

## Council Minutes

September 20, 2021

6:00 pm In person

Attending: Cindy Toppin, Greg Geier, David Weisser, Pam Hoffman, Deborah Dreher, Abby Schultz, Katy Lindberg, Bruce Arndtson

Absent: Marjorie Paterson and Sadie Reiners

### Treasurer Deborah Dreher

#### No Council Action Required

St. Philip's Lutheran Church continues to be in a strong financial position. General Giving, Capital Giving and Misc. Giving are 5.3% over Budget, and Expenses at 2.9% below Budget.

Old Business:

1. 2020 Annual Financial Audit: The Audit Committee completed the 2020 Annual Audit on July 30, 2021 but the official written report has not been submitted; Christine will follow-up.
2. Budget Process 2022: Ministry Teams will submit budget numbers to Christine. Aiming for an early October deadline so Finance can begin reviewing at our October 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

New Business:

1. Finance Summary in weekly Bulletin: Last week's Bulletin showed June information instead of July. Discussion about how to make this mini report pertinent to the congregation. Format will be adjusted and more current numbers will be included, with statement that Financial approval is pending. All agreed that congregation wants and needs to see that we are in good financial position and spending less than we receive.

### Vice President Sadie Reiners

The Buildings and Grounds Committee will meet next on September 29.

Binder has made its contracted visit to the building to change filters and to check on all things regarding heating and cooling.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee will work on a 2022 budget at their next meeting. A second proposal for snow plowing and lawn care will be obtained for consideration. Precision is the present vendor for that.

### Serving ministries Pam Hoffman

Stewardship report

St. Philip's Stewardship Ministry Team met on Tuesday, September 14, to discuss the details of its fall campaign. The theme is "The Grace of Giving". Al Todnem has discovered a 5 day devotional book which we have decided to obtain for every household. It will be accompanied by the brochure of inspiring images about / St. Philip's people giving of time, talent and treasure, plus their pledge card for 2022.

Pledge Sunday will be November 21.

Gerri Lundby continues to secure people to contribute their story to the newsletter under the title "Keeping Connected While We're Apart. We are grateful for her effort at this meaningful way of keeping people connected.

#### FELLOWSHIP MEETING MINUTES

##### OLD BUSINESS:

1. COFFEE SYSTEM: Mary Rock got word that the BUNN system is on back order, expected in mid Oct. With covid restrictions in church with wearing masks, probably wise to not have to decide whether to offer coffee yet.
2. NEW MEMBERS CLASS AUGUST 22: THANK YOU, GLENDA! for again doing such a great job of organizing new members welcome class. Thirteen sub sandwiches with chips, cookies, coleslaw were served to new members, council, Fellowship, and Worship and Music representatives. Helping were: Glenda, Pam, Patty T, Camille
3. BLOODMOBILE: AUGUST 26 NOON-6:00 THANK YOU, KATY LINDBERG FOR OUTSTANDING JOB OF ORGANIZING THIS OUTREACH AGAIN THIS YEAR! According to Katy's report: 38 Donations, 46 scheduled. One first time donor. 3 Walk ins. 9 no shows, 3 Deferrals. 26 whole blood and 16 power red units, total of 42 units. 126 lives will be saved.
4. NEW MEMBERS RECEIVED ON AUGUST 29: GLENDA had a lovely table set up with flowers and gift bags for new members. Four households were received: Donna Bexell, Janice Dahl, Dave and Barb Fry, John and Katie Nye. Each family was given church notecards, a certificate, and a sweetbread.
5. PIE IN THE PARK AT LE DUC AUGUST 29: AGAIN, THANK YOU, GLENDA! For spearheading this fun event. A record crowd of 187 concert goers were entertained by the Double down Dare Devils. About 24 pies, 4 pans of brownies, and root beer floats were served. Plates and covering were used when we ran out of 100 individual serving containers. There were quite a few leftovers desserts. With two generous \$100 donations, a net of \$754 was made! Helping that night were Pam, Darla, Camille, Glenda, Carolyn Schaar, Vonnie Olson, Jeanne and Jim Cowee, Susan and Bob Cruse, Deborah Dreher, Pat Schultz, Sue Karnick, Patty and Al Todnem. Many of St. Philip's Congregation were in attendance.
6. FUNERALS: A very personal Memorial service was held for Ione Orr on September 3 at 11:00. A picnic lunch was served during drippy skies at Schaar's Bluff. Prayer Team members were servers.

