

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Parish Council Meeting June 19, 2019
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Attendees (Absent):

Pastor John Snider, Pastor Tim Thompson, Gary Westman, Merrill Zieman, Sue Clark, Debbie Pirkl, Joy Stenhaus, Janell Woods, Beth Hostager, Diane Meyers, Sara Ruff, Joanna Mead, Mark Rogosheske, Dave Paton, Eric Donahue, Jessica Donahue, Kim Richter, Mary Molumby, Lori Ritt, Teresa Tschida, John Anderson, Annette Youness, Tracy Westman, Ali Schloesser-Brecht

AGENDA

1) Opening prayer / Devotional: Gary

2) Minutes approved – May 8, 2019 meeting: Gary

- a) Minutes approved

3) Updates from Executive Committee: Gary

- a) Bellow's home donation: Should be receiving title and keys this week. Executive committee will lead this project.
- b) All committee night would like to be changed the 2nd Thursday of each month vs 1st.

4) Committee reports

- a) Pastor John's Report:
 - i) Begins Sabbatical June 24 thru September 17th.
- b) Pastor Tim's Report
- c) Property & Maintenance: see page 3.
- d) Christian Education: Mary
 - i) Reviewed report. See details on page 4,5.
 - ii) Will be joining with Salem Lutheran church again for Wednesday's this fall.
- e) Youth & Family: Tracy
 - i) VBS at Salem is going well. 35 kids attending. Most are not St. Stephens or Salem members. Working on getting an email to reach out to these families.
 - ii) Mission trip and Wapo are in the works. See details on page 5.
- f) Finance: Diane
 - i) Contributions are down, year to date does not look bad.
 - ii) see details on page 6.
- g) Stewardship: Kim
 - i) Working on changing up the envelope system. 40% are online vs envelope contributions.
 - ii) Thrivent – Who is a member??? Please let committee know if you are.

- h) Missions: Dave
 - i) For detailed report, see page 7.
 - ii) Gods work, Our hands – any idea's, please contact Dave.
- i) Worship & Music: Pastor John
 - i) Ben will provide music this Sunday.
 - ii) Looking at an outdoor service August 4, 2019.
- j) Inviting: See report page 8
- k) Fellowship: Joanne
 - i) Recruited new members.
 - ii) Saints game July 24, 2019
 - iii) See detail report page 9
- l) Nominating: no report
- m) Feedback on Synod Assembly, May 17-18: Debbie
 - i) Reviewed events and speakers from the 2 day event.
 - ii) Brought in the book if anyone interested in reviewing.
 - iii) Everyone is encouraged to volunteer for this yearly event.
- n) Misc:
 - i) Please consider helping on Sundays. See Debbie or Pastor Tim on details.
 - ii) Counters needed. Meeting once a week on Monday from 8-9am.
 - iii) New AED (Automated External Defibrillator) – Same pads for adult and children, all verbal prompts.
 - (1) Will be having a class on how to use. All invited. Keep an eye out for details.

5) **Important Dates**

- a) Pastor John's Sabbatical June 24 through September 17.
- b) Neighbors, Inc. Summer Meal Program with ISD #6 and ISD #197
 - i) June 12 to August 15
 - ii) St. Stephen's @ Somerset Elementary July 22-25
 - iii) Sign-up at Connection Center or contact Sondra Paton
- c) No July Council meeting
- d) Next Parish Council Meeting **August 21, 7:00 PM**

6) **Adjourn**

Properties and Maintenance

Good afternoon everyone,

Properties and Maintenance is keeping busy with our everyday on going list of "things" that needs to be replaced, repaired, or just thrown away.

- Catacombs
We have made our third trip to the dump in the last year just recently taking away multiple items. If they are not labeled or have a home they are going to be thrown away no questions asked. The Sea scouts and Boy Scouts have a taped off area, everyone else should have a closet to put items in. If not the catacombs is not your catch all, especially items left over from the garage sale, items moved out of office spaces, if items are "retiring" to the catacombs please ask yourself if you plan to use it in the next few months, if not please contact someone and we will make sure it goes somewhere. The fire Marshall will "ding" us on all of these items put into the spaces that they need to access. Our repair guys spend way to much "time which we are paying" for them to move items out of the way just so they can access their equipment to service. We need to be much more aware and use this space wisely
- Gas stove in the kitchen, Eric has received multiple calls since the stove has been in place that users are stating the gas has been shut off. We have no idea how individuals are ignoring all of our signs but it is happening. So if you see someone doing that please advise not too, that is why we paid extra for this stove was to have that safety feature. I understand old habits are hard to break, but it does make for extra trips up hear for one of us, especially if its not someone familiar with our kitchen.
- NAC update.

