

Council minutes

November 15th, 2021

6:00 pm In person/zoom

Call to order 609pm Technical difficulties

Attending: Cindy Toppin, Marjorie Peterson, Bruce Arndtson, Katy Lindberg, Sadie Reiner and Paster Geier, David Weisser, Abbie Schultz, and Deborah Dreher. Absent: Pam Hoffman

A motion was made by Marjorie to accept the October minutes, Deborah made a second. Minutes approved.

A motion was made to accept the Financial report by Katy and a second was made by Bruce, motion passed.

Council reports:

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 3.28% over Budget, and Expenses are 5.83% below Budget.

Old Business:

1. 2020 Annual Financial Audit: FMT reviewed findings. A 2022 Timeline was prepared to address recommendations, including adding and updating policies.
2. Budget Process 2022: FMT worked on the 2022 Budget Worksheet. At our next meeting of December 13, 2021, we will finish the Budget and have it ready to present to Council for their review and approval at the December 20, 2021 Council Meeting.

Vice President Sadie Reiners

Glenda is meeting with contractors about the upcoming buildings and grounds updates.

Serving ministries Pam Hoffman

Stewardship: Packets (350) were mailed to each household on the last day of October. It included a gift book titled "The Grace of Giving", along with a beautiful brochure of members in their volunteer activity, plus a cover letter from the ministry team and a pledge card and envelope..

Three temple talks have been given by Al Todnem, Becky Kaphing and Deborah Dreher during Oct/Nov, having just completed them on Nov. 14.

Commitment Sunday is Nov. 21. Members have been asked to bring their pledge cards to the service. Additional time will be granted through most of Dec. for cards to be returned. Number of cards returned in 2020 was 120, it is our hope to reach that number or more for 2021.

Personnel Report Cindy Toppin

Personnel files were reviewed by Julie Flaten and Cindy Toppin, and follow up action delineated. Current performance reviews and wage letters were all present.

No Council action needed.

Learning ministries Abby Schultz

Faith Formation Meeting

Nov 1, 2021

Youth Gathering Update: Nobody attended either info meetings, but 3 students so far are interested and 2 are definitely registering. Sarah will put together a short presentation about the Gathering for the 8th and 9th grade confirmation classes.

We discussed the possibility of starting the casserole fundraiser as soon as December, but even though it is a "low-effort" fundraiser, the Christmas season is already busy enough. We will plan on starting it in January. That way we can advertise it as, "Tired of cooking all during the holidays? Let our high schoolers cook for you!" etc.

Prince of Egypt watch party will be on Friday, Nov 19 at 6:45pm in Youth Room. Since there are only four 7th graders, there will be enough room to spread out, which means we can have popcorn :)

Advent Activity Bags

Christmas Pageant: We will be working with Ellen and the children's choir to perform on Dec 19th. Have families send in "pageant scenes". Parents would sign up for different scenes so it's not all the Nativity at the end. Kids who are at worship in person can narrate the story. Sarah will put together a script for the narration and start getting the word out to families

Who can we invite to join the faith formation team in 2022? Sam Willis, Melissa Campbell

Adult Spiritual Growth Minutes, 6 pm, Oct 25, 2021

Present via Zoom: Doug Schultz, chair, Pastor Greg Geier, Jennie Orr Thomas

Seven people are signed up for Cindy Toppin's book study starting Nov 7. It is getting ready to start, pretty well set up, no need for more from our group.

Doug is going to do the final climate change presentation on Oct 31, keeping it short for more discussion. Will do a short slide presentation on the ELCA stuff and follow up with simple steps and "what has resonated with you?" discussion, with the focus on action.

November/December Sunday mornings: the Faith and Science thing, using the Luther Seminary material as a discussion starter and relying mostly on discussion. Pastor will lead.

January: How to be an Antiracist book study on Sunday mornings before Lent. Lead mostly by Pastor, Jennie to pick up a week or two if Pastor is not available. Maybe to do on Zoom IF that would involve more people. There are 8 Sundays after New Year's weekend before Ash Wednesday on March 2nd, so taking out one Sunday for the Annual Meeting and one Sunday for discussion of the budget before the Annual Meeting would leave 6 Sundays for the book study, which is roughly what Pastor Geier planned on.

