

## **Council Minutes**

**August 19, 2024, 6:00 pm**

Attending: Dan Strehlow, Dolores Pemble, Alex Zuzek, Dave Fry, Maria Gathje, Natalie Carda, Warren Thomas, Pastor Geier, Lois Twedt.

### **Call to Order by President Dan Strehlow at 6:00 p.m.**

#### **Secretary's Report, Lois Twedt**

Dolores made a motion and Alex seconded the motion to accept the Secretary's Report as written. The motion passed.

#### **Treasurer Dolores Pemble**

##### **Council Action Required**

The Finance Ministry team did not hold a zoom meeting in August. Each member was sent a copy of the July financials to peruse. A couple questions were brought forward so we are currently waiting for answers on those before final approval will be given.

The team did make a motion, second and approved a suggestion that the fireproof safe for finance materials in the new finance office be replaced with a two-drawer lockable file cabinet to save over \$2000 dollars. This was discussed by Council under New Business.

The Financial Report did not include a payment for Mission Support. Christine informed the committee that there would be a double contribution in August. Alex made a motion that was seconded by Natalie to accept the Financial Report. The motion passed.

#### **Vice President Alex Zuzek**

##### **No Council Action Required**

##### **Buildings and Grounds**

Major work has been carried out by Dan Strehlow, Steve Wolverton, Dave Tank, Kurt Zabel and Dave Fry in the installation of the three casement windows which were approved for replacement. It remains a work in progress as of Aug 10, but we know it will get completed. This was a large expenditure but necessary in order to keep the building in good repair. The volunteer labor in this kind of skilled work saved SPLC more dollars than I can guess. They all deserve our warmest thanks.

Al Todnem has continued to keep the weeds down in the courtyard area and in the front. New member Nikki Glade spent 3 to 4 hours two different times pulling weeds in the front and by the corner sign. Bruce Akins spent many hours on weed reduction around the property.

As the administrative wing continues to-be constructed it's possible that some work will need to be done in the area left vacant.

Carpet cleaning is top of mind and we are discussing the best plan for that at the present time. Pastor reminded us that the church owns an industrial strength carpet shampoo system.

## **Serving Ministry Report—Dave Fry**

### **No Council Action Required**

#### Fellowship Ministry

##### OLD BUSINESS:

##### 1. LEDUC PIE IN THE PARK, DOUBLE DOWN DARE DEVILS, SUNDAY, AUGUST 25:

Advertising has been out, sign ups up. We'll ask for 15 pies, 2 brownies, and cash donations. There are plenty of individual containers and forks were ordered. Advertising has been on LeDuc Facebook. Glenda will ask Lista to include the event on church Facebook and talk to Mo Sieben about being on the radio station.

2. NEW MEMBERS RECEPTION JULY 14: Six households were received. Thanks to Glenda for her continued diligence with new members for so many years. Dolores Pemble has stepped forward to co-chair with Glenda in charge of New Members. Orientation the week before served pastry, fruit, cheese and crackers. Thanks to Glenda for dressing the table for the reception; Darla for gift bag breads; Mary C, Kathy, Camille and Margaret for bars; and Mary C, Kathy, Darla and Camille for set up/and or serving.

3. BLOODMOBILE ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 22 12:00-6:00: There's been great advertising asking for donations and volunteers. Almost half of the blood donation slots are filled. Katy asks us to spread the word!

GREETERS: 12-2 Gerri Lundby, 2-4 Patty Todnem, 4-6 \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK IN: 12-2 Jeannie Evans and Mary Rock

2-4 Darla Kimmes and Judy Werner

4-6 Deb Frandrup and Katy Lindberg

CLEAN UP: 6-7 Steve Wolverton

4. PHILADAZZLE SUNDAY, DEC. 1: Chris Falteisek has agreed to be the pianist entertainment for the evening. Former SEAS music director, he's now at Christ's Episcopal in Woodbury. He's traveled extensively; last year gave a multi-media concert with Christmas Around the World theme. He's willing to do whatever we'd like, costs reflecting what we are interested in. He asked if we'd like to open to the public after the meal. He's had free will offering as his pay in the past. The committee thought opening to public after meal, from 7-8 would be good outreach to the community. Sept. 17 will be the next Philadazzle planning committee meeting. We'll see if Chris can join us. Camille will see if scouts can help, especially more in kitchen duties.

