

Council Reports

April 21, 2025

Attending: Dan Strehlow, Dolores Pemble, Maria Gathje, Natalie Carda, Dave Fry, Jen Klos, John Nye, Pastor Geier, Lois Twedt

Call to Order by Dan Strehlow at 6:00 pm.

Secretary's Report, Maria Gathje and Lois Twedt

No changes were needed. Dolores made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Jen seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer Dolores Pemble

Council Action Required

The Finance Ministry Team met Monday, April 14. March Financials were approved. Discussion on the last Council minutes included a suggestion that the Stewardship Team coordinate with Lista on the use of the QR code for giving including publishing it in the bulletin and newsletter and on pew cards. FMT discussed plans on opening the new interest bearing money market account at Edward Jones which we hope will be started before the end of the month. Expense reimbursement forms and check request forms have been revised. Please be sure to fill out the correct form completely. FMT discussed the possible professional audit request that was suggested by the Council. The team felt that in light of our many checks and balances in place (i.e. using a professional accounting service for our accounts payable, general ledger input, payroll, and reconciling bank accounts, having the Treasurer and a Ministry Team review all financial reports, in addition to the eight volunteers who handle offerings, and the separate audit committee elected by the congregation each year to review finances and procedures), Finance Ministry Team does not recommend the extra expense of an external audit. We will be directed by the Council for their final decision. A motion was made by Jen and seconded by Natalie to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

Vice President Alex Zuzek

No Council Action Required

A review of what had happened since its JA meeting was done which included

1. Converting the former library room into the custodial room plus CMT storage.
2. Install one new steel shelf unit for paper goods as requested by Heidi.
3. Reviewed the re-purposing of the old sanctuary into a youth activity room. (taking out of old sound table) and creating permanent storage space along north wall for things which were in the newly finished office wing. (Steve Wolverton and Bill Pavlish)
4. Authorized Steve W. to purchase a replacement part for the kitchen sanitizer. This has bought us time from having to replace the machine. (Part cost \$560), Steve's hours of work - \$0 in dollars but volumes in gratitude from the congregation.
5. Bruce Arndtson purchased a large storage chest for the NW corner to keep hoses and planting material.
6. New two seater sofa was purchased for the play area in the narthex.

7. Pest control contract was paid for 2025, \$945 (Plunkett's)
 8. Tree pruning will be done on trees needing it. Brought city arborist on site to evaluate and coach us on how to do it. Bruce Arndtson, Dave Tank, Paul Swanstrom, Steve Wolverton and possibly Dan Strehlow will accomplish this before the trees are leafed out.
 9. One tree was removed by the fire pit due to disease and the two maples in the NW corner from 1967 were heavily pruned into good shape with old branches removed. Rivertown Tree did the work for \$1600.
 10. Fine Shine window cleaners cleaned all glass in sanctuary and narthex area plus the sliding glass doors for \$360.
 11. Grounds clean-up day is scheduled for May 17 from 9 to 11:30. Cutting down of the grasses and perennials plus adding mulch will be done. WE need help to do this from all able bodied people who can help.
 12. An "Adopt a Spot" campaign will open the Sunday after Easter asking people to adopt a spot on the grounds and keep it groomed from May through September. 1 to 3 households can share a spot if they choose. Kiosk will have a grounds map and a sign-up sheet.
 13. Scout member David Tireman is drafting a proposal for an Eagle Scout requirement which will be reviewed and accepted by the B& G team plus the council. It will involve the fire pit and the GAGA court.
- We are very busy and trying to be as prudent as possible in our spending.

