

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Parish Council Meeting May 8, 2019
7:15-8:15pm

Attendees (Absent):

Pastor John Snider, Pastor Tim Thompson, Brett Scribner, Gary Westman, Dave Bergeson, Debbie Pirkl, 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, Teresa Tschida, John Anderson, Tracy Westman, Ali Schloesser-Brecht

AGENDA

1) Opening prayer (Brett)

2) Minutes approved – minutes approved as corrected.

3) Committee reports:

a) Pastor John Report: see page 4

b) Pastor Tim Report: see page 5

c) Property & Maintenance:

- Working on furniture replacement in Noreen Center.
 - Looking into group effort with after school program & Noreen foundation for funding.

d) Christian Education – Janell

- Attendance is down since Lent.
- Last week celebration is May 15.
- Sent survey to teachers & families to evaluate the year.
- VBS is June 10-14 at Salem Lutheran. Volunteers are still needed.

e) Youth & Family

f) Finance: Beth and Diane - see page 6

g) Stewardship: Debbie

- Chris Becker joining team next week.
- Regular envelopes distributed to all members will be going away.
- Envelopes will still be available for those who wish to use them.

h) Missions: see page 7

PASTOR JOHN REPORT:

Dear Fellow Leaders of St. Stephen's,

It is always good to get reports before the meeting, though not always possible! Here's mine:

1. The Nominating Committee has done excellent work and we feel the slate is full. We would like special council approval to have Merrill Zieman serve as vice president. Constitutionally the requirement is membership of one year. Merrill became a member in October last year. Since that time he has served in many places: Adult Education; Let's Talk; Neighbors; Contemplative Prayer and Study; and been very committed to worship. He brings decades of church leadership with him from Mt. Olivet Lutheran. I think we should acknowledge this exception. The council will be asked to accept the full slate which follows. We have added members to the youth committee and will add to others as well. We have a new idea for the worship committee which is to invite people to three meetings a year, each one looking well forward to the coming seasons of the church.
2. We are waiting for a final cleaning of the house St. Stephen's has been given then it will be signed over to us. We expect that to happen within a few weeks. This remains a wonderful opportunity and time to seek God's will. We know we will tithe on the sale, probably to Wapo's building campaign. It is a time for bigger visions and faithful actions.
3. Jessica Donahue and I are meeting with the after school program and looking at the costs to refurbish the Noreen Center. After 21 years of faithful service it needs some buffing up. We plan to arrive at a cost and then seek funding. This would be a wonderful time to celebrate what the Noreen Center has brought to St. Stephen's and to the community.
4. My sabbatical is three months long, 12 Sundays. It will begin June 24 and end Sept. 16th. Its theme is "Looking Ahead". I'll be Looking Ahead as our first grandchild is born. Looking Ahead in contemplative prayer, retreat and reading for God's will for the next chapter of my life. Looking Ahead by doing deferred maintenance on our house, some day it will be sold! Pastor Tim will become full time during this period of time and cover all pastoral responsibilities.
5. We have a special invitation to Let's Talk. Instead of celebrating an evening meal during Ramadan, Iftar, with a large, our Muslim friends have invited us to a private dinner at 8 p.m. on May 30th, at the mosque. This would be an excellent time if you have been curious about Let's Talk but not attended.
6. Thank everyone for an excellent Lent and Easter! Definitely one of my favorites! Easter Sunday at 9:30, when we were adding chairs, was very exciting.
7. Happy to report that Gerrit is recovering very well and we expect him to be leading worship again on May 19th. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

Looking forward to seeing you tonight!

Pastor John

PASTOR TIM REPORT:

Council Update from Pastor Tim for May 2019

Mental Health Awareness: the blue card display in worship Sunday May 5th was very well received and sparked a lot of good conversation. Of the 75 cards turned in, 60 indicated “Y” which reflects 80% of the respondents. I plan to use this method again to reveal how common it is for people to wrestle with feelings of shame, in connection with my July sermon series.

Outreach Experiment: As discussed at the last Council meeting, Pastor John and I are planning an “outreach experiment” directed towards people who are relationally connected to St. Stephen’s but may want a new expression of congregational life. We are going to gather these people for conversation and offer the idea of a home-based “Missional Community” expression. We have set two dates in June for these conversations and will begin reaching out to potentially interested people soon. If you know people for whom a new expression of congregational life might be a blessing please let us know!"

Presenting at the Faithful Innovation Summit: Luther Seminary is conducting this event, July 24-26 at the University of St. Thomas. In addition to the main presentations and case-stories that will be featured, they will have an “innovation showcase” session where people can set up displays about their current work and have conversation with conference attendees. I applied and was accepted for one of these spots and will be sharing about our outreach experiment. Looking forward to this opportunity to share our story!

Discipleship Lab: The second DLab was held May 4th with ten people attending along with five team members. This is a decrease from the first session (14+6=20). The next DLab (#3) will be in the fall and I plan to assess the effectiveness of this project that lab or possibly #4.

Summer Plans

- “Shameless” Sermon Series, 4 weeks, June 30-July 21
- Guest Preacher July 28 (to be determined)
- “Romans” Sermon Series, 4 weeks, August 4-25
- Guest Preacher September 1 (to be determined)

As always, please let me know of any questions or concerns in the discipleship arena and thank you for the opportunity to serve among you!

Pastor Tim

FINANCE REPORT:

Good morning All on this beautiful sunny da
Sorry my minutes are late but here they are:

The Finance committee met on Thursday, May 2nd at 7:00 pm. Dave Bergeson, Gary Westman, Pastor John, Sue Clark, Beth Hostager and Diane Meyers attended.

We discussed:

New credit cards .

Mission's accrual and payables.

Insurance Premiums renewal.

Where to put a safe in the kitchen.

We went thru the April financial statements. The summary below states April Month and YTD.

	April		YTD April		Variance
	ACTUALS	Plan	ACTUALS	Plan	
Contributions (1)	38,656	43,179	160,224	157,469	2,755
Other Income (2)	3,008	4,277	17,826	16,075	1,751
Total Income	41,664	47,456	178,050	173,544	4,506
Total Expense (3)	36,061	42,204	170,764	177,149	6,384
Income less Expenses	5,604	5,252	7,285	(3,605)	10,890

MONTH - On plan.

NOTE (1) General Envelopes, Plate, Easter were below plan.

NOTE (2) Did not received a payments for Rent from the Montessori because they paid twice in March \$. \$1,575.

NOTE (3) Property and Maintenance better than plan by \$3,543. Smaller better than plan in most other categories. HVAC, Maintenance & Repairs, Custodial Care, make up most of the variance.

YTD

NOTE (2) Received extra month of ATT Tower of \$1,430

Respectfully submitted.

Beth Hostager & Diane Meyers co-chair

MISSIONS REPORT:

Good Afternoon!

The Missions Committee (Pastor John Snider, Vicki Jackson, Jenny Van Pelt) met on Thursday, May 2.

Topics of discussion:

Mission Sunday, May 5 –

Patty L created insert for Sunday's bulletin

Focus on **Lutheran Social Service of MN**, guest speaker, Reverend Katherine Tiede.

Basic intro to Lutheran Social Service – and what they do, offer throughout the community of MN.

Sadly, MN Without Poverty is no longer. We received a \$3,000 check back from them with a letter stating they were closing their doors.

We decided that \$2,000 should go to Neighbors, Inc. and \$1,500 to help fund Wednesday evening meals. The extra \$500 is from allocation for the year to MN without Poverty.

Thanks!

Have a Great Day!

Peace and Blessings

Jenny
