

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church Council

7:00 June 16, 2022

Pastor John Snider, Hannah Ruikka, Mark Rogosheski, Sara Ruff, Vicki Jackson, Tim Gibson (Moderator), Jackie Hanson, Jolene Sather (no quorum tonight)

1. Opening – tell a story about a boat
2. Prayer offered by Pastor John
3. May 18, 2022 meeting minutes approved
4. Team reports
 - a. Executive committee – scheduling mtg with Finance Committee to implement Ministry Plan;
 - i. Ongoing Exec Comm mtgs will meet 2nd Thurs of every month
 - ii. Creating task force to address gun violence in America as individuals and a congregation;
 1. Informally approved and task force members will be identified
 2. At next council meeting have this officially approved
 - iii. \$7,120 donated through gift program to match member contributions
 - b. Safety Committee – wearing masks when we sing; review communion at the rail
 - c. Pastor John – emailed a report, the anti-gun task force is a new opportunity for us; ministry plan will be exciting
 - d. Pastor Tim – report sent via email
 - e. Property Management – report sent via email
 - f. Christian Education – emailed report
 - g. Youth and family – VBS week 1 went well; emailed a report as well
 - h. Finance report – emailed
 - i. Stewardship report – working with Garrett on the webpage; storytelling will be easier on a new platform
 - j. Missions – emailed report, request for additional volunteers at Loaves and Fishes on Tuesday nights,
 - k. Worship and music – they are doing a wonderful job
 - l. Fellowship – baseball game August 11th at the St. Paul Saints – bring friends and family, seats are close to the snacks;
 - m. Inviting committee -no report
 - n. Nominating committee – offseason for this committee
5. Bellows – a committee from the apartments on Bellows would like to hold a meeting at St. Stephens. More info to come tomorrow.
6. Capacitor being installed a week from this Friday to reduce initial electrical load
7. Air Conditioning – can we open the church to people who do not have air conditioning?
 - a. Refer to safety, property and missions committees for future situations?
 - b. Tim and Hannah will be at the church Monday, June 20, 2022 from 1 -5 to host members of the congregation needing a cool place to be
8. Council will not meet in July
9. Next meeting is August 17, 2022

---- June 16, 2022 Council Reports ----

FINANCE

Beth and I will not be at the meeting on Thursday. Both us have commitments for Thursday.

The Finance committee met on Thursday, June 9th.

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

On a year -to -date basis, total income is below budget by \$5,478 while expenses are also above budget by \$6,395. We have a year-to-date deficit (expenses exceed income) of \$39,193.

Please let us know if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Beth and Diane

PROPERTY

Hello all from sunny Florida. We do not have anything major to report other than a few maintenance fixer uppers.

Sprinkler system annual check is scheduled for this Monday, that's about it.

We will also be unavailable to join in as we are on a much needed family vacation.

Regards

The Donahues

STEWARDSHIP

Morning all! I may be a bit late as I will be getting back from an appointment around the start time.

Stewardship committee (Kim, Garrett, Tim Gibson and Pastor John) met via zoom on Monday to discuss website ideas and options. Will reconvene in a month to check progress and get a plan going forward to keep momentum and workflow going. Lot's yet to do on the initial planning side so stay tuned.

Debbie and Abra attended the new Vanco web meeting demo to see how it will look. We have some consideration to give for next steps on this for St Stephen's before implementing/updating.

We are still waiting on the availability of quarterly statements, really now a 6 month summary.

Hopefully we will have info mailed out soon along with an accompanying note encouraging giving (possibly a snippet on financial status). Will work with finance once we have confirmation on the print date.

Thanks!

MISSIONS

The missions committee is hosting a fund-raiser for the food shelf at Neighbor's the next 2 Sundays, June 19 and 26.

We are planning to collect school supplies for Moreland school in late summer.

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki Jackson

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Hello everyone,

I do not have a report to share and I am unable to attend this meeting.

Thanks,

Mary

PASTOR JOHN

"But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love." (Ephesians 4:15-16)

That's us!

Speaking the truth in love...growing up in every way...the whole body joined and knit together by every ligament...promoting the body's growth in building itself up in love.

We are doing so much together! **Thank you** for your commitment and participation in the ministries we share! We are genuinely blessed by our leaders and our staff, together captured and committed to a vision:

**Intentionally connected to God,
each other,
and the world,
through love and service.**

Everywhere we look ministry is getting accomplished! Thank God and thank you! And more is right around the corner.

The **Vision into Action Team (VAT)** has turned over its work, prepared and adopted by the congregation, to us for action. **Tim Gibson is our Ministry Plan Coordinator.** It is his calling to keep the Ministry Plan in front of us and to be sure that it becomes a living document, used, adjusted, and guiding the decisions we make. It is up to use to galvanize the energy and wisely proceed with the next steps. We are on the brink of some exciting times for ministry. Please include this in your prayers. (Next step is to have the Executive Committee and Finance Committee meet to categorize the resources we have.)

On the important issue of **gun violence** in our culture the executive committee is recommending a task force to look into the issue for both our individual and our congregational responses. This is a new step for us. It has been raised from the congregation. It is terribly timely for tragic reasons. As part of our effort to "face into our community" it is a response I believe we are called to.

Thank you! Blessings!

Pastor John

PASTOR TIM

Just a quick little update this month for everyone:

We took a look at the metrics for viewership of the **Morning Moments** after Pentecost, and found that the number of people listening to the reflections was significant and holding steady so we're going to continue producing it. The schedule for the rest of the year has John and I doing 2/3 of the reflections, with guest hosts doing the other 1/3. I'm making an effort to bring in women's voices for the guest

spots. We continue to get wonderful, appreciative feedback from folks about MM and that's very gratifying.

A team has been formed to work on goals and objectives for **the fifth Ministry Result Area: Christian Faith and Lutheran Identity**. The team consists of myself, Pastor John, Tracy Westman, John Anderson and Mary Molumby. We'll have our first meeting Saturday July 2nd.

Tracy and I have put together a **faith formation activity for the summer** which is designed for our families but open to anyone. Based on the fruits of the Spirit in Galatians 5 (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience...) it's simply an opportunity for families to pick one of the nine fruits to focus on for each week of July and August. Materials should be mailed out around June 22nd so everyone can start on Sunday July 3rd. We're hoping to include Salem in this as well but will confirm with them first before mailing anything out.

Lastly, depending on what the council chooses to do around the proposal to form a **gun violence task force**, I'm anticipating that there may be some focus given to that going forward.

Those are the irons in the fire at this time!

Blessings!
Pastor Tim