Serving Ministry Report—Dave Fry

No Council Action Required

Fellowship

OLD BUSINESS:

1. FUNERALS: Eloise Arndtson's March 15 Luncheon was a roast beef dinner, fed 163, including many workers. Lori Best's Mom's funeral will be April 12.
2. EDUCATOR APPRECIATION & END OF SUNDAY SCHOOL MAY 4: Marge Peterson and Camille Johnson-Oster plan to have an article in the bulletin, prayers during the service, during the service all educators will be acknowledged: private, public, preschool, home schooled, not just teachers. Glenda will dress the table in spring colors and bring rice Krispy bars, Kathy-Special K bars, Mary C - cookies, Patty- cookies, Beth have a few gluten free something?
Patty, Mary C will help plate and serve.
3. BLOOD DRIVE MARCH 18: THANKS KATY, once again for organizing and manning another successful blood drive and for those who helped on the day. 38 pints of blood were donated. Next drive date is August 21.
4. VISITORS' BROCHURE: Lista made the addition of preschool information, ready for copies to be available for the tract rack.
5. WEEKLY PRAYER POSTCARDS: Darla has set up the schedule with Tammy Krey, Carol Tobin, Karen Swanstrom and Mary Charlson. Each should have a couple of months' duty per year, about 6 cards are sent each week.
6. NEW FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY MEMBERS: Glenda will talk to Brenda Arndtson and Emily Preston.
7. SAINTS: We came up with Sunday, July 27. We asked Dolores Pemble to talk to the rep about ordering us 25 tickets. We'll hope to start selling tickets April 27, May 4, 18. Camille will make a sign and sell tickets on April 27 and May 4. Someone else for May 18?

NEW BUSINESS:

1. OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE JUNE 8: Double Down Dare Devils will lead worship earlier in June than in past. We will again serve ice cream, closer to the musicians, so easily visible. We'll purchase 100, since many dozen left over last year with 144. We thought that bulletin should say ice cream is available, not just "refreshments."
2. ADMINISTRATIVE PROFESSIONAL DAY APRIL 23: Camille will purchase flowers and card for Lista.
3. LEDUC CONCERT AND PIE: Glenda set up August 31 with Double Down Dare Devils entertaining.
4. EASTER HELP: Becky wanted help with the donuts holes (ordered 12 doz) after 8:30 and 10:30 services. I asked Lista to ask in the bulletin if anyone can help.
5. AFGHAN RACK: Camille saw an afghan display at another church. Will show to prayer team.

Stewardship:

The Stewardship Team met in March and made the decision to thank the 110 St. Philip's households who returned a Time and Talent form with a general "Thank You" note in the April newsletter. Committees can request a list of people who have volunteered to any church service task to find help and expand their teams.

The Stewardship Team will have a "Stewardship Notes" piece in each monthly newsletter throughout the year based on the 2025 theme "Abiding in God's Abundance". The April piece centered on the March food drive and our congregation's response to it.

The Stewardship Notes piece for May will feature the Lutheran Social Service of MN appeal to all MN Lutheran churches for donations to help with housing costs for 45 refugee families who came to the U.S. just before the stoppage of all federal funds earmarked for refugee resettlement. This appeal was introduced Sunday April 13, and will end May 15. Checks are to be made payable to SPLC with a memo on the check for LSS Refugee Appeal. One check will be sent to LSS at the end of the appeal. LSS has not had to do this before, this emergency situation came about through the freezing of federal funds, which LSS depends on for some of its programs.

"Keeping Connected" will continue in the newsletter. Gerri Lundby secures writers for this feature in an attempt to get people better connected with fellow members.

HR Report—Natalie Carda

No Council Action Required

Completed 2024 HR Record Retention process with Treasurer.

Prepared internal posting (weekly church bulletin) for Director of Youth Ministries.

Assisted Pastor Geier with interview for Director of Youth Ministries. Prepared offer letter.

Met with both Director of Contemporary Music and Director of Youth Ministries for New Hire Orientation (required employment documents).

Worship Ministry Report– Maria Gathje

No Council Action Required

Service Debrief: Services continue to go well with good attendance at both Sunday and Lenten services. Thanks to LuAnn for her work with the bells, especially the children and those who help them out. The format for the Lenten sermons has been appreciated and meaningful, also the Holden music. Pr. Melinda Quivik, guest minister, had a good sermon. There had been an issue with the software upgrade used for creating the slides, but John was able to get it resolved.