Thank you to the executive committee for helping me move forward with the design elements to present. Pastor John and I have had multiple meetings with the district staff involved with the STORM/ECORE programs seeking out needs for them to have a successful program. We all have had the opportunity to voice the needs of everyone using that space. We have chosen some wonderful "earth tones" (nice shade of light almost pastel greens" for the activity room, a blue for the "chillax" room and then the furniture update will add color to the lounge area. The school district will be providing "technology carts" so that students will have access to laptops or ipads for homework time and or earned technology time through the summer and school year. These carts will be locked as well as stored in a "locked office" overnight as well as on the weekends. I met with the designer from one of the districts classroom furniture companies as she measured all the rooms that will be updated. I am looking to hear back from her with our first design layout. In the meantime a group of us will be going to the show room in Maple Grove to look at furniture covering for each room.

- Lighting has been finished and updated, need to confirm if parking lot lights have been changed out with all the construction going on....
- Fire/Sprinkler inspection this week. We passed- yay, but still need to look into the sprinkler head and tying the trip gas valve into the main box which was noted on the inspection which lassume is not new just to this inspection but probably on going. Something that is on our list and will figure out how to traverse through getting another company to look at the sprinkler heads etc...

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the above or items to add to our list please contact Eric or myself. Thank you Eric and Jessica

Education Committee Notes
Meeting date- May 29, 2019

5 members present- Tracy, Mary (note taker), Jessica, Jenny and Christine

*Gathered materials and cleaned the classrooms and then great news was given that we are still conjoined with Salem for next year!

1. We discussed Attendance on Wednesday nights:

- * We saw a decline in attendance after Lent
- * 7th grade boys had the best attendance after Lent
- * 7th grade boys and girls had the best attendance overall

2. Survey Results-

Parent-

- *Positive responses for the family activity nights
- *Sports on Wednesdays played a part in the absences
- * Music was mentioned in the results

Teachers -

- * Shine curriculum is liked
- * Too much material for one week
- * The curriculum had great ideas and suggestions to do with the kids
- * The lessons at Advent, Lent and Lord's Prayer were well received
- * The last supper lesson with the pastors was good.
- * Some would like to see having the worship service include communion again.
- * Saw a drop in attendance as the year progressed
- * Having Patty Longard prepare materials was very helpful

3. Thoughts on Next Year -

- * Mentors-difficult to find- maybe have adults push in
- * Parent pick up at the door was positive and would like to continue
- * One night a month would be family worship using the Shine curriculum and would include watching the video, having worship with communion and then have the family accompany their child to class
- * Rotation of the 3 pastors would continue
- * Have activity nights again- Caroling, tie blankets, Ziploc bags for the homeless, and game night etc
- * Teachers would do the lesson for two weeks so they can cover all the material
- * Would like to see 2 teachers in the rooms again
- * High school helpers were great!
- * Prayer mentors- they would be people that the kids don't necessarily have to interact with but the kids will know that they are being prayed for.

4. Shine Curriculum-

- * After reviewing the curriculum calendar and lessons, would like to order the summer/winter curriculum
- * 6th, 7th and 8th grades would use the Generation Why curriculum but then add a couple of topics to study
- * Confirmation students-would study Luther's Small Catechism. It would be introduced at church and the student would work on it with their family at family worship night.

Generation Why Curriculum-

- *6th grade will pick two topics and also will have the study of the Lord's Prayer and Holy Communion
- *7th grade will pick two- with one being How to Read the Bible
- *8th grade will pick two

5 Discussion of Milestones-

- *Blessing of the Backpacks- milestone for all grades

*This is what we have for the grades right now-

Birth-Baptism, they receive prayer books

K - ideas needed

6 - Story Bible given

12th-Graduation- they receive a blessing and a bible

1st-ideas needed

7th-?

2nd-First Communion

8th- Learn the Apostle's creed

3rd-Study bible given

9th-Confirmation

4th-?

10th- ?

5th- ?

11th-?

Respectfully yours,

Mary Molumby

Questions, please feel free to contact me at marymo501@gmail.com or mmolumby@sspps.org

YOUTH ACTIVITES UPDATE

Mission trips:

New York: 10 people

Duluth: 10 people

Everything taken care of! Just planning service sites

Theme for the summer is "Awaken our Hearts"

Ezekiel 36:26

"I will give you a new heart..."

So excited for the summer with these kids. It already started this week at Wapo! Seeing them interact with each other and God is amazing.

Submitted by Ali

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance committee met on Thursday, June 6th at 7:00. In attendance was Beth, Sue and we welcomed Merrill to the Finance committee.

Beth did an overview of Financial statements and the different processes that finance performs.

The subject of committee night being moved to the 2nd Thursday was discussed.

