

Council Minutes

June 16, 2025

Attending: Dan Strehlow, Dolores Pemble, Alex Zuzek, Maria Gathje, Dave Fry, Jen Klos, John Nye, Pastor Geier, Judy Hansen, Al Todnem, Lois Twedt

Call To Order by President Dan Strehlow at 6:00 p.m.

Secretary's Report, Lois Twedt

No changes were noted. Jen made a motion to approve the minutes of the May meeting as written. Dolores seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer Dolores Pemble

No Council Action Required

The Finance Ministry team did not have a formal meeting in June but did approve the May financial reports via email. Also, since our last meeting, we have opened the new money market account at Edward Jones in the amount of \$115,000 which is now linked to our checking account for easier access to the money when the need arises. We will be meeting in person on July 14. A motion was made by Jen and seconded by Dave to approve the Treasurer's Report. The motion passed.

Vice President Alex Zuzek

No Council Action Required

Since May, two grounds clean up and grooming opportunities were offered. May 17 was the official spring clean-up with twenty-five members coming out to do weeding, cutting of ornamental grasses, taking out 3 spreading junipers on the Pleasant St. exit for safety reasons and depositing one trailer of mulch. A second call to volunteers was made for May 24 when an additional trailer of mulch was brought in by Bruce Arndtson to do the several missed areas on May 17. Nine volunteers came to do this. The next newsletter will produce photos of some of this activity.

Adopt a Spot has secured a volunteer household for all but one spot which is in front of the iron fence facing 15th St. We expect this will greatly help our grounds look better all summer.

As for the building, a spring routine review was done on the HVAC units with one leak discovered in one of the roof units. A repair appointment was made on June 12 where a dye was put into the system to find the leak and get it stopped.

Ceiling activity was done on June 12 with five bulb replacements and giving assistance to an AVE technician by managing the 20 ft ladder for projector bulb replacement plus light adjustments onto the chancel area. This was a four-hour task which took six volunteers. There are always four men manning the 20 ft. Ladder for whomever ascends to the ceiling to do the task at hand. Steve Wolverton is the person who knows how to handle the ladder. Dave Tank, Dave Pemble, Kent Hoffman, Bruce Akins and Dave Filkins were the six men who completed this task at John Diischer's request and for the ceiling bulb replacement requested by Steve Wolverton.

A full carpet cleaning by Heidi Nelson will need to be done immediately after VBS.

Serving Ministry Report—Dave Fry

No Council Action Required

Fellowship

OUTDOOR SERVICE ON JUNE 8: MARY CHARLSON, EMILY PRESTON, AND DARLA KIMMES offered to help serve. I bought 120 sundae cups, mainly mixed choc and vanilla, but some not mixed. I'll bring them in on Sunday morning in cooler with lots of ice packs. I'll ask Heidi to have 2 long tables set up by sidewalk on west side of lawn where service will be, or do we need just one? We'll use napkins and spoons from church. We'll find the gingham tablecloths? Anything I'm missing? Jay and Becky Raimann are worship leaders.

SAINTS GAME JULY 27: We had 37 pay for tickets. Yay! We'll ask Dolores to talk to the rep and order them and then write check to pay the remaining that's due. We paid for 25 up front, so we'll be fine to cover the rest of the cost through the sales.

Thanks to Katy, Mary C and Dolores for helping me sell tickets.

I still need to contact Lucas Usaitis regarding Philadazzle entertainment.

Stewardship:

Nothing from Stewardship. They are on summer break.

HR Report—Natalie Carda

No Council Action Required

Nothing to report.

Worship Ministry Report—Maria Gathje

No Council Action Required

Service Debrief: Attendance has been 160-165, not including May 25. Services have been going smoothly. Rev. Arthur Sharot, who subbed on May 25, was well-received. Meg Rein and Loreli did a nice job on June 1. Although the Praise songs were new, they were easy to sing, and it helped with having the words printed in the bulletin. The camera shots from Live Control were better, except for May 25, when the camera focused on the steps for 2.5 minutes at the beginning of the sermon. They were contacted regarding that. The Raimanns continue to monitor the weekly production of the service. The absence of audio on June 8 is being attended to by John. The pastor reminded the team to watch for unfamiliar faces, and to try to introduce ourselves to those we do not know.

Communion: We will continue to focus on having the bread server step far enough away from the wine server to give people adequate time and space to be served.