Worship Leaders: Worship leader sign-up for Holy Week is getting filled. If necessary, worship coordinators can help usher.

Easter Garden: Set up will be Saturday, April 19 at 9 AM. Gerten's will deliver them on Friday, April 18 from 1-5 PM. They will be stored in the old sanctuary until set-up. Marge, LuAnn, and Darlene will help.

Music planning:

- April 6: Megan Rein accompanist, Maria Gathje song leader
- April 9, Wed: Haven, and Kelsey or Emily Wormley and Becky Raimann
- April 13: Children's parade with palms and small bells to ring, song leader-TBD
- April 17, Maundy Thur.: Unity; Lori and Ryan, & LuAnn (Psalm 22 chanted using Tone 9, p. 338 with "A" bell toll)
- April 18, Good Fri.: Bells/ Lori Best
- April 19, 10 AM: brass practice
- April 20, 8:30 AM: Bells/Unity
- April 20, 10:30 AM: Adult choir with Brass ensemble
- April 27- TBD
- May 4: Megan Rein?
- May 11: Adult Choir
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Other planning: Outdoor service on June 8

Tabled until May: "Worship in an Inviting Church" conference reports

Learning Ministries Report –Jen Klos

No Council Action Required

Pre-School:

- Enrollment for next year is at 17 MWF and 14 TTH. Last year at this time we were sitting at 21 MWF and 12 T-Th. (current numbers 24 and 19)
- Upcoming events for preschool include librarian visit, parent teacher conferences.
- Our May 16th field trip to dodge nature center. This cost was completely covered for our students by Raise Right funds. We will also be having a pizza picnic lunch for students and their parents. Also covered by Raise Right.
- We will be using summer Raise Right money earned to replace scholarship money that was used to help a family in need this school year.
- Budget was reviewed. As expected, we will be losing some money this school year. We will still be doing ok moving into next school year.

Faith Formation:

* High school game night is April 27th. This is prom weekend but Nick is moving forward with the date. It was discussed as a goal moving forward with high school pick a set day. Such as third Sunday (for example) to help students with planning.

* Adult spiritual growth meeting will be April 27 and May 18. Nick will facilitate these meetings but Becky will attend both to also share visions for children's programming moving forward. We hope to have Bernita and Marjorie attend the May meeting as well to share their experiences.

*First communion classes will be April 5 and 12. Dolores has made all the banners. We have 15 bags of letters and currently have 3 children signed up.

*Easter egg stuffing has started. We will be looking for volunteers to help put out eggs at 8:45 on Sunday morning.

*We have been given the green light to use the children's offering. We discussed where to use it. We decided heifer international was the place to donate. I will present options to the students at Sunday school, and they can vote on what they'd like to donate.

*Goal to get some middle school events set up in the future. (Can discuss this more)

ASG:

2025 Spring schedule:

3/2 Doug Schultz--The Wired Word

3/9 Jennie--Wired Word or Advance directives

3/16 Chuck--International Women's Day

3/23 Advance Directives – Mary Gadow and Katrina Ohmann-Thai from Allina

3/30 Rob Halberg – caring for the caregiver confirmed 3/7/2025

4/6 Kevin Ekstrom – hospice chaplain

4/13 Tiffany Newharth – Rise Up Recovery

4/20 Easter

4/27 Presentation by Christian Ed, Nick, etc. Part 1

5/4 LSS or Advance Directives.

5/11 Mother's Day – are we done or doing the Wired Word?

5/18 Christian Ed, part 2, with input from current SS teachers

5/25 Memorial weekend, for SURE done by here.

Yet to be scheduled for this spring—Lutheran Social Services

Ideas for fall

Lisa on her trip to Turkey.

