

Council Minutes

March 18, 2024

Attending: Dan Strehlow, Dolores Pemble, Alex Zuzak, David Fry, Natalie Carda, Maria Gathje, Jen Klos, Warren Thomas, Pastor Geier, Deborah Dreher, Becky Kaphing.

Call to Order by President Dan Strehlow at 5:58 p.m.

New Business:

Pastor introduced Sue Megrund from InterServe Ministries. She shared how their program works and how they might advise us with our staffing needs. The following are important points that she shared:

- Walk along side the congregation with an objective lens
- Typically, a 6-12 month time period of 20 hours per week
- Develop church's timeline
- Identify pillars of our ministry—a Discovery Team of 8-10 members to work with the InterServe associate
- InterServe has 8 staff total—we would interview and select a representative based on availability and our needs
- Timing to start based on our needs
- Financial commitment of \$3900/month

Alex made a motion to move forward with InterServe Ministries. Dolores seconded the motion, and the motion passed. InterServe Ministries will be scheduled at Pastor's discretion.

Secretary's Report, Lois Twedt

Natalie made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report. The motion was seconded by Alex. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report, Dolores Pemble

No Council Action Required

The tithing gift to Hastings Family Service was held back until after March 1 to leverage the March Food Share matching funds.

Deborah reported on attending the Leadership Retreat.

A brief discussion was held on the InterServe Ministries and how they could help us determine future staffing needs.

Natalie made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Maria seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Vice President Alex Zuzek

Council Action Required

Building and grounds:

Activity during the past 30 days has been the coordination of replacing the broken window in the old sanctuary on the courtyard side. Bill Pavlish headed the project by ordering the new window through Gordy's Glass. Bill Pavlish and Steve Wolverton will install the new window soon.

A bid of \$895 is likely to be accepted for the painting of the iron fencing that faces 15th street. The existing fence and posts are close to 30 years old without the refreshing of new paint. Memorial funds honoring Lenora and Norm Holtorf are earmarked for prayer garden improvement, thus we expect to fund this expense through that means. The metal furnishings (tables and chairs) in the courtyard will also be repainted in black. A motion was made by Natalie to move forward with this project. Warren seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Bathrick's is expected to install two mini split AC units in the old sanctuary very soon. The units have arrived. The two units will both be hung on the west side of the room. Old units will be removed and disposed of. The new AC feature will make this space more amenable to group activity throughout the year.

Brian Flaten, of Premium Electric, recently replaced burned out bulbs in the parking lot. One light was the one which lights the cross. Thank you to Brian for including our project while had a lift available.

Serving Ministry Report—Dave Fry

No Council Action Required

Fellowship Ministry

OLD BUSINESS:

1. 2023 GRAD GIFTS: The cards and packets were addressed last month and given to Lista.
2. BLOODMOBILE MARCH 14, 12:00-6:00: Katy has sign up genius for donors. 32 of 45 donation spots reserved as of first week of March.
We need help from our ministry for the following—Greeters, Sign-in, Canteen and Clean-up.
3. ST. PAUL SAINTS GAME: Camille talked to someone at the Saints office last month but didn't get the information needed to move forward with it as multi-generational outing.
4. LEADERSHIP RETREAT FEB 25: Then we broke into groups to discuss as St. Philip's Church:
1. Who Are we? 2. What is God Calling us to Do? 3. Who is our Neighbor? We exist for sake of others. Love is without limits.

Issues brought up under the serving ministry are:

