

Council Minutes

May 16, 2022, 6:00 pm

Attending: Sadie Reiners, Deborah Dreher, Pam Hoffman, Cindy Toppin, Marjorie Peterson, Abby Schultz, Bruce Arndtson, Pastor Geier, Lois Twedt

Call to order at 6 p.m. by Vice President Sadie Reiners

Cindy made the motion to accept the April Minutes and Deborah made the second. Motion carried.

Following clarification by email on net income reported, a motion was made by Lois to accept the April Financial Statement. Sadie seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Treasurer Deborah Dreher

No Council Action Required

St. Philip's Lutheran Church remains in strong financial position. Review of April 2022 Financial Reports indicate 2022 year-to-date Giving in three categories, General, Capital and Miscellaneous is comparable to budget and also 2021 year-to-date Giving.

Old Business: 2020 Audit Findings: Deborah and Christine wrapped up all tasks and the 2020 audit is complete.

Vice President Sadie Reiners

No Council Action Required

The buildings and grounds committee held its quarterly meeting on April 27. The following are recent activities conducted by the committee:

1. New lift pump was installed in the classroom sink in ELC 2 by Paul Swanstrom and Bill Pavlish. This was a huge labor savings for SPLC. (Thank them when you see them.)
2. Ant problem has been solved for now. Plunkett's Pest Control is our new vendor when needed. We are not entering into a contract for quarterly prevention. We will reconsider if we see a mice problem out by the new AC units. (\$520 would be the fee)
3. Sanctuary bulbs (4) were replaced before Easter. This took six team members, Steve W., Dan Strehlow, Al Todnem, Wayne Fahlstrom and Bruce Arndtson and Bill Pavlish.

4. AC installations are now complete for the Youth Room (One Hour Heating and Cooling) and Fellowship Room (two mini splits from Bathrick's)--\$6400 and \$9800 respectively. Old Sanctuary is without AC for now.
5. Window washing was done one week before Easter by Fine Shine for \$440. This included the interior sanctuary glass wall as well.
6. Snow plowing was re-visited due to an issue of snow melt run-off into two homes south of the parking lot. A neighborhood meeting was held with all 9 B&G members along with Pastor Geier and David Weisser to hear the issues of two neighbors along with councilperson Lori Barack. Precision Landscaping was present on our behalf and two city public works people plus city manager were present as well. Next winter, snow will not be deposited on the grass area south of the parking lot but rather "stored" on the hard surface for gradual run-off. This solution will consume parking space along the south rim of the parking lot during heavy snow periods.
7. Grounds grooming has been going on primarily by Al Todnem and Bill Pavlish. Grasses were cut down by the ponds. The Misegades have pruned the hydrangeas and sedum for spring. The Clean-up day was cancelled as there was not enough work to be done this early. Al Todnem has now power washed the prayer garden. He and Patty have cleaned out the surrounding area.
8. The Fire Suppression hydro test was approved for the kitchen range. This is a test that is required every 12 years with the cost now at \$1005 per time.
9. Parking Lot repair. Per the council's request, we now have two bids for either crack repair or full sealing and striping. A third bid is expected. FYI at this time is that repairing cracks only would be about \$3400. Full sealing and striping along with crack repair would total about \$14,000. The council will be asked to make this decision when all bids are in. My guess is that B&G will feel we can live with crack repair only at this time, but the council will want to make that final determination. Vendors so far contacted are Tundra (local) and Jet Black which also serves Hastings. Cindy suggested that we consider full sealing and striping, as we had skipped some repairs in the past.
10. Next inspection of the new addition furnace and AC unit will happen May 25. Costs for this are \$733 & \$605 respectively.
11. Fire & sprinkler system panel will be tested in June per contract.
12. A Clean Up day will happen early summer as weeds began to overtake the ponds and around the building. Pruning will also need to happen as needed.

Serving Ministry Report--Pam Hoffman

No Council Action Required

Fellowship Ministry Update

- Ladies Night Out is planned for 6/22 at Hastings Public House.

- There is now a donut pickup sign-up sheet on the kiosk.
- A celebration for Lista (20 years at St Philip's) was after service on May 8th.
- A couple of team members will take over the duty of sending out birthday greetings to staff members. Ruth Jackson had taken care of this for many years.

Stewardship Ministry Update

*They will begin an effort to do a Stewardship message via the sanctuary screen and they are looking for 2 new members.

HR Report-- Cindy Toppin

No Council Action Required

Much advertising and outreach has happened this month to advertise the open position of Choir/Handbell Director. So far there have been no applicants. They are considering the option of combining roles and adding benefits. Let's pray!

Worship Ministry Report-- Marjorie Peterson

No Council Action Required

Debrief

1. The Bible stand is not stable. Some lectors read from it so the Bible is placed on the lectern.
2. Checking with AV personnel regarding the level of volume, possibly turning it down a bit.
3. Will continue watching CDC and MDH guidelines for masking policy.
4. Communion - About 85% in attendance choosing to go forward. Kits will remain available. We may use kits only on Sundays if there are no preparers available.
5. Lori Best is conducting worship leader recruitment.
6. The webpage needs updating.

