

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Parish Council Meeting August 18, 2021
7:15 PM – through Zoom

Attendees (Absent):

Pastor John Snider, Pastor Tim Thompson, Merrill Zieman, Jackie Hanson, Jolene Sather
Debbie Pirkel, Joy Stenhaus, Sara Ruff, Beth Hostager, Diane Meyers, Eric Donahue, Jessica
Donahue, Kim Richter, John Anderson, Mary Jo, Tracy Westman, Mark Rogosheske,
Vicki Jackson, Christine Davis, Hannah Ruikka

Agenda:

- Prayer
- Minutes approval 6/16/2021
- Updates from Executive Committee
 - WIFI updates
 - Lap tops for hybrid meetings
 - Juneteenth will be a holiday for St. Stephens begin 2022
 - The Well will be coming to an end in August
 - National Night out: Possible to have gathering in parking lot 2022?
 - Fellowship will add to agenda 😊

Committee Reports/Updates: If possible please email prior to meeting (Reply All)

- Safety Committee
 - Masks are recommended in church.
- Vision and Action Team
 - Mission Statement: Connecting to God, Each Other and the World - possible change to?
 - Intentionally Connecting to God, Each Other and the World through Love and Service
 - Sara will send an email for acknowledgement to accept and/or recommend regarding new Mission Statement
- Pastor Reports: see below pages
- Property and Maintenance – no report
- Christian Education: Christine Davis – see below pages
 - Tracy would like to invite all to Wednesday forum
 - Dinner will not be served on Wednesday
 - Feed My Starving Wednesday September 15 – please sign up online
 - Still need 2 teachers
- Youth and Family: John – see below pages
 - Hannah has been busy with the kids!
- Finance: see below pages
- Stewardship: see below pages
- Missions: see below pages
- Worship and Music – no report
- Inviting – no report
- Fellowship: Sara
 - Saints Game / Patio Party / both a great success
 - More activities to come
- Nominating

- **Other business or announcements**

Feed My Starving Children in Eagan: Wed 15SEP21: 6-8pm

Council meeting change: Thursday 16SEP21 6:30p Council Meeting

Pastor John's Report
Wednesday, August 18, 2021

In the midst of these strange and challenging times I'm very encouraged by the commitment and tenacity of our congregation. It's a test for a Body of Christ: new ways of doing things, a world swirling with strongly held opinions, and our changing response to the virus. We are being tested and we are changing in ways we are yet to fully understand. I am very hopeful about how St. Stephen's is doing in the process. And trust God that, ***"All things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."*** (Romans 8:28)

You, our lay leaders, are leading the charge. Education, Worship, Fellowship, Finance, Stewardship, Invitation, Missions, Open Forum, Youth, Long Range Planning, Gift Policy and Safety Committee are faithful, hardworking and most importantly, Ephesians 4:15-16, ***"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."***

Looking back I really celebrate the 4 Sundays we dedicated to the **letter to the Philippians**. It became a source of daily inspiration, an interesting challenge for preaching, but also was a stimulating basis for the men's breakfast group, so much so we've changed the study portion of our breakfasts from the text for the coming Sunday to another book of the Bible, these time Ephesians.

As I write this on Monday, August 16, I'm still in the glow from the **Fellowship Committee's potluck** on the deck. What were the ingredients for such a spiritually uplifting time? Sure the weather was perfect, the food delicious, but it was the relationships. There was great conversation and energy around every table. Tons of people stayed to help clean up. I think the relaxed attitude of the committee was where it started. No agenda, just be together. To love and be loved.

I have been invited by the new West St. Paul City Manager, Nate Burkett, to join the **West St. Paul Equity Committee**. We have our first meeting tonight (Monday) so I can report on it Wednesday. I like the theme he used with the city council in his hiring process, "Equity Works". I think that concept resonates with our Christian faith and the love for all of our neighbors. He maintains its good for everyone including cities.

God has blessed us with your faithfulness and commitment to God, God's calling and this community. Thank you!

Talk to you Wednesday!

Pastor John

Education Committee Report 8/18/21

Our first event is the September 15th service project at Feed My Starving Children. Everyone is welcome! 65 spots have been reserved and we want to fill them all!