##### NEW BUSINESS:

1.MILITARY RECOGNITION: Lista will put an article in weekly bulletins and the monthly newsletter that to update our military list. Then we will update the Bulletin board, contact family members for addresses, and send off cards for Veterans' Day. Pastor said we could acknowledge members of the congregation around Veterans' Day, included in a service around November 11.

2. FOOD SHARE: Reminders are out in bulletins asking for garden produce for sharing at church.
3. CHRISTMAS CONCERT WITH COMMUNITY BAND. Is scheduled for December 12 at 3 pm. At this time we're not planning on serving treats, but things could change by then.

ASG

Pastor's women in the Bible Fireside chats over the summer well received

School supply drive going great, looks like headed for 130 kits

Kits to be packed on September 12, "God's Work Our hands"/Rally Sunday

Climate change series early fall (resources: <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Advocacy/Environment>,  
[https://www.elca.org/Resources/Advocacy?\\_ga=2.124428298.1425657267.1629760705-1679105044.1629760705#Issues:](https://www.elca.org/Resources/Advocacy?_ga=2.124428298.1425657267.1629760705-1679105044.1629760705#Issues:))

### **Personnel Report Cindy Toppin**

HR worked with the Preschool committee to analyze market rates for preschool staff.

The markets have changed significantly with the pandemic and all that has happened to the child care industry.

HR and Pastor Geier met with the Preschool Board to recommend market raises which will be administered retroactively to the beginning of this school year.

Other positions will have a market analysis this month.

HR also met with Pastor to suggest discontinuing advertising for the 2nd Service Music position (no applicants and currently only one service) and approaching Nathan to be a song leader again without additional responsibilities. Nathan has agreed.

### **Learning ministries Abby Schultz**

#### **Faith Formation Team Meeting**

September 13, 2021

Rally Day recap

- Just a few families came, but everyone seemed to have a fun time
- Next year we should get a banner to put outside with changeable dates

Sunday School

- We still only have one committed Sunday school teachers
- A few parents are willing to substitute but can't commit to the whole year, so I made a sign-up sheet for people to sign up for specific weeks
- This Sunday I'm planning on doing the "All Kids" lesson and large group games with everyone except the 56ers, so that at least buys us another week
- Pastor Geier and I are also planning on reaching out to families that haven't been here in awhile to figure out what we can do for families who don't feel comfortable coming here in person

Encourage parents to do every other week to give kids more consistency

Remind confirmation students to volunteer to help with Sunday school

Have background checks handy on Sunday

Confirmation

- Everything seems to be going pretty smoothly so far
- Stole making on Sunday the 19 at 1 pm

#### **Next Month:**

- Review budget proposal
- Christmas pageant
- Discuss upcoming fundraisers
- ELCA Youth Gathering
- Confirmation retreat
- Leaf Raking

#### **Worship & Music Report Marjorie Peterson**

Worship and Music Ministry Team

Meeting held on 9-7-21

No council action required.

Attendance at in-person services is quite consistently around 100. Not many families with children regularly attend and this is anticipated to continue until children are vaccinated. In John's absence, Paul Hellen operates sound and slides for on-line services. Greg McKenzie is doing the editing and requests no compensation.

Ellen reports that there will be no Sanctuary Choir until re-evaluation in November at the earliest. Recorded music for previous services may be reused. Children's Choir and Cherub Choir are on hold. Bell Choir may be able to perform with distancing.