Racial Justice

With enough lead time, information will be printed in the bulletin of the Sundays that a spiritual is used. Donations to a cause will be chosen at a later date.

Outdoor service

1. June 19 at 9:30 AM
2. Order of worship will follow the 10:30 praise worship format.
3. Bulletin will include the words for songs.
4. Communion will be served using kits.
5. No live streaming, but an attempt will be made to record the service.
6. Flyers and door hangers will be distributed.
7. The fellowship team will serve ice cream. Council suggested serving packaged ice cream treats rather than scooping, or possibly cookies.

8. In case of rain, we will move indoors.

Suggested by Cindy that postcards be sent to congregation members and put notice on social media, mentioning that Mary Ellen Fox and the Double Down Dare Devils will be providing music.

Learning Ministries Report –Abby Schultz

No Council Action Required

Preschool Ministry Team

Due to other commitments and being ill we were not able to have our meeting this week.

- A detailed email was sent to our team members discussing enrollment and class offerings for next year. At this time, we have not heard back from the team. We currently have a total of 29 spots filled for next year.
- End of the year program will take place on May 26/27 at 11:15.
- Happy to report the large deficit we were expecting to have this year did not happen due to careful budgeting and State grant money.

Faith Formation Team

Due to scheduling issues, we were not able to have a faith formation meeting this month. However, we were able to finalize the summer schedule via email, which was my main goal of the meeting. **Attached is the pdf of the family summer schedule.**

ASG Report

The book study for Lent fizzled out. Book with prep probably didn't help.

The first session of Lisa's Mental Illness series went well yesterday, 3 more sessions.

Summer:

Preaching will be per the Revised Common Lectionary.

Lisa is willing to do "Freedom of a Christian" in July, 3 sessions, July 10, 17, 24. Lisa will get in to Lisa by June 15th for the July newsletter and bulletins starting last Sunday in June.

Pastor is willing to do Creed fireside chats. Pastor will do the announcements Sunday nights, 6:30 pm in the summer---June 26 First article, July 24 Second Article, Aug 21 Third Article

Fall program ideas:

Lisa thinking more on the environment, what she hears younger adults concerned about. ? LGBTQ+ stuff, not sure if appropriate. (Jennie to continue to work on ideas) Lisa: willing to do two sessions on Diaconal Ministry, what it was historically and what it is like now.

? Personal/family finances. Sam Willis was going to do Financial Peace University before the pandemic started, Pastor not sure if still interested. Lisa also has a friend could teach Financial Peace University if Sam does not want to do it. (Doug to look into)

Concern that the Sunday School classes are still very small, parents don't seem to be making it a priority. Jennie is to ask Sarah if she thinks having something (WHAT??) for parents at SS hour would help. Pastor may want to talk to the young families about their perceived needs while trying to get them re-engaged in bringing their kids to Sunday School.

How to involve younger adults?? What about other younger adults single or partnered? Survey?? In May, but couldn't warn people, or maybe better in August as being closer to when it would be implemented??

? Someone else to run the LWR school supply drive if Do Days gets the bags made? Boy Scout Eagle project?? Pastor to get Jennie contact information on Mike Thorkildson, michael.thorkildson@aggregate-us.com and she emailed him. To talk to Sarah about ideas if Boy Scouts not interested.

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Bruce Arndtson

Considering advertising outdoor service at Hastings Inn. Discussed using magnetic clips for hanging the flyers in the neighborhood.

Pastor Geier – May 2022 Council Report

*A most encouraging trend has been the increase in first time visitors, including several young families!

*Thanks to everyone who helped with the service for Ruth Jackson.

*In addition to checking in with those ministry teams that met, I also enjoyed preschool chapel time and resuming confirmation classes.

*I continue to find my weekly text study and contemplative prayer/colleague support groups to be very worthwhile.

*The frequency of significant pastoral care situations has decreased to “normal.”

*Pre-marriage, pre-baptism, and visiting with potential new members have all been very enjoyable and worthwhile.

*I participated in our synod convention on May 13th and 14th.

*I am anticipating that to share favorable impressions of our Council/Leadership retreat at Schaar's Bluff on May 15th. Pastor thanked everyone for their attendance at the Leadership Retreat. He shared some of the things attendees liked about the retreat and some suggestions made for future retreats.

*I am concerned and unsure about our next steps in recruiting and hiring a choir director and worship band leader.

*I will not be in the office May 23 through 28.

*On a personal note:

Amy and I will be celebrating 35 years of mostly wedded bliss later this month. After having lost 21 pounds so far, I seem to have hit a plateau. Time will tell.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.
Your Servant in Christ,
Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

Old Business

We have some potential liaisons for working with the Boys Scout troop.

New Business

A motion was made by Deborah to “approve the request for facility use with the following conditions—additional fee to cover the cost of custodian, allow use of one large coffee pot, clean-up following the event, and clarification of treats. Motion was seconded by Pam. Motion passed.

Procedures for good order—“written motions” was tabled until June meeting.

Motion was made by Deborah and seconded by Bruce to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary