

**St. Stephen's Lutheran Church**  
**Parish Council Meeting September 19, 2018**  
**7:15 PM – 8:15 PM**

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, Rebekah Villafuerte, Jenny Van Pelt, Eric Donahue, Jessica Donahue, Kim Richter, Mary Brunkow, Lori Ritt, John Anderson, Annette Youness, Tracy Westman

**AGENDA**

**1) Opening prayer**

**2) August meeting minutes: approved**

**3) Synod Guest: Peter Harrits –**

- Discussion regarding Synod Stewardship
- Information booklets were received. Ask Gary or Pastor John if you'd like to review.

**4) Committee reports – Please remember to submit your committee reports each month!!**

**a) Pastor's report(s):**

❖ Pastor John

Matrix has been in contact with us. More discussion below.

Via de Cristo has been in contact with us. More discussion below.

A generous gift of \$90,000 was received in Sunday Offering. We will tithe 10%. Let's keep this in our prayers and thoughts for the best use of the remaining funds.

❖ Pastor Tim

90 copies of Tim's toolbox booklet have been distributed.

Working with parents on Wednesday's. Theme will be similar to kids & will be providing tools to help conversions after church night.

**b) Property & Maintenance – Eric Donahue**

Need an engineer with a Boiler's License. Church insurance requires monthly inspection.

Rooftop heater will need replacing this fall.

**c) Christian Education – Janell and Tracy**

Great attendance on Wednesday's. Still new kids signing up.

Everything seems to be running smoothly

Possible activity October 10 at Salem Lutheran Church

**d) Youth & Family – John**

Things are going well.

e) **Finance** - Diane

Montessori lease has been renewed. 5% increase will be reflected as of October 1, 2018.  
Year to date finances look good.

f) **Stewardship** – Kim

November Pledge walk planned.  
Looking into updating St. Stephen's website / stewardship.  
See committee meeting minutes attached.

g) **Missions** – No report

See committee meeting minutes attached.

h) **Worship & Music** – no report

i) **Inviting**

Rebecca is unable to chair. New Chair needed.

j) **Fellowship** – Sara

Will review moving family game night from Oct 13<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup>. Moving location to Salem Church.  
See committee meeting minutes attached.

5) **Executive Committee** – Gary

Recommends extending a 2-year term call to Pastor Tim Thompson.  
Kim motion 2-yr term call to Pastor Tim.  
Sara – 2<sup>nd</sup> motion.  
Discussion:  
Motion passed.

6) **Via de Cristo:** Pastor John

Requesting St. Stephen's host again in the Fall of 2019.  
Beth motion to approve Via de Cristo return in fall 2019.  
Diane 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.  
Discussion:  
Motion passed.

7) **Matrix – Pastor John**

Inquired whether St. Stephen's can host again for two weeks in December 2018.  
Working with Augustana to coordinate which weeks to host.  
Motion to allow Matrix to return 2 weeks in December and up to 4 full weeks this season.  
Motion 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Discussion: were there issues or concerns last visit? No major issues reported.  
Motion passed.

**8) New Director of Worship Arts Ben Dyleuth is on board and running fast!**

Installation of Ben will be Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup>.

**9) Youth Ministry Activities Coordinator hiring process update**

Selection committee looking at a very solid candidate.

Committee will be interviewing a candidate on Monday September 24, 2018.

**10) Important Dates**

a) October 7:

- ❖ Install Ben Dyleuth during 9:30a service.
- ❖ Congregational meeting 10:45 AM – Get into the bulletins.
- ❖ Approve Pastor Tim 2-year term call at the congregational meeting.

b) Parish Council: Wednesday October 24 – 7:15 PM – moved due to MEA.

c) Parish Council: Wednesday November 15 – 7:15 PM.