Sam Willis was going to do something with "Financial Peace University" before COVID hit, maybe look at that for NEXT fall. Possibly Spring, 2022, if attendance is increasing.

Possible books for Lenten book study: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, The Cost of Discipleship, a little heavier than the two C. S. Lewis books, but an excellent, thought provoking book on what is Christian community and what does it mean to follow Christ when the culture around one is going in a different direction. (context is Germany before and during WWII)

Ann Hagmann, Climbing the Sycamore Tree, a 6 week study on secular materialism vs. Christian call for simplicity from Upper Room Press (the Methodist publishing house). A workbook with 5 daily reflections and a "group session" for each week. Asks more prep from people than previous book studies, but looks good.

Lani Ackerman, Ke Garne? ("What to do?" in Nepali), the story of a small Christian mission in Nepal based on sustainable development. Has a guide in the back to tie each chapter to various Bible passages for discussion. I've worked with Dr. Ackerman, doing medical education in Nepal and been to this mission twice, quite a few years ago and still support it financially. The book does lend itself to discussion of what are the roles of Western missions in the developing world and could tie back to what the St. Paul Synod is doing in Tanzania.

Preschool Ministry Meeting Summary

1) Parent/Teacher conferences are scheduled for the evening of Nov 24th and morning of Nov 25th. In person with 5 minutes between to sanitize.

2) November 18th & 19th Lifetouch will take preschool portraits.

3) Christmas program prep is under way. We may need help cleaning children's chairs, resetting between programs, and setting snacks. (December 21st 530 and 630)

4) Fundraisers are in full swing right now.

- Cards sales made \$689

- Scrip is up and running. Orders will be placed November 24th and December 7th.

- We are also selling t-shirts. Not a huge money maker but it will be good advertising.

5) Last week received word that we will be getting them both!! The state stabilization base grant is money given to cover cost of running and is \$1,496. Our other grant will cover our required state nurse visit (\$300), new health and safety manuals (\$365), toys and other learning materials (1879.42) and our writing workbooks for our Pre-K kids (448.50)

Worship & Music Report Marjorie Peterson

Worship and Music

Meeting of November 2- no council action required

Attendance at services hit a high of 140 and seating was still comfortable. The wing sections will be retaped. Liturgy has been slowly added back into worship.

11/07

All Saints Sunday

A ceremonial candle, donated by the Diischers, was lit and the congregation was invited to speak the names of loved ones during the prayers.

11/21

One large basket, as requested by the Stewardship Team, will be placed in front for pledge cards. Those who prefer may use a second basket located in the narthex.

12/19

The Children's Christmas Program will be part of the worship service.

12/24

Two services will be held (3PM and 5PM). The bell choir will perform at 3PM.

12/24

One service of Lessons and Carols will be held.

Privacy Policy for live streaming

Worship leaders will be made aware that they might be seen. Those who are uncomfortable with this can remove their names from our lists.

Additional lectors and ushers will be solicited.

Council Action: Based on the unanimous decision of the task force committee meeting on November 4, I move that the St. Philip's council adopt the annual plan provided by Live Control for live streaming our services. The cost will be \$9,936 for 54 services plus additional funds (estimated \$800 - \$1200) for installation.

Marjorie Peterson

Seconded by Bruce Arndtson (also attended the meeting)

Motion passed.

Communication and Marketing Bruce Arndtson

No report

Pastors Report

Pastor is taking time to rest and let our leaders take over for a couple weeks. He appreciates the support.

New business: It is time to call the nominating committee to fill in our council positions for the new term.

When the 2018 Capital campaign started, it was decided St Philips would give back to the community by donating 10% of the offerings 2 non profit organizations. One would be within Hastings and the other outside of Hastings. 3 organizations are on the annual meeting ballot to vote on for each donation. If you would like to nominate an organization to be considered for this year's vote, please forward the information to a council member.