- A) passing the torch to younger members of congregation. How do we communicate what our ministry does/how it's been done, (funerals, etc.) how might improve?
- B) Clarity of what comes under our auspices, (Do Days, Ruby's Pantry, Shoe Box ministry?)
- C) Hastings Family Service—Congratulations to Katy Lindberg as president of the Hastings Family Service Board of Directors! Ways to volunteer: Food Rescue Sorting has had members helping; Meals on Wheels; Market Cart brings food to senior living or the senior center, rotates to Mississippi Terrace, Oak Ridge, behind Fleet Farm, Senior Center-- Pam and Mary R currently help with this, 11:30-2; Donation Center; Rivertown Treasures; Project Share; Gobble Gait
- D) Community Outreach? Katy Lindberg is chair without other members. We offer bloodmobile site twice a year. Last year St. Philip's participated in community park cleanup. What else can be done to make members of congregation more aware? Are we interested in joining with another church again with Caring and Sharing? Vet's Home? Car shows visibility?
- E) School Service—Program to develop with District 200? Lutheran Social Services? Reading buddies, ELS Readers, more structured program?
- F) Ministry Team Fair?—Revive ministry team fair with booths for each ministry set up around the narthex. Congregation could learn who does what, etc., and perhaps recruit team members. Something that could tie in with Rally Sunday or separate Sunday?

5. OUTDOOR SERVICE on JUNE 23: Double Down Daredevils will again lead the service. Worship and Music would like Fellowship to again serve ice cream sundae cups. Last year we served about 80.

6. SIGN UP GENIUS: Lista will take care of setting it up when needed. We found out there will not be a fee, so nothing needs to come out of Fellowship budget.

7. RUBY'S PANTRY: Jen Klos and Katie Thomas were sad to relay the news that they heard from Ruby's Pantry organization. St. Philip's was not one of the six sites chosen in the area to participate this year.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. WELCOME DAVE FRY! We welcomed Dave Fry who is our Service Ministry representative on Church Council. Introductions and review of what our ministry does.

2. WISH LIST: We were contacted to see if there is anything not in our ministry's budget that we would like to request to be purchased. A submitted request would be put in a Wish List folder, which would be made available to anyone who would like to make a special purchase for St. Philip's (example was a new banner for services.)

3. ELLEN DIISCHER'S FUNERAL ON MARCH 1: A beautiful, meaningful service reflected so well what Ellen meant to our congregation. About 190 guests were served at the luncheon. There was plenty of food and help.

4. MARK BOXRUD'S PASSING: Mark was a son of St. Philip's first Pastor. He lived in Mora, MN.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Ministry Team has refrained from meeting in person during Lent.

The activity that is monthly is the coordination of the article called "Staying Connected" which is found monthly in the St. Philip's newsletter. Two households are recruited to do a written capsule of their history with St. Philip's for publication. It is believed that people have one more way to get to know each

other. This effort began at the beginning of the pandemic when we were not having worship services and isolation was a way of life. It was an attempt to keep the sense of a church family intact. Gerri Lundy of the Stewardship Ministry Team continues to find two households every month to agree to writing their story.

HR Report—Natalie Carda

No Council Action Required

Nothing to report.

Worship Ministry Report— Maria Gathje

No Council Action Required.

Service Debrief: Sunday attendance in February ranged from 101-152. Ash Wednesday and Lenten services are going well. The “I AM” themed sermons are very good and well-received. On-line services are of very good quality and much appreciated. Ellen’s funeral service was very nice.

Communion/Worship Leaders: It was confirmed that there will be two communion stations at each of the Easter Sunday services, as usual. A sign-up sheet is on the kiosk for Holy Week worship leaders.

Pastor Geier has informed the Altar Guild to put a small amount of wine in the chalice, which he will drink and thus not have to be disposed of outside.

April Music:

- April 7: Children’s choir
 - April 21: Contemporary band with a group of HS students. Kelsey has confirmed two guitarists. So far, four HS singers have been recruited. A worship plan is needed. Kelsey will look at possible music list. She has obtained a subscription to contemporary music that can be used.
 - April 28: Bells with dedication to Ellen
- To confirm on schedule: Unity and when Sam Willis will sub for Noreen.

Holy Week & Easter:

- LuAnn has chimes for children to play during Palm Sunday processional.
- Rails will be removed after Maundy Thursday
- Flower garden set-up and offering envelopes and cards replenished: Saturday, March 30 at 9 AM. There are 41 plants. Volunteers: Darlene, Kelsey, LuAnn, Becky, others?
- Bells will play at Easter 8:30 service.
- Choral group with brass (if possible) at Easter 10:30 service. Julia Ronning is recruiting HS brass players. Becky will hold a rehearsal prior to the performance with Brass. Brass would play with the first and last congregational hymns. She will inform the staff of the hymns for that.

