committees have not started meeting yet.
- 6.3. Synod: The synod will send a rep to our 10/23 council meeting. Pastor John says expect a 10-15 minute: how ya doing? - this is what the synod is doing - session....

7. New business:

- 7.1. Worship: Chris Youngren asked to step down as chair of the Worship committee. Council thanks Chris for her years of dedicated and faithful service! Debbie will ask the nominating committee to help find a replacement.
- 7.2. Evangelism: Steve Morganson is looking into having Gerritt's concerts broadcast on public access TV. There were initial concerns about copyrights. Pastor John, Town Center and Gerritt agree we aren't selling anything so there should be no issue here. Making it happen: we need certified folk to run the equipment. This means 2-3 hr training course after which trainees could use their equipment. Contact Steve or Jenny if you are interested (or know of good candidates). You could be like Russell or Benjamin of Wayne's World.
- 7.3. Youth: how are things going with our new Youth Director, Sitraka? The consensus: great! Sample feedback from council:
 - 7.3.1. Sitrake and team have already picked dates for Wapo 2014 and date+place for Mission trip 2014 and 2015.
 - 7.3.2. Sitrake is working well with Darcy and the Youth committee.
 - 7.3.3. Youth will sell hot dogs and chips for Sibley homecoming parade 9/27.
 - 7.3.4. Moving the director office form downstairs to first floor is working well.
 - 7.3.5. We want skills and gifts. You can teach skills, not gifts. Sitraka has both.
 - 7.3.6. Gathering room time is crazy. Sitrake draws and maintains attention.
 - 7.3.7. Sitrake starts on time. This is respectful of participant time.
 - 7.3.8. Sitrake is tech savvy. He is working towards online calendars, google docs, etc.

- 7.4. Youth2: What does Sitraka think of us? Are we providing him with the right tools for the job? Smart boards? Other? Ideas welcome. We can arrange help so he doesn't have to implement alone. Cassie: Tech side (laptop) is going well so far.
 - 7.5. Youth3: Homecoming and Wednesday services are pulling in new people. Leaders estimate we pulled in 10 new kids; some from the multi-units across Delaware (our neighbors!) A walk-in parent offered to help in the nursery.
 - 7.6. Youth4: Tanisha: Our WILD and JOY kids have accumulated \$600 in youth offerings. Our kids want to donate some of the money to Feed My Starving Children and some to an Animal Shelter. Doesn't that make you proud? Justin suggests this gets press in the bulletin and Update. Amen to that!
8. Upcoming events:
 - 8.1. 10/2: feed my starving children. Takes 90 volunteers to fill the place.
 - 8.2. 10/12: Cosettas dinner at St. Stephens followed by a Sandy Patty concert at Bethel. Car pool to and from Bethel. Cost is \$35 for the evening.
 - 8.3. 10/23 Next council meeting.
 - 8.4. 11/2: game night and haunted house. Family event.
9. Adjournment
 - 9.1. MSC to adjourn at 19:55. M=Steve Morganson, S=Jessica Donahue.
 - 9.2. We closed with a prayer.
 - 9.3. A 45 minute council meeting? Whoo hoo! Yea Debbie!

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Ruff
Secretary

Committee Reports

Education

Reference: Email from Tanisha Pikula dated 9/16/2013 12:12

The education committee didn't meet this past month.

Thank you,

Tanisha Pikula, Education Chair

Evangelism and Membership

Reference: Email from Steve Morganson dated 9/18/2013 11:02

- 1.Six welcome packs were delivered this month.
- 2.Schedule for the next two months of hosts for the Connection Center was issued.
- 3.We agreed to pursue televising Gerrit's concerts on the basis that we will not have copyright conflicts since we are not selling anything. Next step is to obtain volunteers to be certified by Town Square to operate their equipment.
- 4.No progress on Ice cream event.

Regards

Steve

Fellowship

Reference: Email from Patrice Katzenmaier dated 9/18/2013 20:23

Our committee met on Sunday, September 1, 2013.

Attending: P. Katzenmaier, K. Canniff, Diane Johnson , Sara Ruff, Lori Ritt

UPCOMING DATES/ EVENTS

Sept. 8th- we will be serving donuts,coffee, juice boxes to- go for service sunday for both services. Still need volunteers for second service--anyone? We can set up at the front door or outside if nice weather. I will pick up donuts etc. We will set up beginning at 8am.

Sept. 15th is Homecoming. We will provide fruit & juice. The Ed. Committee will do the egg bake etc.

