

**St. Stephen's Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting April 20, 2022  
7:30 PM via Hybrid**

**Attendees (Absent):**

Pastor John Snider, Pastor Tim Thompson, Merrill Zieman, Jackie Hanson, Jolene Sather  
Debbie Pirkel, Joy Stenhaus, Sara Ruff, Beth Hostager, Diane Meyers, Eric Donahue, Jessica  
Donahue, Kim Richter, John Anderson, Mary Jo, Tracy Westman, Mark Rogosheske,  
Vicki Jackson, Christine Davis, Hannah Ruikka

**AGENDA**

- Opening Prayer – Pastor Tim
- Minutes approved 3/16/2022
- Executive Committee update
- Foundation update:
  - Still looking for a couple people from the council to be on the Foundation Board
  - Have found 1 person from the congregation that will be on the Board
  - Have talked with Jan about putting a notice in the messenger to let the congregation know there is an opportunity to be on the Foundation Board if they are interested – looking for at least 1 more person
  - Hoping to have first Board meeting in May
- Gift Committee update
- Vision to Action update – Pastor Tim
  - Sent revisions from meeting Saturday April 9
  - Working on details for added 5<sup>th</sup> goal
  - Executive committee proposes continued resolution to change some duties of executive secretary and temporarily change the position to director of strategy.
    - Motion approved
  - John A suggestion: 3-fold pamphlet about who we are & our mission
    - More discussion on this great idea
- Safety Committee update

**CHURCH COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS/UPDATES:**

\* If possible, please email prior to Church Council meeting (Reply All)

- Pastor reports
- Property Management
- Christian Education
- Youth and Family
- Finance

- Stewardship – Debbie
  - Working on story telling events
  - Open forum in May
- Missions
- Worship and Music
- Fellowship – Sara
  - Pot luck May 8
  - Saints Game August 11
  - Patio Party – date to be determined
- Inviting
- Nominating

**OTHER BUSINESS OR ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- May Congregation meeting: Sunday May 22

**NEXT CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING:** Wednesday, 5/18/2022

Meeting Adjourned 8:30pm

Respectfully submitted by Joy Stenhaus

**Pastor John**  
**April 2022 Report**

In this first week of Easter we can express our thanks for a wonderful, faithful Lent, and a full expression of The Three Days! We are grateful for our entire staff and so many volunteers who took on the extra efforts to give us a faithful beautiful and potentially life-changing experience of God's Gems in the Small Catechism. We worked hard, we worked together and we enhanced each other's efforts. We have much to be thankful for.

Our ministries continue! I'm thankful for our opportunity to work together in these areas of our Lord's Vineyard among the many:

1. We have received a **contract to present to Montessori** from Ted and Cathy Zinner. We will meet this week to consider our next steps.
2. The **Gift Committee** will present a way for the members of the congregation to direct \$10,000.00 of giving. We them to identify the nonprofit organizations they contribute to outside of St. Stephen's, to give a reason for their support and we will match their giving up to \$200.00. It is part of the celebration of our Journey of Generosity.
3. **Morning Moments** is continuing through the season of Easter as an experiment. The Lenten versions have been gratefully received. It's hard to not continue something that has been a blessing. We are really new at this and Pastor Tim and I need your feedback and suggestions.
6. **Faithful Connections.** There is a second training on April 30, from 9-10:30 a.m. Chris and Linda Becker have a wonderful program they have developed in the previous congregations they have served and we are blessed to have them share it with us, their new congregation! There is a deep level of faithful experience for those participating in these Faithful Connections.
7. **VAT.** An assume team! An assume report! Their work in leading the congregational effort has been faithfully completed, our work as congregational leaders is just beginning.
8. **Nominating Committee** has met and will meet again Thursday, April 21. We have 4 positions to fill. 2 on the Executive Committee: Director of Strategy and Congregational Secretary. And 2 positions on the Nominating committee. Please submit any suggestions for candidates you have.
9. **Lutheran Mideast Development** is inviting you to dinner this Saturday. All you need to do is RSVP. We are sharing the meal, and the stories around it, that brought people together along the Turkish/Syrian border. Come and see one of St. Stephen's special ministries.

