

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Parish Council Meeting August 19, 2020
7:15 PM – 8:15 PM – through Zoom

Attendees (Absent):

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

2) Minutes approved – June 17,2020 meeting (Gary) - approved

3) Updates from Executive Committee

- a) Cell Phone Tower Lease
 - i) Gave summary of lease offer. Requesting advice from an attorney.
- b) Coronavirus Response/Reopening Plans
 - i) Communion by appointment & during Live Streaming
 - ii) Beth Anderson died at age 99. Possible funeral at church
- c) Safety Committee – Merrill
 - i) Protocols are near finished. These would go out to the different groups that wish to use the church. Slowly opening to different groups, funerals and baptism. Slowly getting close to return to sanctuary.
- d) Working on renewal of contracts with Pastor Tim, Ben and Ali

4) Committee Reports/Updates – Please email updates in advance of meeting

- a) Pastor Reports
 - i) Pastor Tim – working on connections with people. Listening prayer, 4 week sermon series on listening, video production for Sunday/Wednesday – willing to teach anyone that would like to help with video production. Looking at pods/smaller group study.
 - ii) Pastor John – Garret will not be returning until 2021. Looking at Ben and Brian to fill in. Requesting money for tree removal. Several tree issues: removal on Charlton side / Montessori has a tree needing trimming / tree on Wentworth side need trimming & parking lot lamps.

- b) Property & Maintenance
- c) Christian Education Mary
 - i) Confirmation either in person or zoom. Pre-k to 5 will be zoom.
 - ii) 100 things a child should know before confirmation.
 - iii) All teachers are returning! What a wonderful blessing.
 - iv) Leaflet for each grade will be sent.
- d) Youth & Family – no report
- e) Finance – Beth
 - i) On a year-to-date basis, total income and total expense are both approximately \$25,000 below budget. As a result, the YTD deficit of -\$32,589 is fairly consistent with the YTD budgeted deficit.
 - ii) The main driver of the unfavorable YTD income variance is general envelope contributions which are \$14,000 lower than budget.
 - iii) The main driver of the favorable YTD expense variance is Property & Maintenance expenses which are \$15,000 lower than budget.
- f) Stewardship – Kim
 - i) Goal is to increase giving. Looking at ways to do this and inspire people to give.
- g) Missions – Dave
 - i) God’s Work Our Hands - Red Cross Drive blood drive Thursday Sept 10 from 2pm-7pm
 - ii) Some packing events coming. Feed my Starving Children / Neighbor’s Inc.
 - iii) EMS/1st responders – looking at providing food/gift cards
- h) Worship & Music – no report
- i) Inviting – no report
- j) Fellowship – Sara
 - i) Coffee hour continues on Zoom
- k) Nominating – no report

5) Important Dates

God’s Work. Our Hands Red Cross Blood Drive – Thursday, September 10, 2pm to 7 pm
Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, September 16, 7:15 PM
St. Paul Area Synod Assembly Online – September 25-26

6) Adjourn