Oct. 12 – Concert at Bethel College, dinner before catered from Cassetta's. Car pool from

church. Tiffany and Patrice will pick up dinner. Price set at \$25. Sign up in Narthex. We need paper products and will check with Tiffany if comes with dinner. We will also serve coffee. Please encourage signup--we have 30 tickets!

Nov.2 - family game night and haunted house in planning stages. We will be using the lounge because there is a wedding in the fellowship hall until 5pm.

OLD BUSINESS

Outdoor service-Sept. 4th...we served ice cream outside for a social. Extra cones and ice cream need to be used up. Any ideas?

Our Old Fashioned Tea and the Garage sale were both a huge success with lots of requests to repeat next year. Thanks for a great effort by everyone on the committee!

We are always looking for volunteers to fill the dates for Sunday morning donuts/coffee. The third Sunday in OCT. is open. Can your committee help? We are going to try to make a schedule for four months ahead.

Yours in Christ,

Patrice Katzenmaier, Chairperson, Anne Pfankuch, Kathy Canniff, Diane Johnson, Lori Ritt, Tiffany Cook, Joanna Mead, Sara Ruff, Brenda Geiser

Finance

Reference Email from Mike Bonk dated 9/15/2013 11:18

The Finance Committee met on Thursday September 5th. Members present included Dave Bergeson, Mike Butala, Sue Clark, Beth Hostager, Pastor John, Abra Gillman and Mike Bonk.

Following is a brief recap of the meeting:

Debbie Pirkl was in attendance for the first part of the meeting to discuss the land sale. The group reviewed the net costs to sell the property, estimated at \$33,000, and expect the net proceeds to be approximately \$347,000. Mike Butala reminded the group that the sale is contingent on the buyer's plans being accepted by the city council and the results of some soil tests. There was some discussion about how the proceeds of the sale would be used. The Finance Committee was in agreement that 10% of the proceeds would go into the Missions Fund and the remaining balance would be placed in a Capital Reserve Fund.

Next the Committee reviewed the financial results for both July and August. July income was 16% or \$5300 above budget. Most of this favorable result was driven by additional general envelope giving. Expenses for the month were within \$600 of plan, so the overall net result was favorable to plan by \$4700. August net income of \$29,300 was \$1,300 less than plan. The shortfall in income to plan was primarily due to general envelope giving. Expenses for the month of \$37,500 were \$5100 less than budget. Insurance expense was \$2000 favorable to plan due to the timing of the payment. For the year to date this cost is now on plan. Salary cost was also favorable to plan in August because of the open youth director position. Overall the August net operating result was \$3800 favorable to plan.

The Committee spent some time discussing "dedicated accounts" and we all felt we could use more understanding of the purpose or intent of some of the accounts. There are many accounts and the total balance amounts to \$548,000. Dedicated accounts range from education, youth, music and property/maintenance to special funds that our identified by the name of provider of the gift or memorial. This will be a future agenda item for the Committee.

Finally the Committee began to discuss the 2014 budget process. Beth Hostager provided an overview of the planning process and we talked about a timeline. We hope to get the 2014 budget forms to the Committee chairs by mid October and then start scheduling budget review sessions. More to come.

Missions

Reference Email from Patty Longard dated 9/8/2013 22:05

Missions Committee Minutes 9/5/13

1. Finances – We reviewed our monthly accounts and rectified some questions with Finance Committee.
2. Garage Sale for Tanzania – Fellowship committee has involved us in the discussion of how best to allocate the \$1200 that was raised by their Garage Sale last month. Ideas discussed include assisting with fresh water campaigns, supporting visitors to and/or from Tanzania, and possibly school supplies. The discussion continues.
3. Neighbors Capital Campaign - We raised nearly \$1000 by way of “Get To Know Your Neighbors events held by congregation members this summer. We discussed next steps, and decided to keep the events open into 2014. We plan to re-introduce the program in January with ideas for winter events, and make another push next summer as well. At this time, we plan to continue until we have raised the \$7500 goal.
4. Loaves and Fishes balance – We set a date for the next Pots and Pans offering to be held on Sunday October 27th.
5. Gods Work, Our Hands – We finalized plans for sandwich making this weekend. The event went well – we made nearly 350 sandwiches. There was a lot of interest in doing this event again – while we did have some donations of bread and meat, we will have to work on increasing donations of sandwich supplies for future events.
6. Connection with Pueblo de Fe – We spent some time discussing how to work with the new Luther interns to increase our connection to Pueblo De Fe congregation.
7. We spent a few minutes discussing the role of Missions Committee in the new Strategic plan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patty Longard

Connecting with God, Others and the Needs of the World

Worship – Welcome – Equipping – Serving

Pastor's Report – John Snider

Reference: Email from Pastor John dated 9/16/2013 15:25

First, **thank you** for being a part of the Body of Christ at St. Stephen's. Together we celebrate the life of Jesus among us: moving and directing us and letting us partake in the divine life. What a calling and what a blessing!