**11) Adjourn**

## **Stewardship Committee Notes, 09/10/18, 5 pm**

Attendees: Kim Richter, Pastor John Snider, Bruce Meyers, Debbie Pirkel

- 1.) Group talked about schedule for the Stewardship Fall Pledge campaign. Kick Off 9/29
- 2.) Discussed the topic of envelopes for pledges and offerings – how to structure for 2020 and how to engage congregation in new giving concepts while embracing traditional giving concepts
  - a. Will explore creating envelopes on our own to provide in pews to encourage spontaneous giving that can be credited to member accounts
  - b. Meet with vendors to discuss other options for envelope designs and customizing to minimize waste
- 3.) Discussed website and how to make it more user friendly
  - a. Stewardship page should be more than just a verbal message – should combine with Giving
  - b. Direct visitors to best options to giving and stewardship
  - c. Need to secure some basic web assistance – going to connect with person who helped with design and set up and see how much more work is involved.
  - d. Goal to update website continues.
- 4.) Collectively agreed to make our pledge card focused more on financial giving and less on time and treasures. Want to keep the focus where it truly needs to be and to what is actually tracked, which is financial giving. Going to work on the card to keep it simple and straightforward, yet not “greedy.” 😊
- 5.) Discussed plan for Adult Forum presentation to engage with the book, but learned no dates are available. Will utilize the temple talks and some Wednesdays to encourage interest in book and the principles.
- 6.) Need more committee members! Will pray about it to source recommendations or interested parties to join us.
- 7.) Meeting with people on 9/25 from Thrivent who have ideas on encouraging our Giving and Stewardship Goals. There’s a workshop coming in October that we will hear about and see if it’s something we want to attend. The idea is that generational concepts on giving are changing; Thrivent has methods to examine those changes and differences and consider how to reach out to them in a way that interests and maintains their loyalty.

9/25 Thrivent meeting Topics:

- Thrivent Action Teams - Designed to be a service project, fundraiser or educational event  
Thrivent Choice Dollars program

**WORKSHOP (\$50):** November 1, 2018, 9a – 12n; Brackett’s Crossing Country Club, 17976 Judicial Rd, Lakeville, MN 55044  
[generosityworkshop.com](http://generosityworkshop.com)

**Next Meeting 10/8 pm**

**Stewardship Sunday is 11/11/18**

**Mission Committee (Vicki Jackson & I) met on Wednesday, Sept 5 to go over God's Work Our Hands - Sept 9**

**Big Thank you to Vicki to coordinating - the publicity as well as Sunday Morning stations.**

**Fabulous "God 's Work Our Hands" Sunday! 150 sandwiches were made -thanks to those who made the sandwiches -those are going to Safezone. Thanks to Larry and Patty Longard for organizing.**

**20 blankets tied, those are going to 360 connection. Thanks to all who tied. Special shout out to Shirley Eilsfelder (?) and Dottie Cuthbert who did the Pre work of cutting them to be ready for tying. Special thanks to Rebecca villa fuerte(?) whose mother donated the fleece.**

**Thanks to those who brought in and those who baked the treats that were delivered to the Police, Fire, and EMTS of SSP, WSP and Mendota Heights. All were very well received.**

**Could NOT forget the fellowship committee who served us Dellicious breakfast/brunch to keep our energy up to do HIS work with our hands!!**

**There is more fleece - that has been placed in Tracy's hands for a faith formation service project. Not sure where those blankets will go - however - with the displaced housing situation (tent city) in Mpls - they may go there.**

**Peace and Blessings!  
Your Missions Committee**

**Minutes of Fellowship Committee Meeting**  
**7 pm Thursday, September 6, 2018.**

Joanna Mead, Jolene Sather and Sara Ruff attended. We discussed the following:

**1. Family Fun Night**

At a previous meeting, we discussed the possibility of hosting a family fun night (karaoke, games etc.) on a Wednesday night. However, the Education Committee wants to honor parents' preference for having activities end promptly at 7:30 on Wednesdays.

With this in mind, we will host a family fun night beginning at 6 pm on October 13. Menu of sloppy joes, chips, carrot sticks, ice cream treats etc. We will provide board games, puzzles and karaoke. We reserved the fellowship hall, lounge, kitchen and Noreen Center (if we want to include younger children) for this event. I will ask Pastor John if we can publicize this event during a worship service. More details to come — let's work to make this a fun and well attended event!

**2. Tea Party/Salad Luncheon**

At our June meeting, we tentatively planned to have a salad luncheon at St. Stephen's in May of 2019, and spent time trying to decide on a theme. At our September meeting, we came to consensus that the "hat" theme worked well, and so we should simply go with this theme again. Will it be a luncheon or afternoon tea? Should we invite a speaker? Think about it and bring ideas to our next meeting.

**3. Pie Making Party**

We discussed adding a new event — an inter-generational pie-making party in November for confirmation students and adult members of the congregation. The goal is to help kids learn to make pies and take home a pie for their family. We will develop this idea at our October meeting.

**4. God's Work Our Hands Sunday**

We planned the September 9, 2018 breakfast (this has now happened). This was a nice event. We served egg bakes, coffee cake, fruit and beverages, all delicious. A handful of people (maybe 12?) came for breakfast before church. Many more came after the service. We should continue to host this kind of fall gathering, but perhaps it works best to serve after service.

**Next meeting: October 4 at 7 pm.**