

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Parish Council Meeting October 24, 2018 / 7:15pm-8:15pm
Note - Meeting in Fellowship Hall

Attendees (Absent):

Pastor John Snider, Pastor Tim Thompson, Brett Scribner, Gary Westman, Dave Bergeson, Debbie Pirkel, Joy Stenhaus, Janell Woods, Beth Hostager, Diane Meyers, Sara Ruff, Joanna Mead, Mark Rogosheske, Jenny Van Pelt, Eric Donahue, Jessica Donahue, Kim Richter, Mary Brunkow, Lori Ritt, John Anderson, Annette Youness, Tracy Westman, Ally Schloesser-Brecht

AGENDA

- **Opening prayer** – Pastor John

- **September meeting minutes approved** - Minutes approved as corrected.

- **Tanzania Visit Update - It is Happening in November** – Beth & Tracy
 - a) **Dates:** November 6 arrival approx. 9pm – November 19 departure approx. 6:30p
 - b) **Preparation for Visit:**
 - Working on scheduled & will publish soon.
 - 3 nights are open for 3 guests. Please see Tracy or Beth if interested.
 - November 18th planning a potluck at church

- **Committee reports – Please remember to submit your committee reports each month!!**
 - a) **Pastor's report(s)**
 - See attached email

 - b) **Property & Maintenance** – Jessica
 - Oven/Stove – old unit has been removed. New will be installed.
 - Water heater – has been replaced.
 - Rooftop heating unit needs to be replaced – Noreen Center.
 - Emergency light will be fixed/replaced.
 - North Door – a new hinge has been installed on door.
 - Licensed Boiler person – still working on.
 - Sprinkler system – researching recall on sprinkler heads.

 - c) **Christian Education** – Janell
 - Things are going well.

 - d) **Youth & Family** – John
 - Meatball dinner is advertised in The Voice.
 - Looking for volunteers for silent auction.
 - Silent Auction items due by November 8.

e) **Finance** – Beth/Dave

- Contribution Counters Needed. Monday 8am-8:45am.
- Review housing allowance for Pastor Tim.
 - Debbie motion to approve housing allowance.
 - Joanne 2nd
 - Discussion:
 - Motion passed.

f) **Stewardship** – Kim

- Thrivent workshops & grant money available.
- Some committee members will be attending a workshop Nov 1st.
- Pledge walk scheduled for November 11, 2018.

g) **Missions** – no report, see email

h) **Worship & Music** – no report

i) **Inviting**

- Teresa Tschida, willing to Chair starting December 2018.
 - Debbie motion to approve Teresa has Chair of Inviting committee.
 - Beth 2nd.
 - Discussion.
 - Motion passed.

j) **Fellowship** – Sara

- Game night went great success at Salem Lutheran Church. There was dinner, music from Ben and lots of games for all.
- December 9 at 4pm – Black Nativity. Tickets available at \$32 each.

- **Executive Committee** – Gary / no action

- **Via de Cristo** - October 10-13 and October 17-20, 2019

- **Important Dates**

- a) Parish Council: Wednesday November 14 – 7:15 PM
- b) Parish Council: Wednesday December 19 – 7:15 PM

- **Adjourn**

Pastor John:

I'm using the our mission statement, Connecting to God, each other and the world to frame my report for October.

Connecting to God:

Hopefully you are finding ways to connect with God, to relate to God, in gracious and personal ways. God is the source of what we are trying to do together. Connecting to God is through worship, prayer, scripture, moments of gratitude. I have really liked the method of Bible reading we used in August when we "dipped into" Ephesians. The idea was to read along until a word, or phrase or idea had traction for you, touched you, then try to live with that concept in the back of your minds all day long. It makes Bible reading less intimidating. It takes the pressure off and makes it a gift. God's Word is life.

Connecting to Each Other:

How we do our work together, how we support, share, listen and resist judging, is so important to the mission of this congregation. In some ways it is our mission. I've really enjoyed how our newest staff members, Tracy, Ali, Ben and now Tim (in a new way) further this goal. Also the excellent work that is being done here from the Stewardship Committee helping us connect our lives to the "New Money Mindset" to the Fellowship Committee which did such a great job being so generous and helpful with game night at Salem. Part of connecting to each other is a great kitchen and thank you to our Properties Committee and the Foundation for securing a new stove and refrigerator which are on the way! BTW-We need volunteers for the Connecting Center on Sunday morning, 15 minutes before and after worship.

