

St. Stephen's Lutheran Church
Council Meeting

Date/Time: 18 May 2016/Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Location: Lounge at St. Stephen's Church

Attendees (Absent): Dave Bergeson, Jessica Donahue, Beth Hostager, Vicki Jackson, Patrice Katzenmaier, Dane McKenzie, Darcy McKenzie, Diane Meyers, Steve Morganson, Cassie Nault, Kathy Packer, Tanisha Pikula, Sitraka Rakotoarivelo, Lori Ritt, Doug Schmitt, Brett Scribner, John Snider, Laura Vitelli, Amy Wilson

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer/ Devotions
2. Adopt minutes from April Council meeting 2016
3. Q & A committee reports:
 - a. Fellowship – June 5th potluck / June 12th Barbary Coast
 - b. Clean up Church – June 15th 4:30 start time Final details
4. New Business:
 - a. Agenda for semi - annual meeting (see rough draft)
 - b. Council training (strength finders program)
5. Old Business: Budget training (whole group or individual committee chairs)
6. Adjournment – Lord's Prayer

Discussion of Agenda Items

1. Opening Prayer/ Devotions
 - a. Brett led the group in prayer from book of prayers
2. Adopt minutes from April Council meeting 2016
 - a. Motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to approve last month's minutes
3. Q & A committee reports:
 - a. Fellowship – June 5th potluck/ June 12th Barbary Coast
 - i. Patrice will send out a signup sheet
 - b. Clean up Church – June 15th 4:30 start time Final details
 - i. Four lead maintenance representatives to direct activity
 - ii. Exec. Committee will cook on grill and will provide meat

- iii. Pot luck for other food items
- iv. Family service with singing and s'mores
- v. Also will serve as orientation and meeting of new members

4. **New Business:**

- a. Agenda for semi - annual meeting
 - i. Prior to discussion of agenda, Laura explained plan to get more congregation involvement
 - 1. Meeting will be held in fellowship hall at small tables
 - a. Have at least two council members or exec committee members at each table
 - i. main goal is to listen intently
 - ii. Ask two questions
 - 1. Ask what members believe our most important initiatives are
 - 2. ask what congregation members would do to close budget gap
 - iii. group answers from congregation members at the table
 - 2. Discuss our vision -- Where are we and where are we going
 - 3. financial issues
 - a. need to address what have we been doing to address shortfall
 - b. address what's next; when will leadership get back to congregation
 - i. digest what we learn from discussion
 - ii. commit to get back to congregation in September
 - c. Jessica has a donor who is committing to provide a \$5000 gift to St. Stephens
 - ii. Summary of Agenda
 - 1. Call to order

2. Opening Prayer
 3. Verify quorum
 4. Approve minutes from last semi-annual meeting
 5. New Business
 - a. Amend continuing resolution of financial secretary
 - b. Election of Officers
 6. Old Business
 - a. Financial discussions
 - b. Officers' Reports
 - c. Closing prayer
- b. Council training (strength finders program)
- i. This item was tabled for this meeting
 - ii. Take up when new council is in place
5. **Old Business:**
- a. Budget training (whole group or individual committee chairs)
 - i. Conduct training at August meeting
 - b. Single service
 - i. Exec committee has decided to implement single service commencing with Memorial Day weekend
 - ii. Determine at end of summer how we will proceed
 1. Need to try and address those concerns raised by the small number of members who did not want to go to a single service
 2. We will continue to offer Saturday bridge service
 3. Adding a Wednesday evening service once a month
 - c. Darcy provided a summary of costs that are being expended for Wednesday night dinner
 - i. Over the last four months it has cost us approximately \$2,500 beyond what we took in
 1. Served 559 meals
 2. Received \$1,721
 3. Expended \$4,121
 - ii. Darcy indicated that she was providing this information as "food for thought" to help us consider how we want to proceed

1. Look at different vendor?
 2. Look at different type meals?
 3. What other things can we/should we do?
 - d. Exec committee has decided to move forward on a limited basis with children's prayer area
6. Adjournment – Lord's Prayer
 - a. Pastor John led us in the Lord's Prayer
 - b. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm

Recorded and Submitted by:

Doug Schmitt,
Council Secretary

Attachments to these Minutes:

Committee Reports

Fellowship Committee

Pastor's Report

Associate Pastor's Report

Stewardship Committee

Finance Committee

Worship Committee

Youth Director's Report

Committee Reports

Fellowship Committee (Patrice Katzenmaier)

Attended: Kathy Cannif, Pastor John, Patrice Katzenmaier, Diane Johnson

We still need to fill May 22 and May 29th Fellowship Hour Servers. I am requesting any committee who has not yet served this year to please let me know if you can help out.

A pot luck brunch will be held June 5th at 10:30. The theme will be, "SALT - You are the salt of the earth." Watch for information each Sunday and for postings. We are asking you to bring : egg bake, potato dish, fruit, muffin or rolls, veggie tray or, just be creative. We are asking the council for serving help also, so grab an apron and come to the kitchen for some good old fashioned team work! Thank you!!

I will be checking into possible Saints Baseball tickets for some time in Aug.

