

**St. Stephen's Lutheran Church**  
**Parish Council Meeting August 21, 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, Mary Molumby, Teresa Tschida, Sara Ruff, Joanna Mead, Beth Hostager, Diane Meyers, Dave Paton, Eric Donahue, Jessica Donahue, Kim Richter, Lori Ritt, John Anderson, Annette Youness, Tracy Westman, Ali Schloesser-Brecht, Mark Rogosheske,

**AGENDA**

- 1) Opening prayer / Devotional - Pastor Tim
  - a. John 14:27 NRSV Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.
- 2) Minutes approved – June 19, 2019 meeting
- 3) Updates from Executive Committee - Gary
  - a. Moving ahead with sprinkler replacement. Bid at approximately \$14,050
  - b. Safety/Security survey. Looking for people to be on a TASK FORCE.
    - i. Task force will look at how we monitor access to building, security and safety. They will put together possible improvement suggestions.
    - ii. Need a person to head the task force
    - iii. Volunteers include Jessica, Dave, Beth and Kim
- 4) Committee Reports/Updates:
  - a) Pastor Tim's Report – see page 3
  - b) Property & Maintenance - Jessica
    - Noreen Center update. Estimated at \$52,000. Meeting with Noreen Foundation on funding
    - Brought samples of colors for walls, carpet and furniture
  - c) Christian Education – Tracy
    - see Mary's update on page 4
    - Faith Formation will continue with Salem Lutheran
    - Still looking for teachers for 4 & 5<sup>th</sup> grades
    - Still looking for kitchen helpers
    - Adding a Family Worship night on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday in the Sanctuary
    - September 15 – wee wonders begins / birth to 4 yrs
    - October 30<sup>th</sup> – Love in a ziplock bag
    - April – stations of the cross
  - d) Youth & Family – Ali – see update on page 5

e) Finance – Diane – see update on page 6

f) Stewardship – Kim

- An adult forum is scheduled for September 29 regarding Thrivent membership. Discuss concepts for generosity and stewardship including fundraisers
- Work continues toward envelopes and giving options.

g) Missions – Dave – see update page 7

h) Worship & Music – Lori

- Committee will be meeting SEP/OCT

i) Inviting – no report

j) Fellowship – Sara

- September 5 members will meet for appetizers then travel to homes for food and fellowship.
- Brunch is planned for September 22 for Pastor John and Polly's return.

k) Nominating – no report

5) Important Dates:

- Next Parish Council Meeting September 18, 7:00 PM

6) Adjourn

## Council Update from Pastor Tim – August 2019

The **Sabbatical** is now 2/3 passed with about 4 weeks to go. Overall, everything has been going well and the July and August preaching series have been well received.

**Security Concerns** surfaced around building access and unknown people in the building unaccompanied. In consultation with the Executive Council I collected information from staff and key building users in July. That information has been collated and exec is considering what next steps to pursue.

**For Continuing Education** I attended and presented a poster at the Faithful Innovation Summit, put on by Luther Seminary. My overall impression was that there is a lot of ferment and experimentation going on “out there” in the church as people try to grapple with the enormous challenges we all are facing. I don’t see a lot of that ferment in the ELCA, especially locally. Rather, it seems to be emerging among other denominations and especially of people partnering across denominational lines. This is actually what you’d expect to see as the US becomes a “mission field,” where it’s much more common for people to innovate and improvise, and to work with whoever they can find locally.

The **Outreach Experiment** that Pastor John and I took up just before he left had a “noteworthy” outcome. You may recall the idea was to reach out to people who seem to be interested in faith but not drawn to traditional congregational life and worship, and invite them to hear about a different kind of spiritual community that would gather in homes. It wasn’t an invitation to jump in and start anything, but rather a feeler to see who might be interested in talking more about it. Of the 40 people we invited to come to one of two conversations at his home, only one couple actually came. We had hoped that there might be even a small “wave” of interest that we could nurture over the summer and into the fall, but since that was not the case I decided to set the work aside at least for now.

**Discipleship in the fall** is slowly taking shape. As pastor John will be doing most of the preaching for a while I don’t have plans for any new “Road Trip Excursions” linked to a sermon series. The midweek education time will resume September 18<sup>th</sup> and I will be doing some teaching as a part of that. I’m still looking at dates for the next D-Lab and beginning to ponder what other kind of format or offering might be more helpful to people.

That’s the view from here today!