5. DISTRICT EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION: Camille will contact Camille Johnson-Oster about moving forward with plans for something to acknowledge school employees.

##### NEW BUSINESS:

1. GARDEN SHARING: Lots of things have already been coming in to share with congregation. Worship coordinators are doing a good job setting out bags, cleaning up after, etc.

2. MARTHA SOFIO FUNERAL SEPT 12: Kathy and Glenda will be contacting people to help with the luncheon.

3. HALLOWEEN DOWNTOWN EVENT: We assume there will be a Halloween downtown event where we will need donations of hot chocolate and candy. We'll put a heads up in newsletter.

## Stewardship

No report this month.

## **HR Report—Natalie Carda**

### **No Council Action Required**

The HR Committee did not meet this month.

## **Worship Ministry Report— Maria Gathje**

### **No Council Action Required.**

Service Debrief: Attendance continues to be good, above average summer attendance in past years. Services are going well. On-line services have regular attendees. About 10% of the VBS students were in attendance the Sunday after VBS to help lead the music in the service. It was suggested that next year a video be done during VBS of the children singing and then play it at worship the following Sunday. This would give the congregation a better perspective of how many children were involved and the good experience that it was for them. The guest pastors have been good, but have had difficulty with the mics fitting properly. Pastor shared that it is important for visiting pastors to become familiar with the mics. Microphones: The team approved the purchase of a new head mic for use by guest pastors. It was suggested that one be purchased that would be more stable, such as a two-eared mic or one with a headband. Becky has communicated with John regarding this. It was also recommended that guest pastors be informed to check at the sound booth as a priority to get fitted and the mic tested in plenty of time before worship. The Sound Booth Committee feels the mics we have are adequate. A reminder will be given to vocalists to get a mic check before worship begins also, perhaps with a note put on the music stand.

Rally Sunday (Sept 8): The praise band from Apple Valley is not available that Sunday. The team recommended that Rally Day be designated as our Praise Worship service for the month with Kelsey leading the congregational singing. It was also recommended that we have as many children as possible sing one of the VBS songs that day. Words could be put on the screen and the congregation could sing along with the children who would lead from the front. Kelsey is contacting families of children to inform them of this. This could be designated as one of the songs for the day. Sept 1 would then be a traditional service.

#### Music planning:

- Sept 1: Traditional service
- Sept 8: Rally Day, Praise Worship with VBS children leading a song
- Sept 15: Unity
- Sept 22: Little children's choir sing
- Sept 29: Bells
- Oct 6: Praise Worship
- Oct 13: Choral ensemble
- Oct 20: Unity
- Oct 27: Bells
- Nov 10: Kelsey is inquiring of the Apple Valley band to lead praise worship
- Nov 29, Dec 22, & Dec 24: Bells

# Learning Ministries Report –Jen Klos

## No Council Action Required

### Preschool:

No report.

### ASG:

Adult Forum possible schedule

\*9/8 Rally Sunday - Backpack packing

\*9/15 Intro to end of life

What does a funeral director/ funeral home do?? – someone from Starkson and Anonymous questions about burial/cremation/funerals Jennie to contact

\*9/22 End of life, MAID-Medical Aid In Dying, UM webinar Part 1 Chuck to present Thaddeus Mason Pepe, PhD, William Mitchell-Hamline

\*9/29 End of life, MAID-Medical Aid In Dying, UM webinar Part 2 Chuck to present K. Sona Gaiind, MD, Toronto

\*10/6 End of life, MAID-Medical Aid In Dying, UM webinar Part 3 Chuck to present Nancy Berlinger, MD, Hastings Center

\*10/13 End of life St Olaf, talking about death ‘café’ menu – Chuck to contact

Authorized to offer \$100 honorarium and \$100 to the group

\*10/20 (MEA) no program

\*10/27 End of life options, open discussion, The Wired Word in April – Doug to do blurb and potentially lead

\*11/3 Emergency planning [active shooter], Dr. Tammy Campa – Chuck to contact

\*11/10 Emergency planning [active shooter], Hastings Police Dept - Chuck to contact

Jennie to do blurbs for Sept 8 and 15th, Chuck for 9/22, 9/29, 10/6 and 10/13

Future topics:

Rise-Up Recovery programs

City response to PFAS?