Connecting to the World:

- Let's Talk will be held tomorrow, Thursday, October 25, at the Mosque with a special emphasis on Middle Schoolers and High Schoolers. Carpool from St. Stephen's at 6:45 p.m. Thursday, November 15 we will be the host and the conversation will focus on thankfulness in both traditions.**
- The connection with Salem has been so exciting! While a local Lutheran church may not be exactly the same as connecting to the world, there are plenty of issues of turf and even an unhealthy competition but those days seem over as together we enhance each other's ministries.**
- Inviting Committee did a wonderful job welcoming ISD 197 as the Homecoming Parade was launched again from here. There was a feeling of joy and welcome.**
- Lutheran Mideast Development is one of our most significant ministries. The International Field Director will be here in November. There will be a special event on Thursday, November 8, 7 p.m. here at St. Stephen's. We will be welcoming the many supporters from around the community to the sanctuary. Hope you can come and hear about this amazing work.**
- Partners from Tanzania! Amazingly they are on their way! They will be here November 6-19! It takes a whole village to welcome and embrace guests. Please stay tuned to how you can help. They will be speaking at the Adult Forum on November 18. But there's much more!**
- Scandinavian Meatball Dinner and Silent Auction, November 9 preparations. November 10, the meal! This is our major fund raiser for youth activities of all sorts. Not only do we hope you'll buy tickets, we hope you'll sell tickets to the community. Is there a better cause to support a silent auction and eat meatballs for?**
- Matrix. We are honored to host the homeless from Dec. 1-15 at St. Stephen's. Thank you to the Eisefelder and Loren Vanpelt who are putting together new showers for your guests. There will be many ways to help, including meal preparations.**

Isn't it good to be part of God's people in the world? Connections are everything and here we are connecting to what really counts: God, each other and the world!

Council Update from Pastor Tim for October 2018

I was delighted that the congregation voted to offer me a call which I am equally delighted to accept! I've already begun to use the 2-year framework as an aid to planning and goal setting, which will be very helpful. I'll keep you posted as that comes further into clarity.

The **Wednesday night "Toolbox Explorers" group** is going great! Between 15 to 20 people have attended, coming from St. Stephen's, Salem and Liberating Spirit so we have three congregations represented!

The **Road Trip** has resumed and we are in the process of moving the focus from getting clarity about what it means to *be* a disciple to the practical questions about how we can go about *making* disciples. One theme we are sure to encounter there is the importance of relationships and community for BOTH "being" and "making." Please tune your ears to that frequency for the coming Road Trip messages and as leaders in the congregation, help others to begin thinking in those terms as well.

Lastly, the **Toolbox booklets** are continuing to expand the reach of our ministry together as people are picking them up and sharing them with others. I had the opportunity to present it as a resource to the Interim Pastor's Group of the Synod and it was well received – they even asked me to come back and "unpack" it further for them!

Thanks for your partnership in ministry!

Pastor Tim

The Finance Committee met on Thursday, October 4. In attendance were Pastor John, Beth Hostager, Sue Clark and Diane Meyers.

Discussion surrounded the September financials.

September Financials

	Month		YTD	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Contributions	\$31,342.00	\$24,412.00	\$307,805.00	\$305,215.26
Other Income	3,421.00	3,911.71	80,039.00	81,248.41
Total Income	34,763.00	28,323.71	387,844.00	386,463.67
Total Expenses	\$43,233.51	\$35,511.74	\$415,207.59	\$395,996.29
Income Less Expense	(8,470.51)	(7,188.03)	(27,363.59)	(9,532.62)

Comments: Month

Total Income Under plan by \$6,439.29

Total Expenses Better than Plan by \$7,721

Income less Expenses Better than plan by \$1,282.48

Salaries/Benefits better than plan by \$5,301.19

Education over plan by \$816.53

Property and Maintenance better than plan by \$2,207.59 mainly in HVAC.

Miscellaneous others make up the rest.

Comments:

YTD

- Contributions are \$7,161.97 under plan**
- Total income is \$1,380.33 under plan**
- Expenses are \$19,211.30 better than plan**
- Deficit of \$9,532.62 is \$17,830.97 better than plan**

Respectfully submitted,

Beth and Diane - Co Chairs

Missions Committee met on Oct 7:

Agenda:

Pots 'n Pans offering

Sunday, Nov 18 We'll do a special pots 'n pans offering for Loaves & Fishes.

Walk to End Hunger - November 22, 2018

Low attendance last year – if we do this year, we should promote earlier.

Arm Full of Love -Christmas gift program through 360 Communities (aka Blessing Tree) –

We are on again this year for the Arm Full of Love – Patty To contact Tracy (may have already done) regarding having a Faith Formation activity night - making the gift tag . Dates will be confirmed in a few weeks – update next month

Guatemala:

We have set aside \$1,000 this year to sponsor a church in Guatemala. On hold – Will need to re-allocate to another group before the year end. Local need? Winter clothes for Garlough? Donate to Franklin Hiawatha encampment? Thoughts?

Respectfully Submitted

Jenny Van Pelt