Nathan Griner will be consulted about leading singing when Noreen is off. Sam Willis is also available.

Sent from my iPhone

#### **Communication and Marketing Bruce Arndtson**

Following up on live streaming options.

#### **Pastors Report**

##### **Pastor Geier – September 2021 Council Report**

- My vacation that overlapped our August council meeting was fantastic.
- We are continuing to make arrangements for our confirmation service on September 26. Yesterday we had our stole-making time yesterday and continued the new tradition of having the confirmands sign underneath the altar railing kneelers with their Bible verse.
- I attended ministry team meetings for Preschool, Faith Formation, Finance, Stewardship and Fellowship.

- Two weeks ago, I contacted Nathan Griner to explore the possibility of coming back on an “as able” basis to occasionally lead music for worship as a substitute musician. Last week he returned my call and is excited about the opportunity. I will be coordinating with Ellen and Noreen with the hopes of enjoying Nathan’s gifts once a month in the future. He is also open to leading the music for the corresponding online worship.
- I am planning on attending our bishop’s Fall Theological Conference October 24-26.
- It is again time for me to participate in a Boundaries Workshop (expected of rostered leaders every three years.) I will be doing a two part option that includes an online component titled “Understanding Clergy Sexual Ethics” followed by a meeting with Bishop Lull and other boundaries learners to share what I learned, hear what others have learned and talk together about expectations for rostered leaders in the synod by reviewing Definitions and Guidelines for Discipline, Mandated Reporting and synod resources for developing sexual harassment policies for our congregation.
- Another family has already committed to joining St. Philip’s and we will be celebrating a baptism on October 10!
- I will be helping lead our confirmation retreat October 15-17 and our “Opening the Bible” class on October 30.
- **THIS IS STILL AN ISSUE...**For some reason, several of our worship videos have been flagged for copyright infringement by Aditya Movies. According to their Facebook page, “Aditya Movies is another arm of Aditya Music. One stop destination for Blockbuster and Superhit Telugu & Hindi Dub movies.” However, when I investigated the material they claimed was theirs, it was things like the Apostles’ Creed, parts of the Lord’s prayer or Bible passages. I have spent considerable time refuting their claims one by one and thus far have been successful in getting our videos back online. I don’t think there is a high demand for our previous worship services but was troubled by the notion than anyone can claim infringement without cause. I will let you know if this continues.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Your Servant in Christ,

Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

#### **New Business:**

- Deborah made a motion on behalf of WELCA who met on Thursday, September 9th. Its membership is asking for Council Approval to hold a modified Bake Sale and Soup Luncheon. Sale day would be same as in prior years, Saturday before Thanksgiving: November 20, 2021.

#### Changes proposed:

Possible Sale name: SPLC Bake & Soup Sale

Wearing masks and gloves will be required at all times.

No in-person lunch will be sold/served. Take-out soup only would be available to purchase, two kinds, instead of three. Soup would be prepared in Church kitchen, working in shifts to reduce

the number of persons in the kitchen at one time. No rolls, bars or other foods would be offered w/soup.

Lefse will not be made at Church. If individuals wish to make lefse and bring to sell at the Bake Sale that would be fine.

No change in SPLC members bringing baked goods, candy, jams/jellies, canned fruit/vegetables, produce etc.

Bake Sale tables will be set-up further apart, using the entire Fellowship Hall for the Bake Sale.

**Cindy approved the motion and Bruce made a second. Motion carried.**

- \_\_\_\_\_? \_\_\_ made a motion to approve Robin Tank's request to proceed with the Operation Christmas shoe box table. Deborah approved it and Pam made a second. Motion passed.
- Cindy Toppin brought in an article for us to consider what our future looks like. Service to our members and community will look different and we need to be aware to watch for what is needed for our church community.

Adjourn 6:55 pm Motion made by Deborah and second made by Bruce.