The altar guild would like to purchase new cloth covers for the communion patens.

Learning Ministries Report –Jen Klos

No Council Action Required

Preschool:

- 1) Registration numbers for next year are as follows: M-W-F 9:00 to 12:00– 18 spots are filled T-TH 9:00-12:00- spots filled
- 2) Health nurse made her visit last month and everything checked out good there. Few minor paperwork changes but she was very happy with our school.
- 3) Raise Right has taken off with great support from the church. We are \$155 from our goal of covering the field trip. We talked about our next goal for Raise Right money and decided we would start fundraising for new wood chips for the playground. While depth wise we are in compliance, we definitely need to add more to get back to levels we started at. We are working with Glenda to see what the original place was when the playground was built along with checking other places to be sure we get the best price.
- 4) Upcoming events include a dental puppet presentation, Librarian visit, and our big field trip on April 30th
- 5) Reviewed the budget and things are looking good there.

ASG:

Calendar for Adult Forum for the rest of the program year:

March 3: Dr. Tammy Champa, School District 200 superintendent; part of her Tour of Gratitude. To also address possibilities for volunteers from the congregation in the schools. Anticipating a higher than usual turn out, Chuck has secured permission to use the Youth Room instead of the Learning Room

March 10: If Bridgette Norring is able to move to April to allow more time for publicity of her talk, Jennie will do The Wired Word (done)

March 17: Pastor to present something of his choice unless Doug has two teacher panels and uses this Sunday for one of them. Pastor to write the bulletin blurb if he is doing the session.

March 24th (Palm Sunday) and April 7: (Chuck to let kids chose date first) He is working on a panel of students about what High School is like for them and how we as adults in the church community can be supportive of them. He has asked the two high schoolers from Cottage Grove, Austin Pavel and Dylan Koenig, and they are willing. Suggested also talking to Linnea or Julia Ronning and/or Payton Thomas if they would also be willing to be part of a panel. Lisa will introduce Chuck to the Hastings teens.

Doug is working on 1 or 2 sessions with teachers on changes in teaching since Covid (maybe separating into primary and secondary teachers) Potential teachers brainstormed for Doug to contact: Curt and Laura Zabel, Lori Best, Annette Hanson, Aleaha and Alex Zuzek, Katie Nye, Lydia Cummings (but teaches SS, so might not be available), Emily Chandler, Julie Dale, Todd and Jennifer Herber, Mackenzie Lukas Kennedy, Craig and Amy Mears, Brenda Rossow, Mindy Tavernier, a middle school principal - blurbs to be done when details available

March 30: No Adult Forum, Easter

April 14: (moved here for better publicity and not spring break) Bridgette Norring who lost her son to drugs...

Started Devin J. Norring Foundation to raise awareness and educate children. Doug to do blurb.

St Philips to donate \$100 to the Foundation in place of a speaker's fee. To come from the ASG budget.

April 21: someone from Law Enforcement to discuss problems with drugs in Hastings. Chuck arraigning.

April 28, May 5, May 12: Lisa Bergert's series on homelessness. Lisa to do blurb and get to Lista by March 15.

Notes on other ideas and where they are at:

--Updates on Chuck's activities

--Program on Wills, Estate Planning, Health Directives—big picture, no presenter in mind yet. Fall??

--Hastings Com --United Way of Hastings: Mari Mellick does not work for United Way anymore

Called volunteer on Feb 20 at 651-438-3337

--Dr. Tammy Champa is the person for "Active Shooter" program and would be willing to do that later in Fall

-- Gun control in general: back burner for spring, maybe Fall

--Community Education has a program on writing your own Will and Directives

--Possibilities: Faith and Law—when is it time to break the law to help people?

Such as: Ohio minister for opening up the church to homeless on a cold night; El Paso residents aiding migrants crossing the border with water, food, etc.