Thank you for all you are doing, here and throughout your life! Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

**Pastor Tim**  
**April 2022 Report**

Friends - just a couple things to add to Pastor John's report:

**Morning Moments** - With an eye towards the possibility that this will become an ongoing ministry after Pentecost, I'm making two changes from what we've been doing during Lent:

1. I will be scheduling guests to cover one week per month in the rotation.
2. The focus of MMs will be broadened from inspirational messages based on the Catechism to various kinds of messages drawing from scripture as a whole.
3. The daily emails that have been providing reminders & links will be moved to a new platform: Mail Chimp. This will greatly simplify the scheduling of these emails and open up a number of possibilities for our communications more broadly if we decide to migrate other emails there as well, e.g. the eUpdate. For example, we will be able to have a segmented mailing list allowing people to opt in/out from specific content and also have metrics about the number of emails actually opened and links clicked. I'll be working with Jan to look into this after the "test run" using MMs.

**VAT** - Now that we have provided Council with the Ministry Plan draft, the Vision Team is looking forward to concluding its work with a final presentation at the Congregational meeting May 22nd. We will be forming a task team to finish work on the additional Ministry Result Area that was requested at the Council workshop on April 9th, with a focus on education.

**Liberating Spirit** - LS was the guest at our Open Forum on April 10th which was a delight to everyone there. I encourage Council members to visit their service at some point to see what their worship life is like.

Pastor Tim

## **Education Committee Report 4/20/22 – Christine Davis**

1. Lent and the GEMS journey was a wonderful experience.
2. The Faith Formation Celebration will be on May 11th which is the end of Faith Formation for this year.
3. Christine Davis is stepping down as education chair. Thank you to Mary Molumby who said YES again!

It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness

## **Youth and Family Committee Meeting – John Anderson Minutes on 4-7-2022**

- We went over supply needs for the Hot Cross Buns sale/fundraiser for 4-10-22, Palm Sunday. We are supplying the fellowship gathering with Hot Cross buns on Palm Sunday for a suggested 2\$ per bun donation. We also will have a limited supply of packaged buns for sale after the service. With preparation on 4-9-22 at SSLC. Sales would take place after the Palm Sunday service with proceeds going towards the May Lock-in.
- The next Lock-in is scheduled for May 6, 2022, at 6:30pm provided it is approved by the safety committee. 6th-12th grade students will drop off any gear at the church then head to a bowling alley at 6:45 for a couple of games and some food and drink. Planning on being back to church around 9:00. Parents will need to help with transportation to and from the bowling alley. 6th-8th grade students will return home at 10:30 pm. Possibly having breakfast together in the morning of the 7th of May. Hannah will be sending out an invite by 4-15-22.
- Camp Wapo presentation is scheduled for 4-20-22 during Faith formation. Hannah has a couple of clips to share with students and families. Hannah is checking in with Pastor John to see how much \$ we should offer families for camp registration scholarships. Also, Hannah is checking in with Wapo for a wilderness trip, for the youth group, to the BWCA for tentative dates of 7/28/22-7/31/22.
- Vacation Bible School (VBS) will be meeting for 4 Wednesdays this summer starting in June. Hannah has met with Carol from Salem to help coordinate these classes.
- Hannah has made a commitment with the youth group to connect two people through Faithful Connections.
- The next committee mtg. is scheduled for 5-7-22 at 7:00pm following Faith Formation classes.

## Finance

The Finance committee met on Tuesday, April 12th.

Attached is a summary of the financials for the month of March as well as March YTD.

On a year -to -date basis, total income is above budget by \$2,656 while expenses are also above budget by \$9,948.

We have a year-to-date deficit (expenses exceed income) of \$20,916.

Please let us know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Beth and Diane

	March			March YTD 2022		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	Change	BUDGET	ACTUAL	Change
General Envelope	43,450	44,073	623	102,700	103,305	605
Total Contributions	43,742	45,000	1,258	118,242	119,483	1,241
Total Other Income	3,436	3,826	389	10,534	11,949	1,415
Total Income	47,178	48,826	1,647	128,776	131,432	2,656
Total Expenses	46,599	55,489	(8,890)	142,400	152,348	(9,948)
Income Less Expense	580	(6,663)	(7,243)	(13,624)	(20,916)	(7,292)
NOTES:						
Expense Summary						
Gas Charges	5,800	6,627	(827)	15,700	19,082	(3,382)
Electricity	1,200	1,392	(192)	3,600	4,020	(420)
HVAC	750	9,419	(8,669)	2,250	9,419	(7,169)
Maintenance & repairs	625	633	(8)	1,875	1,467	408
Custodial Care	1,250	1,250	-	3,750	3,750	-
Other Prop/Maint	1,571	1,217	354	5,655	5,003	651
Total Prop/Maint	11,196	20,538	(9,343)	32,830	42,741	(9,912)
Salaries & Benefits	24,191	24,120	72	72,573	73,868	(1,295)
Other Expenses	11,212	10,831	381	36,997	35,738	1,259
Total			(8,890)			(9,948)