Pastor Tim

## Christian Education

Education Committee Notes

Meeting date: August 5th, 2019

Members present: Tracy, Christine, Mary, Pam

Welcome to our newest members from Salem-Pam Taulman and Jamie Hernandez

\*Registration for the fall has been sent out twice and Tracy included those who attended VBS. Tracy is still working on finding teachers and based on the number of children who register will determine what grade levels are together. We will have high school helpers in the rooms again.

Curriculum for confirmation students- 6th grade - How to read the Bible (Beginning)

7th grade - Fight Right- (Exploring conflict resolution)

8th grade- Do the Right Thing (Launching)

The third Wednesday of the month is Family Worship Night. Family Worship is longer and will be held in the sanctuary. On these nights K-5 will work on the Ten Commandments and the confirmation students will work on the small catechism.

First Wednesday of classes is a family worship night- Sept. 18th. We will have the blessing of the backpacks on this night.

We will have a couple of activity nights, one of which is Oct.30th. We will be doing Love in a Ziploc Bag again, and thanks to Christine and Pam for working on this together.

## Youth and Family

Hi everyone!

This summer has been busy for me!

I took 5 High Schoolers to New York. And 8 middle schoolers to Duluth. Got to watch them experience new things and saw them give their talents to help others. Youth have so much to offer and so much to teach us about loving others and ourselves unconditionally.

VBS was great, those kids know how to have fun.

I also was given the privilege to counsel some St Stephen's youth at Camp Wapo. I cannot stress enough how amazing these youth are!!

Starting September 1st Youth Forum begins on Sunday mornings, I cannot wait to be back working with the youth again weekly.

I will also be doing Wednesday nights and a once a month activity. These are the things I can squeeze in during my week. So that is what the year will hold.

The youth deserve so much that 10 hours cannot give them, but we have to start somewhere.

I encourage you all to interact with the youth and get to know them if you do not. You will be amazed by them. I always welcome you to sit in on our activities as well if you are ever wanting to.

I hope you all had a fantastic Summer. If you want to see pictures from these trips just ask, I have plenty to show!

Blessings!

Ali

## Finance

**The Finance committee met on Thursday, August 8-. In attendance was Beth, Abra, Sue, Merrill and Diane with Pastor Tim Stopping by.**

**Discussed The monthly financials, Schedule of monthly financials and How to do an Financial Audit.**

		JULY			YTD JULY		
		ACTUALS	Plan	Variance	ACTUALS	Plan	Variance
Contributions	(1)	30,480	32,318	(1,838)	242,972	246,624	(3,652)
Other Income	(2)	3,494	4,252	(758)	28,794	27,467	1,327
Total Income		33,974	36,570	(2,596)	<b>271,766</b>	274,091	(2,325)
Total Expense	(3)	39,739	41,667	1,928	<b>302,136</b>	299,317	(2,819)
Income less Expenses		(5,765)	(5,097)	(668)	(30,370)	(25,226)	(5,144)

MONTH - On plan.

- NOTE (1)                      General Envelopes - 4 Sundays in July
- NOTE (2)                      Monthly payments of Montessori and ATT came in.
- NOTE (3)                      Property and Maintenance better than plan by \$2,145.

**Respectfully submitted:**

**Beth Hostager and Diane Meyers**

**Finance Co-Chairs**

## Missions

***I hope this email will suffice as an update ahead of my verbal report on Wednesday... we have been focused on content for GWOH (God's Work, Our Hands) Sunday on September 8th. Included in last Sunday's bulletin were options including fleece blanket tying (a perennial favorite), delivery of baked goods and coffee to local EMS (South Metro and MHPD and MHFD if staffed), and gauging interest in visiting our homebound members (it's the conversation, not the donuts). We have some fantastic people handling this already but I'm pretty certain more visits wouldn't be discouraged.***

***We would love to entertain SSLC council's ideas on what might be good for GWOH as well.***

***Also, a collection to benefit Neighbors Inc will happen that Sunday as well. We're conscious of the frequency with which we collect for Neighbors Inc. so we may dial that back at the committee level a little (maybe renewed emphasis at Thanksgiving/Christmas and, of course, Minnesota Foodshare month in March).***

***Let it be said, those of you who have a passion for Neighbors Inc., keep right on helping as the Spirit moves you!***

***Cordially Submitted,***

***Dave Paton and the Missions Committee, Vicki Jackson and Jenny VanPelt (I could do nothing without them)***