--Paying property taxes—partial or pure exemption (not sure what this was a reference to)

--Possibilities: Alpha and Omega—the beginning and the end

--Frozen embryos (which wound up coincidentally being the March 10 Wired Word topic!)

--End of life decisions

Idea from Lisa:

--Desire for something on spiritual practice. Maybe doing a group, maybe invite the community. Not Sunday morning, some other time, maybe Sunday evening?? Series with different spiritual practices each month, let it evolve as people want. Link "church" to "spirituality", maybe interest people who are "spiritual" but not necessarily church affiliated.

Faith Formation:

*Family of Faith Night—April 13

* First communion classes coming up. Looking at 4/5 students. Made sure we had banner supplies.

* Easter hoping for outside spring activities including our egg hunt. Candy is being collected and egg stuffing has started.

*Family of faith fun night begin planned for April 13th. Family game night and pizza.

*VBS planning is under way. Discussed some volunteers we have, crafts planned, and approved purchases for craft supplies and decorations that need to be purchased.

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Warren Thomas

Council Action Required

We have a plan for the cameras and locations picked out. Bruce is going to investigate electrical wiring for two of the locations and we may need to have two outlets installed by an electrician. I ordered and have been testing a camera and will bring it to show at the meeting. Considering Wise Cam as an option for replacing existing cameras. Alex moved that we proceed as recommended, and David seconded the motion. The motion passed.

QR codes have been made and now we can put those to use in the bulletin and such.

Pastor Geier – March 2024 Council Report

-Pastor will be on vacation 4/7. Elizabeth D'Amico Carpenter will preach.

· I have thus far only received positive feedback on our midweek Lenten worship services and preaching on the "I Am" statements of Jesus.

· I attended the South Conference Caucus at our Synod Event at Faith Lutheran in Forest Lake on February 24th.

· I was very please and hope those who participated were as well in our Leadership retreat on the afternoon of February 25th at Schaar's Bluff Gathering Center.

· I am grateful for the many people who served or assisted in any way for Ellen Diischer's memorial service. It was not an easy day for anyone, but there was comfort in our being together.

· Likewise, I am especially thankful for Kristian Ronning and Carlos Villavicencio for their help with our confirmation retreat on March 2nd. I was a good and worthwhile time and well attended by almost ¾ of our students.

· I attended our South Conference meeting at Mt. Calvary in Eagan on March 7th.

· Six of our young members and their parents participated in our first communion class on Saturday March 9th and I am meeting with a seventh family whose son will also be receiving their first communion on Maundy Thursday.

· I led our preschool chapel on February 21 & 22 and March 5th & 6th.

· I led worship at Oak Ridge on February 28th and at Regina on March 6th.

· I have been hoping to get to see our nursing home and homebound members before Easter.

ADDITIONALLY:

· Our synod is hosting an event on Saturday, April 13 - 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church in St. Paul titled, Tools for the Church: Seeking the Good of the Community – Inviting and Engaging Your Neighborhood.

· Who are the people in your neighborhood? We'll be diving into exactly that...however you define it. Bring a team from your congregation as we learn how God might be working in the neighborhoods, cities and communities around us. Using tools like asset mapping, demographics community mapping and faith stories, the synod's Vitality Team will empower you to dig deeper into your community for the sake of the Gospel. Learn how to better invite folks into your ministry! The day will be grounded in worship and will inspire you for the work you are called to do. The cost is \$15 which includes lunch.

· I would be happy to participate in this event but would want at least two or three others to go as well. The church would pay our registrations.

· April 13th is also the date of our Family Fun Night from 5:00-7:30.

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

Old Business:

Retreat-covered under Pastor's Report

New Business:

Painting project under Buildings and Grounds

Copier Lease—Current copier/Loeffler at \$690/month

45 page /minute option by Loeffler should be adequate for the \$200/month savings. Dolores moved to accept the bid from Loeffler for the Konica C450 copier. David seconded the motion and the motion was approved.

Alex made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dolores seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38.

Submitted by (Lois Twedt, Secretary) and Maria Gathje