Outdoor Service: The sanctuary will be prepped in case of rain. The service would then be live streamed as a static service. There needs to be proper copyright information for the music in this case. Pastor Geier will talk to John about this. There will be a baptism. The Pascal candle and a rolling cart with the font bowl will be used. Another cart will have a small cross and communion cup and bread on it. Communion will be served via communion kits handed out with the bulletins. There will be some extra chairs brought in for those who may need them.

Music planning:

- June 8: Double Down Dare Devils Band
- June 15: Unity and Noreen

- June 22: Noreen and Darlene Olson or Becky Raimann
- June 29: Noreen and Jan Kochendorfer

Emily Wormley may be willing to provide harp music for special music. Noreen may have students willing to play also.

“God’s Work Our Hands” ELCA Initiative: September 7 is set aside for the purpose of celebrating service to our neighbors. Our congregation will be putting together the student kits that Sunday. An article will be placed in the September newsletter and a bulletin featuring this as well as other community activities St Philip’s participates in throughout the year. Marge and Becky will work on this.

Council commented that the lyrics in the bulletin for the first Sunday Contemporary service is appreciated. It was suggested to include the music, however, including music would involve the purchase of copyrights, which is an added expense. This could be looked at to see what the actual cost would be.

Learning Ministries Report –Jen Klos

No Council Action Required

Pre-School:

No meeting in June.

Faith Formation:

- Kathy shared a variety of ideas including year long mentors. She also had a CYF Facebook page suggest for Becky and Lydia.
- Nick shared his experience at St. Philip’s as a whole. He seems very optimistic that we have the pieces in place and our moving forward. He also covered the Adult spiritual growth meeting. This meeting was a open discussion meant to share the needs of youth program and how it truly is a congregation as a whole that is needed to support a successful ministry.
- Lydia shared what she has going on for the summer which includes but is not limited to
 - Bonfire for middle schoolers
 - Middle school game day and service project
 - High schoolers design set up the youth room
 - Coffee meet ups with Lydia for high schoolers to discuss what they want out of the program
 - An all-age family movie night in August coordinated between Lydia and Becky

Becky-

-We have a family of faith fellowship event planned for June 22nd after service for all families to head over by the Gaga pit for a variety of games for all ages from 10:30-12.

-VBS planning is in full swing including registration, volunteers, and meetings with station leaders to plan activities in each area.

ASG:

No meeting in June.

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – John Nye

No Council Action Required

Nothing new to report here with CMT. Dolores suggested including the QR Code in the bulletin. Lista will be able to do this. Another option is to place a card with the QR Code on it in the pews. GiveMN was mentioned as a possible alternative provider for our QR Code, if it is easier to navigate.

Pastor Geier — June 2025 Council Report

- Participated in ministry team meetings, staff ministry team meetings and weekly contemplative prayer group meetings.
- Visited nursing home and home bound members and celebrated Holy Communion.
- 5th grade band concert and 6th grade band concert on May 20
- Preschool chapel on May 21 & 22.
- Led worship at Oak Ridge on May 21.
- Feed My Starving Children confirmation trip on May 21
- 5th grade orchestra and 6-8th grade orchestra concerts on May 22
- Amy and I served 60+ garage sale volunteers on June 3
- Synod Candidacy Meeting on June 5
- Worship at Benedictine on June 16
- I have completed or scheduled all staff ministry team performance appraisals. We are very fortunate to have the staff we do.

Your Servant in Christ,
Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

Old Business:

Council members were reminded to send Natalie and Jen their job descriptions.

New Business:

Al Todnem and Judy Hansen presented a request for the installation of a sidewalk on the east side of the church, making it more convenient to get to the Columbarium from the east entrance. They have received a bid for \$5000 and have a donor interested in covering the cost. The project would not involve any new landscaping. Dave made a motion to move forward with the installation of a sidewalk on the east side of the church. Jen seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Jen made a motion to accept the donation of \$5000 to cover the cost of the new sidewalk. Dolores seconded the motion, and the motion was approved.

John Nye presented the question-“What is our focus?”

Does St. Philips focus on a financial/space need? Are we focused on growing our numbers? Should we focus on more involvement and outreach opportunities for our members?

Key points from the discussion that followed—

-need to be open and welcoming, intentional hospitality

-suggested providing power points on our website of our ASG sessions, making the information available to more

-continue to make our facility available for non-profits

We will continue this discussion during Old Business at the July meeting.

A motion was made by Alex and seconded by Dave to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary