

**St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Parish Council Meeting September 18, 2019
7:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

Attendees (Absent):

Pastor John Snider, Pastor Tim Thompson, Gary Westman, Merrill Zieman, Sue Clark, Debbie Pirkel, 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)**

- 2) Welcome Back Pastor John**
 - a) Sunday Service will welcome back Pastor John
 - b) Welcome back potluck after service

- 3) Minutes approved – August 21 2019 meeting (Gary)**

- 4) Updates from Executive Committee (Gary)**
 - a) Meeting/walk thru with a security company on Monday 23SEP at 3:30

- 5) Committee Reports/Updates**
 - a) Pastor Tim's Report: see page 3
 - b) Property & Maintenance: no report
 - c) Christian Education: Tracy
 - Start of new season is going great!
 - Still need volunteers to help in kitchen on Wednesday
 - See meeting notes page 4
 - d) Youth & Family: John A and Ali
 - John A reported the 3rd Wednesday of each month is family night. Service in Sanctuary
 - Ali reported several activities planned for OCT and NOV
 - (1) Oct 5 – Apple Orchard outing
 - (2) Nov 8 or 16 – looking at a lock-in.
 - (3) Actively working on activities outside of Wednesday evening.
 - e) Finance: Diane gave summary. see page 5 for detail
 - f) Stewardship: Kim
 - Meeting on Monday 23SEP19.

- g) Missions: see page 6
- h) Worship & Music:
 - Meeting Saturday 21SEP19. Plan to meet quarterly.
- i) Inviting: see page 7
- j) Fellowship: Sara
 - Meeting Thursday to plan fall and winter events.
 - Saints game event was fun!
 - Patio party went great!
 - Welcome back Potluck is this Sunday.
- k) Nominating: no report

6) Important Dates

- a) Next Parish Council Meeting **October 16, 7:15 PM**

7) Adjourn

Council Update from Pastor Tim – September 2019

Pastor John's **Sabbatical** is about to wrap up and he'll hit the bricks running since his first day back will be a very full Wednesday. I'll be meeting with him in the morning to help him get up to speed. From there it's staff meeting, Faith Formation, Exec and then Council!

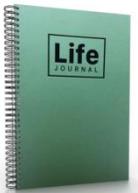
Two **Discipleship offerings** have firmed up since last month:

D-Lab #3 will be on Saturday, October 5th from 10:30 to noon. This is a little bit later and a little bit shorter than the first two rounds so I'm eager to see if that will encourage more people to take part. Labs this time will focus on Bible Journaling for Devotions; Sabbath; and the book *Manna and Mercy* which is a delightful introduction to the Biblical story. (Full descriptions & registration link provided below!)

Faith formation for Adults on Wednesday nights is still set up to rotate between myself, Pastor John, and hopefully the interim pastor at Salem. I will be leading a discussion/workshop for the first three weeks with a theme of "Need to Know." The idea is that there are a few very basic things you need to know, depending on what you want to do. If you want to drive a car, you need to know how to use the brake and gas pedals (for starters.) So, if you want to be a disciple of Jesus... what do you *need to know*? I hope you can come!

Looking ahead, I noticed that next month will be the half-way point for my 2-year term call, so I plan to do some reflecting and give thought to what I'd like to see coming out of this next year.

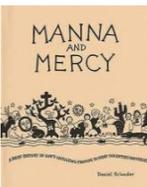
That's the view from here today! Pastor Tim



JOURNALING: Learn a simple yet powerful way to read and reflect on Scripture that can help you write short journal entries each day. Over time you'll collect your own library of insights and be able to see how your faith journey has unfolded! Even better – connect with other journalers for support, encouragement and sharing your lives. Led by Sara Ruff.



SABBATH: One of the most misunderstood and underused parts of Christian life is the practice of Sabbath. Pastor Tim will share his own experiences with Sabbath to illustrate how it truly is a gift and not just another rule you have to keep! We'll explore what a Sabbath practice might look like for you that would be life-giving and realistic.



MANNA AND MERCY: This wonderful book tells the Biblical story in the most winsome way that you'll probably ever encounter! With incredibly clear language and delightful illustrations, Pastor Daniel Erlander's book will help you get a feel for the "Big Story" and for God's heart behind it all. Pastor John will introduce the book and share ways that you could connect with others around it.

To Register: It's totally fine to just show up on Saturday, but helpful if we know you're coming! Register by calling the church (651-457-6541), signing up at the Welcome Center, or online here: bit.ly/DLabRegistration

Education Committee Notes:

Meeting Date: September 11, 2019

Members of the Education Committee met with the faith formation teachers and prepared for the upcoming faith formation year. We reviewed the schedule of Wednesday nights, discussed the lessons and assigned rooms.

We are excited to start another year of faith formation!

Please let me know if there are questions,

Mary Molumby
marymo501@gmail.com

Finance

Below are the August month and YTD numbers.

Comment: We are very close to plan, month and YTD BUT....our plan is a bad guy of \$15K month and \$40K YTD.

		August			YTD August		
		ACTUALS	Plan	Variance	ACTUALS	Plan	Variance
Contributions	(1)	26,505	26,468	37	269,477	273,092	(3,615)
Other Income	(2)	3,797	3,570	227	32,591	31,037	1,554
Total Income		30,302	30,038	264	302,068	304,129	(2,061)
Total Expense	(3)	42,291	45,276	2,984	344,427	344,592	165
Income less Expenses		(11,989)	(15,238)	3,248	(42,359)	(40,463)	(1,896)

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Hostager & Diane Meyers

Missions

The Missions committee recently met on Sunday, September 15th. At our meeting we considered the GWOH Sunday (God's Work, Our Hands) and what was accomplished. Baked goods and coffee was delivered to South Metro Fire – WSP station, South Metro Fire – SSP station, WSPPD, and MHPD. Blankets were tied, and a collection was held for Neighbors Inc.. The committee will be considering whether more activities should be added and/or those held might be fine-tuned.

Our focus now is turning to the upcoming cold weather and Holiday seasons. The committee is intending to hold a cold weather clothed drive for local elementary schools with a focus on Moreland and Garlough though all will be contacted to determine need. We hope to take some of the "custom" work involved in last drives out so more focus can be placed on volume. Specifically, in the past packages were put together for specific families. We're considering doing more of an "open closet" where those in need might be able to pick their own. My phrasing of this might not be spot-on so any questions or comments are certainly welcome and committee discussions continue.

Thanks for your interest in the Missions committee and feedback/comments are always encouraged and welcomed.

Regards,

The Missions Committee

Vickie Jackson, Dave Paton and Jennie Van Pelt

INVITING

The Inviting Committee met on September 11th. Roger Quick, Steve Morganson and Teresa Tschida were present

Manger Scene:

- Roger, Steve and Mark continue the leg work on finding the right manger scene for the property, using the generous donation we received. There are a couple of good options and a decision will be made soon
- We will need a resource to build component pieces such as a secure base for the scene
- We would like to have a convocation/celebration, circling around the scene, once it is installed
- We would also like to have our Christmas caroling teams visit the scene and take pictures for use in marketing materials

Christmas Mailing:

- Similar to the Easter mailing, we will produce a postcard with our worship opportunities. Teresa will work with Jan to design the postcard in October. We have an address list we can utilize
- We will gather to address the cards in the first days of December

I won't be there tonight. But please let me know any questions or ideas