		MAY		YTD May		
		ACTUALS	Plan	ACTUALS	Plan	Variance
Contributions	(1)	24,750	30,369	184,974	187,838	(2,864)
Other Income	(2)	3,318	3,570	21,155	19,645	1,510
Total Income		28,068	33,939	206,129	207,483	(1,354)
Total Expense	(3)	42,859	42,198	213,764	219,346	5,583
Income less Expenses		(14,791)	(8,259)	(7,635)	(11,863)	4,228

MONTH - On plan.

NOTE (1) General Envelopes - 4 Sundays in May with 1 being Memorial weekend

NOTE (2) Monthly payments of Montessori and ATT came in.

NOTE (3) Property and Maintenance better than plan by \$1,500. Insurance and Conventions over plan in Admini
Worship Supplies, Special services, Audio Visual and Flowers were over plan in the Music and Worsl

Respectfully submitted:
Beth Hostager and Diane Meyers
Finance Co-Chairs

**Missions Committee meeting
minutes of June 6, 2019**

Members present: Vicki Jackson, Jenny VanPelt, David Paton

Okay, that's as formal as it gets. The existing members of the missions committee were good enough to take some time bringing the new Chair (me) up to speed. It was at that moment that I came to truly appreciate the work (the abundance!) of our church.

Before I go any further, I want to recognize a woman who has invested her time, talent, and treasure through her years-long commitment to the Missions Committee of SSLC...Patti Longard. In an email to me expressing her regret in not being able to find the time to continue on the Missions committee, Patti explained that she had found a new calling and, you guessed it, it's working with our fantastic Director of Youth and Family Faith formation, Tracy. I accepted it with regret, but not really. How bad is it when a church has committed members that eagerly move from one station to another as the spirit eagerly watches? Thanks Patti!

Anyway, my sense is that there will be some new things with missions as we put all of our heads together, but what won't change is the connection to God, each other, and the world that we strive to make everyday as children of God (and members of St. Stephens). If there are any creative thoughts about fun stuff we could do for "God's Work, Our Hands" in the Fall, let us know!

Respectfully submitted and stay tuned!

Dave Paton
Newbie Missions Chair

INVITING COMMITTEE

St. Stephen's Inviting Committee Meeting June 8, 2019
Roger, Steve, Mark, Pastor John, Teresa

I. Connection Center

- Steve has the roster filled for the next couple months.
- Tomorrow, we are trying something new. Placing a carafe of coffee with a few cups at the Connection Center, prior to service. A water pitcher, too. We are thinking this may help people to simply stop and stay a bit, rather than leave immediately. We will try this for the next couple months before we evaluate its success. Steve was calling the connection center volunteers to ask them to include this as part of their duties.

II. Marketing

- Half sheets at the connection center: tapping into our congregation to help us invite!
 - Develop a simple half sheet of Summer at St. Stephens; ask our congregation to take 2-3 of them and personally invite their family, friends, community to join us. Once final, we will place at the connection center and put a note in the monthly newsletter, asking the congregation to pick up and distribute. Starting September 1st, we will have a new half sheet, highlighting Fall at St Stephens and the Wednesday night activities.
 - Teresa will talk to Ben and Pastor Tim about social media ideas. Potentially, we could post the Summer at St Stephens on the Church Facebook Page and members could "share" on their pages.
- Flyers for community boards
 - Teresa will create an 11x14 flyer to post at community boards around West St. Paul, such as the library.
- Christmas Mailing
 - The mailing of 500 postcards for Easter was a good trial run. We had more people on Easter than in prior years, a good sign. We plan to use the same mailing list and do a larger mailing for the Christmas season.
- VBS
 - For kids that attend VBS, we will look for those without a home church – and visit those families with banana bread, representing both Salem and St. Stephens.

Future: Ask a youth member to join us occasionally, to support inviting kids and young adults to worship.

NEW: The handouts for use in Banana Bread visits need updating. Does someone want to take that on? I have them and can drop them at your house or leave them at church in our box. Please let me know.

Thanks.

Submitted by Teresa Tschida

Fellowship Committee Minutes
June 19, 2019 Council Meeting

The Fellowship Committee met on June 6, 2019. In attendance were Joanna Mead, Jolene Sather, Robin Thoreson, Pastor John Snider, and Sara Ruff. Here is a summary of the discussion:

We are planning two summer events, a baseball game and a patio party.

Baseball with the Saints and Cleburne Railroaders on Wednesday, **July 24th** At 7:05 pm. We have a block of 25 infield tickets reserved. The cost is \$18 per ticket. We will meet at St. Stephen's and carpool to the game.

Patio Party, Thursday **August 15**. Gather at St. Stephen's for appetizers, then move on to host homes for a back-yard barbecue. We will have a sign-up sheet in the narthex, and will approach people to host a small group when we know how many people are interested.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Ruff.