The Neighbor's Faith series:

-Jewish: Temple of Aaron will only do on site, recommended the Jewish Community Relations Council in St Louis Park.

-Islamic: Chuck will check.

-Buddhist: either Vietnamese temple south of town or the Cambodian one in Hampton.

Interserve:

On March 29th, our Confirmation students had an all-day retreat at Schaar's Bluff community center. Pastor Geier and our adult volunteers led a four-part lesson on Jonah, as well as time for games, crafts, pizza, and socializing. Great times!

On April 27th, we have a High School Fellowship event scheduled: Game Night! I'll be at church from 7-8p with treats and various board/card games for the high schoolers to have a fun, relaxing night as we wind down for the school year.

As previously mentioned, I have offered to lead a few Adult Forum sessions aimed at helping adult members feel comfortable taking on support roles in youth ministry--whether that's through volunteering

and mentoring, or simply connecting with our youth on a personal level. These sessions are officially set for April 27 and May 18.

I am very excited that Lydia Cummings has officially joined on as our new Youth Ministry Director!!! Lydia's qualifications in childhood development and education would make her an excellent candidate anywhere for youth ministry, and I know firsthand from her time as a volunteer that she brings a level of dedication, creativity, and collaboration that will serve St Philip's incredibly well going forward. I have every confidence that she will be an amazing addition to the ministry team.

I have talked with Pastor Geier, and also with Sue Megrund at InterServe, and we all agree that May 18th would be a sensible last day for my contract with St. Philip's. I think we had originally ballparked my departure for May 31st when I first signed on here, but with regular Sunday School and Confirmation programming both ending mid-May, and the official hiring of Lydia, the 18th is just a better fit. I'll have plenty of time in the next few weeks to help Lydia get acclimated to her new position, and finish off all of the other responsibilities I've committed to here. I have been very appreciative of your constant support and partnership during my ministry at St. Philip's. Continued blessings in Christ!

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – John Nye

No Council Action Required

Bruce has 2 quotes for outlets--one for \$700 and another one for \$1400. He's waiting for one more.

Pastor Geier — April 2025 Council Report

- Participated in ministry team meetings, staff ministry team meetings and weekly contemplative prayer group meetings although I was absent for those on April 1.
- Visited nursing home and home bound members and celebrated Holy Communion.
- 5 hospital visits and pastoral care, funeral planning and premarital meetings
- Taught 5th grade Sunday School throughout Lent focusing on the Holy Communion section of Luther's Small Catechism
- Preschool chapel on March 26 & 27, and April 9 & 10.
- Led worship at Oak Ridge on March 26th
- Hastings Ministerial Association on March 26th
- Led Confirmation Retreat at Schaar's Bluff on March 29.
- Led First Communion Classes on April 5 & 12
- Attended Synod Spring Ministerium at Beaver Lake Lutheran on April 8.
- Officiated at memorial service for Diane and Jerry VanDervort on April 12.
- We are welcoming Lydia Cummings to our staff ministry team as our Director of Youth Ministries on April 27! This means that we will have a complete staff for the first time since COVID!
- Led Midweek Lenten worship along with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services.

Your Servant in Christ,
Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

Old Business:

Lydia Cummings has been hired as the Director of Youth Ministries.

Natalie made a motion that a professional audit was not necessary as we have many checks and balances already in place and have an accounting firm doing much of our finances. The motion was seconded by Dave, and the motion passed.

Jen and Natalie volunteered to compile a document stating the duties of each council member. The purpose of this is to give incoming council members a more clear picture of the expectations of their new role.

New Business:

Following email conversations since the last council meeting, Jen made a motion to end Nick's contract as Children, Youth and Family Director as of May 18, as the date works well with the church calendar. Natalie seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Following email conversations since the last council meeting, Dolores made a motion to approve offering the congregation an opportunity to make contributions to LSS with the funds going to the Refugee Fund. Dave seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Dolores to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary