

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Parish Council Meeting May 19, 2021
7 PM – 8 PM – through Zoom

Attendees (Absent):

Pastor John Snider, Pastor Tim Thompson, Gary Westman, Merrill Zieman, Sue Clark, Debbie Pirkl, Joy Stenhaus, Mary Molumby, Sara Ruff, Joanna Mead, Beth Hostager, Diane Meyers, Eric Donahue, Jessica Donahue, Kim Richter, Lori Ritt, John Anderson, Annette Youness, Tracy Westman, Mark Rogosheske, Vicki Jackson

AGENDA

1) Opening prayer / Devotional (Pastor John)

2) Minutes approved – April 14,2021 meeting (Gary)

3) Updates from Executive Committee

- a) Semi-Annual Meeting Update – Gary will put an agenda together
- b) Election of Officers – motion to accept slate of officers by Deb / second and carried
- c) In-person worship starts May 23 (Merrill)
- d) Music ministry – Gerrit Lamain
 - i) Part time contract has been accepted
- e) Church Insurance Renewal – June 1st
 - i) Exec will meet to finalize

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

- a) Pastor Reports – see attached
- b) Property & Maintenance – no report
- c) Christian Education – see attached
- d) Youth & Family – John A.
 - i) Excited to welcome Hannah to the committee/church
- e) Finance – see attached
- f) Stewardship
- g) Missions – see attached
- h) Worship & Music – no report
- i) Inviting – no report
- j) Fellowship – no report
 - i) Sara would like to hand our donut holes individually packed outside.
- k) Nominating – slate of officers complete.
 - i) Still need 2 members on nominating committee

5) Important Dates

Semi-Annual Congregation Meeting Zoom/In-person – Sunday, May 23 @ 11 AM

Next Council Meeting – Wednesday, June 16 @ 7 PM (Merrill)

6) Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,
Joy Stenhaug

Pastor John's Report
May 19, 2021

This is a momentous week for St. Stephen's! After 62 Sundays, 474 days, and over 15 months of not worshipping in person, we will begin this Sunday, May 23, Pentecost Sunday. As the Holy Spirit has guided us through these challenging days it is fitting to celebrate the Holy Spirit as worshipping together in the sanctuary begins again.

Just as we worked hard to adjust to the pandemic and it took time and patience to get new systems in place, so we should be patient with ourselves as we return. Let's rejoice that once again we have lots to learn as we define how we will be faithful. That's good work!

There has been good that we have learned during these challenging times. I think much of our meetings can still be held on zoom; they take less time and less carbon and open participation from many locations. When we do decide to meet in person it can be a special occasion, a celebration.

We also want to continue to promote our online presence. We need to celebrate staying connected to God, each other and the world, and connecting to each other has been greatly enhanced through Facebook Live.

We have done a staggering amount of good work together this month! I am grateful for the leadership you have provided and grateful to God for you and your response to God's calling in our midst. Thank you.

I hope looking at this partial list inspires you. Besides the ongoing ministries of St. Stephen's thank you for the following excellent ministry last month:

- Nominating Committee and those new leaders willing to serve
- Gift Committee redoing Foundation and Gift Policy
- Safety Committee careful, clear, following the scientific guidelines
- 2 Hiring Committees and the excellent staff they've added to our team
- Property Committee and Church Clean Out
- Vision and Action Committee zoom meeting, survey, discussions about mission statements
- Discussions about ministries enhanced by cooperation with Salem Lutheran Church
- Missions Committee creative use of videos
- Filming baptisms (Norm and the Knights of the Back Table!)
- Ongoing conversations following our class on racism.

For all of this and all else let's follow Paul's admonition in Philippians 4:4-7, ***"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything...the peace of God, which passes all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."***

Thanks again!

Pastor John

Safety Committee

Hello Everyone,

The following are the guidelines that the St. Stephen's Safety Committee has identified for In-Person Worship. These will be applied at the May 23rd Service. The Safety Committee will continue to meet every two weeks to assess steps to open areas that are not available at this time. One of our focuses is to keep moving forward at a pace that protects all who are in attendance.

- Persons vaccinated do not need to wear a mask. Persons not vaccinated are encouraged to wear a mask and get vaccinated. Persons who are vaccinated may choose to wear a mask.
- People will be asked to sign-in with names and phone numbers
- Fellowship time will not occur in the church building. No food or beverages will be consumed in the church building.
- There will be no gathering or loitering in the Narthex.
- Social distancing guidelines will be followed. (except for families or social/covid pods).
- Passing of peace and greetings will be done with gestures. e.g. rather than hugs or hand shakes
- There will be no paper items in the sanctuary, e.g. hymnals, bibles, bulletins.
- There will be an offering basket available as people leave the church in which their offerings can be placed.
- The children's play area will not be available for use.
- There will not be singing by the congregants.
- Reading aloud, praying, conversing will be an encouraged means of worship.
- Holy Communion will be practiced by congregants remaining in the pews; and using current materials that have been in place during the pandemic. These kits will be available when entering the sanctuary.
- Ushers will be available to help provide direction during In-Person Worship. This will especially be in place when entering and exiting the church and sanctuary.
- Restrooms will be available on a one-person-at-a-time basis
- Access to the remainder of the church will be limited during times of In-Person Worship.

Thank you everyone for your work and thoughtfulness during this difficult time of the pandemic and as we now move forward to meeting together with our St. Stephen's friends.

Merrill Zieman' chairperson
St. Stephen's Safety Committee

Christian Education

We have hired and will be blessing Hannah Ruikka (Lawrence is her maiden name) this Sunday. She and I met last evening and worked to clean out the office and talked about ways to begin her ministry here at St. Stephen's! Some families and youth met her at the last faith Formation meeting on May 12th!

Faith Formation ended on May 12th with an outside gathering that involved music, prayer, chalk drawings and ice cream!

This week surveys have been sent to families and teachers about this past year to wrap-up and to look forward to next fall!

Had a meeting with Salem Lutheran to talk about the ministry we share with faith formation and youth activities.

Planning on an intergenerational curriculum for next year using the SHINE curriculum. (see below for the upcoming curriculum.)

We will be welcoming Christine Davis as the new chair of the Faith Formation/Education committee. Thank you to Mary Monlumbly as she steps down as the chair of the committee! Blessings and thanks mary for your good and faithful service!

Respectfully submitted---

Tracy Westman

A non-dated curriculum for the whole church

Join us on a journey with *Current*—a new kind of curriculum that brings children, youth, and adults all together in worship and learning! This digital curriculum is perfect for use during the summer quarter or at any time during the year.

THE ANNUAL UNITS ARE:

- **“Seeking Justice Together”** (beginning Summer 2021): Explore biblical justice, wholeness for humanity and all of creation
- **“Seeking God Together”** (beginning Summer 2022): Focuses on spiritual practices and spiritual life
- **“Seeking Peace Together”** (beginning Summer 2023): Emphasizes peace, reconciliation, and nonviolence

Current includes age-appropriate sessions for preschoolers, elementary-aged children, youth, and adults. Session plans for intergenerational settings are included along with worship resources that complement each session. A new unit will be published each summer thereafter, providing your congregation with multiple options for learning and growing faith among all ages.

Tracy Westman / Faith Formation / St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

FINANCE

The Finance committee met on Thursday, May 13th at 7:00 pm. In attendance was Abra, Sue, Beth Diane and Jackie Hanson.

Attached is a summary of financials for the month of April as well as April YTD,

On a year-to-date basis, total income and total expense are both approximately \$9,915 and \$22,191 respectfully below budget.

YTD Net Income (income less expense) is \$12,276 better than budget.

Respectfully submitted,
 Beth Hostager and Diane Meyers
 Finance Co chairs

	April 2021			April YTD 2021		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	Change	BUDGET	ACTUAL	Change
General Envelope	29,250	28,523	(727)	140,400	130,273	(10,127)
Total Contributions	30,375	28,828	(1,547)	162,400	152,406	(9,994)
Total Other Income	3,801	3,539	(262)	21,259	21,337	78
Total Income	34,176	32,366	(1,809)	183,659	173,744	(9,915)
Total Expenses	44,492	40,847	3,645	182,363	160,172	22,191
Income Less Expense	(10,316)	(8,480)	1,836	1,296	13,571	12,276

MISSIONS

The mission committee met via Zoom on May 12.
Those present were Diane Merrill and Vicki Jackson.

We had received a request to contribute to the St. Paul Area Synod's Bega Kwa Bega Reconnecting Appeal. This provides scholarships for students in the Iringa diocese of Tanzania. We voted to give \$1000 from the land sale dedicated account to this.

We discussed God's Work. Our Hands Sunday, which is September 12.
We plan to schedule a Feed My Starving Children packing event on September 15. This is the first day of faith formation, and the kids would then be able to participate. Vicki will schedule this when the date becomes available.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Jackson

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Slate of Officers, Committee Chairs, and Nominating Committee
May 2021

Candidates for Election

Merrill Ziemann	President
Jolene Sather	Vice President
Jackie Hanson	Treasurer
Christine Davis	Christian Education
Mark Rogosheske	Inviting – replaces Teresa Tschida through 2022
Eric Donahue	Property and Maintenance
Mary Jo Martinek	Worship and Music
Beth Hostager/Diane Meyers	Finance
Vicki Jackson	Missions
Andy Ruff	Nominating Committee 2020-2022
Jeff Kubat	Nominating Committee 2020-2022
Vicki Jackson	Nominating Committee 2020-2022
Gary Westman	Nominating Committee 2021-2023
Council-appointed	Nominating Committee 2021-2023
Member-at-Large	Nominating Committee 2021-2023

Members Currently Mid-Term

Debbie Pirkl	Financial Secretary
Joy Stenhaus	Secretary
Kim Richter	Stewardship
Sara Ruff/Joanna Meade	Fellowship
A Youness/John Anderson	Youth and Family

Members Retiring

Gary Westman	President
Sue Clark	Treasurer
Mary Molumby	Christian Education
Lori Ritt	Worship and Music
Lynda Bergeson	Nominating Committee
Brenda Gieser	Nominating Committee
Abby Vavra	Nominating Committee