Patrice Katzenmaier, fellowship chair

Pastor's Report (Pastor John Snider)

May 2016

1. **Lutheran Mideast Development.** Every time, which is all the time, we hear bad reports from the Middle East, we can know that based right here at St. Stephen's is an organization that is committed to making space for hope in that troubled land, and has been for 106 years! This month the LMD story was brought to Durham, North Carolina (weekend of April 23, 24) and 65 people attended a special presentation at St. Stephens April 28th.
2. **The Nominating Committee.** Once again with the blessing of God, the talent in this congregation and the commitment of the Nominating Committee we are blessed with a full slate of officers. We say thank to everyone whose service in Counsel leadership is ending: **Kathy Packer, Laura Vitelli, Ann Anderson, Dane McKenzie.** You have done great. And we welcome new leaders: **Debbie Pirkel, Rhonda Ihrke, Marnie Gulsvig, Annette Youness** and **Jenny VanPelt.** The committee does not feel its work is finished until a) the committees the new chairs want have been created and b) and we have contributed to a system of orientation for the new council.
3. Teachers, leaders and staff have been meeting to evaluate **Wednesday night education** and what place worship might play in these essential programs. We have learned much and **Pastor Cassie and Sitraka** are making adjustments to already excellent ministries. The question remains about **single worship on Sunday.** How will we arrive at a decision? Does the time of service matter? Can we return to two services? How would it affect fall planning? What are the pluses, what are the negatives? How would we inform the congregation?
4. **A Path With Heart.** 8 people gathered for the first meeting. A wonderful discussion of deep spiritual matters, combined with 20 minutes of silent meditation, created a beautiful experience of God's grace and community. We expect more people to attend. Who doesn't need a deeper taste of grace? Next meeting, **Wednesday, May 25th, 7-8:30 p.m.** (2nd and 4th Wednesdays of May, June, July and August.)
5. **SALT Saturday and Sunday, June 4, 5.** A celebration of our Christian faith in daily life. BBQ after the Bridge. Brunch pot luck after the Sunday worship. Rather than focus on thanking only those who volunteer for service within the walls of St. Stephen's, we are going to celebrate the service we are in all of life. **"You are the salt of the earth." -Jesus.**

6. **Let's Talk.** Last gathering of this season. June 7th, 7 p.m. Mosque At-Taquwa, 1608 Como Ave. St. Paul. We are invited to “**break-fast**” with our new friends at the end of one of the days of their Ramadan fast. Watch for a signup list.
7. From April 20-May 18, **for the numbers:** 8 homebound visits; 3 funerals; 1 wedding; 2 worship sermons.

Associate Pastor's Report (Pastor Cassie Nault) May 2016 Report to Council

***Youth Representatives to Committees** - As we start out a new Council year, I'm hoping for some youth representation on our committees. Missions Committees is actively seeking out a youth chair—I'm curious as to whether other committees are as well.

***Wednesday Faith Formation** - As Pastor John mentioned, teachers, leaders and staff have been meeting to evaluate and what place worship might play in Wednesday evening programming. This fall we are looking to add some direction by including a Montessori style faith formation activity of “Godly Play” for our children in the preschool and kindergartens, along with a new focus for our early elementary students. We are also working toward a rotation for Confirmation teaching to include Sitraka and Pastor John more often in an effort to help students get to know all of us better. *If you or anyone you know is interested in helping to teach or lead activities on Wednesdays, please let me or Sitraka know!*

***Weekend Worship Services** - I echo Pastor John's questions from his report. Is it time to continue our rhythm of 2 weekend worship services into the fall? I look forward to hearing your insights.

***Reduced schedule for summer** - Just a reminder that this summer I'll be working 50% time at St. Stephen's. What this looks like is I'll be in the office on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Sundays (and Saturdays when I preach). Thank you to those of you who have asked how the 80% time schedule has been going; it is a struggle to get everything done, but it is working out alright. I'm very thankful to my fellow staff members and the congregation for your support and encouragement. Thank you!

***Pastoral Acts since our last meeting:** 3 homebound/hospital visits; 2 worship sermons; 4 counseling sessions.

Pastor Cassie Nault
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**Context *Empathy *Harmony *Individualization *Input*

Stewardship Committee (Laura Vitelli) 5.17.17

- First quarter giving summaries and thank you letters mailed in late April

- Giving for general envelopes is running about \$12,000 behind budget, increasing the potential year-end deficit
- Making plans to ask for congregation input at the semi-annual meeting about how to address growing deficit

Laura

Finance Committee (Diane Meyers)

The Finance committee met on May, 5 2016.

The following were in attendance: Dave Bergeson, Sue Clark, Debbie Pirkl, Pastor John, Abra Gillman, Beth Hostager and Diane Meyers.

Laura Vitelli joined our meeting to discuss the question “What do we do now”? Another campaign? Another letter?

Discussion took place as to what communication is going to be given on May 22, 2016 at the semi-annual meeting.

Month of April Financials:

Income was **\$3,782.39 under budget. \$4,467.67 of the difference was in General Envelope.**

Expenses: Property and Maintenance had a favorable variance to plan of \$2,418.32 due to Gas charges **positive variances of \$1655.78**

All other expenses were close to being on budget.

Income less expenses for the month was **\$1062 over budget.**

Income less expenses YTD was **\$7,781 over budget.**

Respectfully submitted.

Beth Hostager and Diane Meyers, Finance co -chairs

Worship Committee (Lori Ritt)

No Report submitted this month

Invitation Committee (Steve Morganson)

No Report submitted this month

Mission Committee (Patty Longard)

No Report submitted this month

Youth Director (Sitraka Rakotoarivelo)

No Report submitted this month

