

Council Minutes
January 17, 2022
6:00 pm In person

Attending: Cindy Toppin, Marjorie Peterson, Deborah Dreher, Bruce Arndtson, Katy Lindberg, Pastor Geier, David Weisser, and Pam Hoffman.

Absent: Sadie Reiner and Abbie Schultz.

Call to Order 6 pm

Motion was made to approve December minutes. Deborah gave motion to approve and Bruce made the second. Motion carried.

Motion was made to approve December Financials. Pam gave motion to approve and Bruce made the second. Motion carried.

Treasurer Deborah Dreher

No Council Action Required

St. Philip's Lutheran Church experienced strong financial support during 2021. As of December 31, 2021, Total Giving was 11.4% over Budget while Total Expenses were 4.0% under Budget.

New Business

During the month of December 2021, St. Philip's received a gift in the amount of \$15,000. This designated gift was to make a principal reduction payment of \$13,500 and add \$1,500 to the year-end tithe. The loan balance of December 31, 2021 was \$2,002,144.

Vice President Sadie Reiners

Nothing additional to report.

No council action.

Serving Ministries Pam Hoffman

Stewardship met January 11, with three team members plus Pastor Geier.

A reading of the team's annual report was done.

* Highlights of the year were the continuance of the newsletter feature "Staying Connected While We're Apart". Forty three households wrote their story in 2021.

* The fall campaign with the theme "The Grace of Giving" was successfully launched. Pledge card return for General Fund, (with a pledge) was 97, (\$281,095) as compared to 121 cards in 2020, (\$313,936)

* Capital Fund (Mortgage) pledge card returned was 87, (\$140,160) as compared to 100 in 2020, (\$153,802)

Non-pledged giving, automatic withdrawal giving, plus trust giving, becomes the balance of income needed to meet budget needs.

* A cover letter to be included with year-end statements was read and approved. Discussion about the grant program as offered by the St. Paul Area Synod ensued. Ideas were put forth which will be researched further.
Glenda Schnirring, chair

Fellowship Committee

No items needing council action.

Preschool faculty appreciation gifts. Gift cards and plants were presented to the preschool staff on behalf of St. Philip's. They were greatly appreciated.

We are still not ready to recommend coffee after Sunday service with the recent surge in Covid.

Personnel Report Cindy Toppin

Nothing new to report.
No council action needed.

Learning Ministries Abby Schultz

Preschool Ministry team meeting

- Enrollment has remained the same since the last meeting with 46 spots being filled
- The topic of raising tuition was discussed at great lengths. While we want to remain affordable for families, we also want to be sure we are covering our expenses. It was agreed on by the team to make the following changes:

M/W/F will go from \$165 a month to \$180

T/Th will go from \$140 a month to \$150

M-F will stay at \$305

Registration fees will go from \$55 to \$60

These prices will be the same as Tilden's numbers. No other competitors have posted next year's prices yet.

- Budget was reviewed. While numbers and income are low we have been able to keep spending to a minimum with the help of state grants, fundraising, and generosity of our preschool and church families.
- Preschool annual report was reviewed by members and approved by team to submit.

Faith Formation Team Meeting

Sunday school has had very small attendance, however the kids who are coming are having a good time and learning the lessons.

VBS 2022: Discovery on Adventure Island

- Same company who made Knights of North Castle
- We don't have the official budget yet, but the starter kit cost (\$213.74 incl. digital) and the rest of the supplies are pretty standard.
- We agreed that Sarah would order the starter kit ASAP to get a better idea of the activities and theology before we officially get the ball rolling

Confirmation Mentoring

- Orientation Feb 23, 6:45-7:45 (same time as regular confirmation)

Confirmation Retreat was going to be Fri, April 1 - Sun, April 3, but because of uncertainty, they decided to condense it to a day trip April 2nd. Sarah will look into Scharr's Bluff as a potential site

Scheduling GLLM

Week 3: June 26-30 Camp Sunday is Jan 23—Sarah will mail out invites to families the week before. Sarah will have a meeting with GLLM on Tuesday to talk about more details, but ideally they will lead a few songs during worship and lead games, etc during SS time

ELCA Youth Gathering Fundraising

They would like to have a meeting with all the families to talk more in-depth about general details/logistics about the Gathering. Sarah will see if families are available on Wed, Jan 26, before confirmation starts. We can plan fundraising all together during this meeting.

Fundraising ideas: Butter braids in Feb. Italian Dinner was discussed and they determined it can't do a dinner this year, but Sarah will ask the families to consider just a silent auction without the dinner.

List of upcoming events:

- Camp Sunday (Jan 23)
- Lent mentoring (Feb 23-April 13)
- Confirmation Retreat (April 2)

- Easter Egg Hunt (April 17)
- Sunday School Summer Celebration (May 1)
- Butter Braid Sales (Feb)
- Youth Gathering Family Meeting (Jan 26?)
- ELCA Youth Gathering (July 24-28)
- Kids' Musical (still up in the air, but normally in early/mid-April)
- Vacation Bible School (June 19-23)
- GLLM Week (June 26-30)
- Graduation Sunday (June 5)
- High school kayak trip? (August)

Worship & Music Report Marjorie Peterson

No council action required.

Live Streaming

The staff continues to work with the service provider to improve presentation. Suggestions for improvements were made by this team.

John is working on the use of ProPresenter for inserting slides.

A monetary gift received will go toward additional congregational microphones and lighting.

Royalties for the signing of spirituals

This topic was brought forward by David Weisser. Some congregations collect money for donations. Darlene will check with the Luther Seminary music department to see if anything is already being done or if there are suggestions. Discussion to be continued.

Synodical Ministry Grant Program

Information was shared by Pastor Geier. It was agreed to complete an application for funds which will be used for an outdoor service.

Communication and Marketing Bruce Arndtson

Preparing for the annual meeting.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Geier – January 2022 Council Report

- This month I have checked in with our Worship, Finance, Faith Formation, Fellowship and Stewardship Ministry Teams.
- Our worship with Bishop Lull went well on the 9th and we are looking forward to having representatives from Green Lake Lutheran Ministries for Camp Sunday on January 23rd.
- I would welcome feedback on our livestreamed worship services as some things are within our control and some things will need to be worked out with Live Control.
- John Diischer is still learning the new ProPresenter 7 software so that he can teach it to me and the volunteers who work in the tech booth. Our goal is to be up and running by February 6th.
- Sarah and I continue to each provide chapel times for our preschool ministry.
- The Adult Spiritual Growth sessions on Ibram X. Kendi's book How to be an Anti-Racist have been well attended with fruitful, if not always comfortable discussions. I look forward to these times.
- I am looking for at least two or three people to help with managing admitting people into the annual meeting via Zoom. I do not anticipate that there will be as many as last year and am hoping to avoid some of the sound problems we encountered.
- I would also like to explore the possibility of designating several parking spots for visitors or for those for whom parking closer would be more of a necessity.
- I have started thinking and exploring some themes for our midweek Lenten services and the plan will be to live stream those services with a static shot.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Your Servant in Christ,

Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

Submitted by Katy Lindberg