This month began with the celebration of **Lutheran Mideast Development**, the inclusion of two Kurdish women in our worship and at the Gala celebrating this work. These two lead us into recognizing how much of this mission is directed to the empowering and therefore the protection of women. Thank you all for your support of the ministry which is so uniquely ours.

This has been a month of preparation for the **Via de Cristo** weekends coming up **October 17-20** for men and **October 24-27** for women. Many Sunday afternoons St. Stephen's is filled with people training to lead this effort. I continue to find great learning and inspiration in this retreat and among the people who give their time to help it happen. It will never be easier for you to attend then when it is here. I highly recommend it for your spiritual blessing and leadership training.

It has been a pleasure to see the work our first **Strategic Taskforce** has accomplished around the word "**Worship**". Thank you to Sondra Paton, Mike McHugh, Deborah Ellis, Kathy Canniff, Cathy Harms, and Janelle Woods for serving in this fashion and to Brent Harms for being the leader the strategic planning. The suggestions they are working on are not fully developed by they are committed to a timely response and bold action. Please keep these efforts in your prayers.

Finally I was very pleased with the decision to offer the **land for sale** at yesterday's congregational meeting. Debbie ran a great meeting, Mike Butala was very prepared and informative and I thought the congregation did an excellent job of handling some differences of opinion; of "**disagreeing agreeably**". That is an important skill to develop. That being said the motion was passed with a whopping majority and we are now moving into new territory. This is a big step and a faithful one. Should the sale be completed, our calling is to be good stewards of all this money and help it be used for growing the Lord's Kingdom.

Again, thank you for participating in our shared ministry.

Pastor John

Pastor's Report – Cassie Nault

Reference: No update as of 9/18/2013 19:00

Property and Maintenance

Reference: No update as of 9/18/2013 19:00

Stewardship

Reference: Email from Dean Eisfelder dated 9/16/2013 08:50

To All Council Members and Staff

The Stewardship Committee met on August 19th, August 29th, and September 5th to begin planning the 2014 stewardship pledge campaign. The theme we selected for the 2014 campaign is the following: "Connected in Mission - God, Self, World." The theme is very similar to our new Mission Statement (Connected to God, each other, and the world) and this is intentional because we want members to see how strongly stewardship is linked to our overall goals. Cleone Swanberg is working on a design for a logo that will provide a visual image of the idea.

We thought briefly about not having a traditional pledge drive. The idea was to have people pledge but to keep the amount they pledged to themselves. We asked the synod about this and to the best of their knowledge, all ELCA congregations ask their members to pledge and to inform their congregation of the amount. Locally, there is one non-ELCA Lutheran church that does not ask members to pledge a specific amount but they are the exception. We tabled the idea for now but may reconsider it for future pledge campaigns.

We are redesigning the pledge card so it can be printed on paper and completed manually or filled out electronically and sent by email. The current test version of the card requires that the user have Microsoft Word.

At the November 3rd Adult Forum we will be discussing our new mission statement and how it relates to stewardship. We plan to have staff members and council members available to lead the discussion and answer questions. We have also set aside November 17th as Stewardship Sunday. This is the day that members will be invited to present their pledge card.

Sometime in mid-October there will be a mailing sent to all members that will explain the pledge program and list all the important dates. The mailing will also include a pledge card and a letter from the pastor. We will also sent out the new email version of the pledge card to members that have an email address.

We are planning to have some temple talks leading up to Stewardship Sunday but we haven't decided yet on who will be talking or selected the dates. Other events may also be planned. Any ideas you may wish to submit or any help you may want to provide would be welcome.

Dean Eisfelder, Stewardship Chair

Worship and Music

Reference: Email from Chris Youngren dated 9/16/2013 19:01

We did not meet this month.

Chris Youngren, Chair

Youth

Reference: Email from Darcy McKenzie dated 9/17/2013 05:00

In the process of recruiting a committee.

Darcy McKenzie, Youth Committee, Chair

End of File.