Registration for Faith Formation 2021-2022

Class	Registered	Possible (based on what I know!)	Teachers
Wee Wonder	2	4-5	Tracy Westman
Pre K-kindergarten	2 (4 yo) 2 Kind 4 TOTAL	Possible 1-2 more	Camilla Millett/Kristi Frid
1st/2nd	3 (1st) 1 (2nd) 4 TOTAL	Possible 1-2 more	Mary Molumby/ Lexi Frid
3rd/4th/5th	2 (3rd) 1 (4th) 1 (5th) 4 TOTAL	Maybe 1-2 more	Nara Anderson/Jessica Gregory
6th	2	1-2 more	Lisa Ellison (still looking for 1 more)
7th	4	Maybe 1	Lynda Bergeson (still looking for 1 more)
8th	3	Maybe 1	Brenda and John Geiser

1. WeeWonder is going to be done on ZOOM---our littlest ones cannot wear masks and that is what the families are wanting
2. Dinner WILL NOT be served.
3. We will start the evening with a large group gathering in fellowship hall from 6:00 - 6:20. Chairs will be spread out around the room and masks will be worn.
4. Small groups will meet in classrooms from 6:25- 7:00. Masks will be worn.
5. There will be a computer for each room where families will be able to ZOOM in if they cannot attend.
6. We met on Aug 7th to clean and prepare classrooms. Our next meeting will be a teacher meeting on Saturday September 11th at 9:00.
7. Teacher blessing and blessing of backpacks will take place on Sunday, September 12th at 9:30 service.

Youth and Family Committee Meeting Minutes on 8-12-2021

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Hannah has been having modified Campfires with small group of children playing board games. No fires due to the dry conditions.

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Valley Fair event is this Saturday 8-21-2021, have 4 students attending as of now. Hannah is sending out another notice for more participants.

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Proposed Youth Group for 9th - 12th grade students starting on 9-26-2021 at 10:45 AM following the service at church. Meeting weekly, playing games and possible service projects. Hannah is going to advertise this opportunity with the students.

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Possible Meatball Dinner Fundraiser on 11-22-2021.

Preparation would be on 11-21-2021.

Product could also be picked-up on 11-24-2021 after church.

Pick up and drive off with the packaged dinner was suggested, instead of a sit down event. Pre-sold tickets is also suggested. Jeff Kubat would be helping with this event.

Planning meeting on 9-22-2021 at SSLC, 7PM.

Finance Committee Report

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

On a year-to-date basis, total income is below budget by \$16,440 while expenses are below budget by \$34,636.

We have a year-to-date deficit (expense exceeds income) of \$8,033, however, this deficit is roughly \$18,000 less than the budgeted year-to-date deficit of \$26,222 because expenses are down more than income.

The income shortfall relative to budget is driven by general contributions while the favorable expenses relative to budget are driven by Property & Maintenance, Salaries, and Computer Hardware & Repair.

Please let us know if you have questions.

Beth and Diane

	July			July YTD 2021		
	BUDGET	ACTUAL	Difference	BUDGET	ACTUAL	Difference
General Envelope	27,300	25,163	(2,137)	230,100	214,821	(15,279)
Total Contributions	28,050	25,415	(2,635)	254,100	237,592	(16,508)
Total Other Income	3,853	3,760	(93)	31,691	31,752	61
Total Income	31,903	29,175	(2,728)	285,791	269,344	(16,447)
Total Expenses	38,796	38,974	178	312,013	277,377	(34,636)
Income Less Expense	(6,893)	(9,799)	(2,906)	(26,222)	(8,033)	18,189

Stewardship committee

Stewardship committee has not met this summer, but we have had some progress points.

Financial giving statements were sent out at the end of July, later than anticipated but sent at last. We are hoping it will be a reminder to all, especially those who submitted their intention but maybe forgot to make their automated increases.

Work is kicking off with the early stages of our next annual Stewardship Campaign. We had our cohort meeting last night and got some great ideas and energy around the program. We identified areas of improvement as well as what went well last year, ultimately helping us to direct our focus for this campaign, aligned with last years. Once we have more input from the visioning group, along with any input/suggestions from any of you, we can move forward with action. Our top three goals will be critical to identify and describe.

So...full steam ahead!

Thanks all!

Kim

MISSION's

The mission committee has one event planned on God's Work. Our Hands Sunday, September 12. We will bring treats to local police station as a thank you for their service to the community. Donations of home-made treats are needed that morning. They will be delivered right after the church service. On Wednesday, September 15 we are hosting a packing event at Feed my Starving Children in Eagan. The faith formation classes are planning to participate. As of morning of August 18 there are 25 people signed up. There is room for more!

Respectfully submitted,
Vicki Jackson