### Faith Formation:

Sunday school plans

Younger kids approximately 8 kids two teachers.

Older kids-approximately 9 kids two teachers.

Fifth grade-approximately 5. Nick will be ordering curriculum based on these numbers and we will keep attendance and reassess curriculum needs for winter.

Bibles for 3 year olds and 3rd graders were discussed Nick will order.

Rally day plans were discussed. No new items were needed for purchase this year.

Started talking about a high school event that we'd like to have in October. Nick had some great ideas that we will discuss in September.

### Interserve:

We had a very successful VBS during the last week of July. Becky did an amazing job on all fronts--recruiting volunteers, obtaining curriculum, communicating to the congregation and families, and providing outstanding leadership throughout the week. I don't think I've seen a VBS program be better organized, and more efficient. I got to participate and lend assistance for part of the week, and I can confidently say that the kids had a fun and meaningful time at St Philip's.

Otherwise, programming responsibilities have been fairly light during the summer. We are currently making preparations for Rally Day, Sunday school kickoff, and the beginning of Confirmation in September.

The Faith Formation team and I have continued to brainstorm an October fellowship event for post-confirmation--we have decided to start planning an on-site laser tag event at St Philip's (there's a ministry organization that I've worked with before that rents out equipment). We are looking at a Sunday evening in October for this but haven't set a date. More to come.

Our Discovery Team has not met since my last council report. Our next meeting is August 20, where we'll be drafting congregational surveys. These will be available for completion starting on Rally Day and will be open for 3 or so weeks. I've discussed communication strategies with Lista and Pastor Greg for the congregation; we want to ensure as many people as possible have access to taking the survey, if they so choose.

## **Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Warren Thomas**

### **No Council Action Required**

CMT did not meet. There is nothing new to report

## **Pastor Geier – August 2024 Council Report**

- Visited nursing home and home bound members and celebrated Holy Communion.
- I attended the South Conference meeting on July 16th .
- VBS Training and set up on July 20 and 21 made for a great week of VBS on July 22-25, with 84 children and more than 35 volunteers participating.
- Campfire Conversations went well on July 21st & August 18th. I am planning to continue offering this option for Adult Spiritual Growth during Sept., Oct, and November.
- On July 23, I participated in an approval interview for a new ELCA colleague coming to our denomination from the Reformed tradition.

- Multiple hospital visits including providing transportation for a patient's spouse.
- Synod Candidacy meeting on August 1.
- I attended the Synod Listening Session with Bishop Lull at Grace Lutheran in Apple Valley on August 8.

On a personal note:

- I had an awesome time fishing up at Lake of the Woods with my father, brother, Joel and Callan. This is the first time all five of us were able to participate in the annual "Last Fishing Trip Ever."

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Your Servant in Christ,

Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

### **Old Business:**

Update from the Complete the Dream project shows that most of the payments have been submitted and a reminder will be sent to those still needing to fulfil commitment. The project is progressing at a good pace.

Providing an opportunity for committees to share information was discussed. We are tentatively planning November 3 as the date for service committees to share information—opportunities available and time commitments. We discussed providing a video before service where service opportunities can be explained and having members of various committees available in the narthex following service to answer any questions. This would help members of the congregation have a better understanding of the tasks on the Time and Talent survey. Members of Council need to communicate with their committees to gather information.

Dan has contacted the members of the 2024 Audit Committee to see if they could remain on for the 2025 Audit. Bruce Arndtson has volunteered to fill the 3 year term. Dara Pemble is unable to stay on the committee.

### **New Business:**

The Council discussed at length the Finance Committee's recommendation to replace the 4-drawer fireproof safe with a 2-drawer file cabinet. Due to the need to protect the Personnel Files, the Council is not ready to commit to that transition. A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Warren to table this item for discussion at the next Council meeting. The motion was approved.

A motion was made by Alex and seconded by Dolores to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary