

Council Minutes

April 18, 2022, 6:00 pm

Attending: David Weisser, Deborah Dreher, Cindy Toppin, Marjorie Peterson, Abby Schultz, Bruce Arndtson, Pastor Geier, Lois Twedt.

Call to order at 6 p.m.

Deborah made a motion to approve the March minutes. Marjorie made the second. Motion carried.

Marjorie made a motion to approve the March financial report. Cindy made the second. Motion carried.

Treasurer Deborah Dreher

No Council Action Required

St. Philip's Lutheran Church remains in strong financial position. Review of March 2022 Financial Reports indicate 2022 year-to-date Giving in three categories, General, Capital and Miscellaneous is greater than budget and also greater than 2021 year-to-date Giving.

Vice President Sadie Reiners

The below information was provided by Glenda Schnirring.

1. Two areas of the church had new AC units installed in the past two weeks. The first was the Youth Room which now has a new Trane 5 ton unit put in by One Hour. One Hour merged with Controlled Air which has been the vendor mentioned earlier in the bids. Cost was \$6,200. The cost was partially subsidized by a generous member who provided a gift of \$3,500 toward this expense.

1. The Fellowship Room had two Mini Splits installed on Maundy Thursday when the ELC was not in session. The cost for this room was \$4,700 per unit, total of \$9,400. These were the two areas included in the 2022 budget. The old sanctuary will hopefully be done in 2023.

2. It came to the buildings and grounds committee that the council would like to seek bids for the repair or resurface of the parking lot. The last resurfacing was done in 2017. No one has been contacted at this time but will seek quotes in the near term.

3. Bulb replacement was done just before Easter in four places in the sanctuary. It was a ladder installation, with no lift needing to be rented. Dan Strehlow, Al Todnem, Steve Wolverton, Bill Pavlish and Wayne Fahlstrom were the team changing bulbs.

4. Fine Shine cleaned the windows in the new addition of the church both inside and out on April 8th.

5. On April 10, the entire B & G team met with Lori Braucks from the city council. She had arranged the meeting on behalf of two households behind the church whose back yards are subject to snow melt run off in the spring which can pool in their back yards and enter their lower levels. Nine committee members along with Dave Weisser, Pastor Geier and Joby Nolan from Precision, our snow removal contractor, represented St. Philip's. Two city engineers, the city manager and two home owners were there to outline the situation. The conclusion that for the upcoming winter we will advise Precision to deposit all snow away from the south rim, using up as many parking spots as would be necessary to avoid

snow bank build up on the grass. Creating an additional drain was discussed along that area but no promise of doing that was made.

6. Paul Swanstrom and Bill Pavlish installed a new drain lift in the ELC room where the original lift was leaking. Paul had done a repair on the old one which did not hold. There was a great deal of savings to the church with the installation being done by Paul and Bill.

7. Al Todnem recruited Linnea Ronning to help him tie up the tall grasses surrounding the two ponds. Bill Pavlish cut the grasses and hauled the volume away.

8. Al Todnem also removed day lilies in front of the spreading Junipers near the Room of Requirement. This was done to enable the shrubs to be seen and grow to maturity.

9. A date will be set in May to clean up the grounds for summer. That will be an all-call to members to cut down old growth and get the areas cleaned out and ready for spring growth.

Serving Ministry Pam Hoffman

No report.

HR Committee Cindy Toppin

No council action needed.

With Pastor, the HR Ministry Team has worked to develop a job description for the duties that Ellen Diischer would like to be able to continue. The new position is called: Coordinator of Worship Planning. Ellen can do this part of her job without coming into the church or being exposed to people.

The Choir and Handbell Director piece of the job description has been split off and developed into a new job description. We are working with the Worship and Ministry team to finalize the job description and the position will be posted hopefully in the next week. The job will be part time, 15 hours a week, as determined by Ellen in the breakdown of her hours. The position would possibly start in the fall. Word of mouth and personal connections will be highly valuable in attracting a new person, and **we encourage all Council members to think about whom they know and how you might help with recruiting.** We have been part of a Church Music Facebook group for some time, so are up to date on what salaries for this position are in the Twin Cities. Pray that we might find just the right person!

Worship Coordinator Report – Marjorie Peterson

No council action required.

In person attendance at services is gradually increasing. More families are attending. The coffee and donut addition is going well.

The funeral booklet has been edited and copies are available when needed.

The Holden Evening Prayer Service, which we use for Lent, is being edited with more culturally accepted and inclusive language. Purchasing the new publication will be considered for next year.

The service schedule was discussed. This team will continue to monitor attendance. Suggestions included to consider alternate forms of worship, have Faith Formation survey parents about their needs, and a possible Wednesday evening service following confirmation classes with a contemporary format.

The synod grant for an outdoor service was denied. However we will go forward, planning for June 19, with some adjustments. Bruce will check on a flatbed for this event.

Plans for communion were discussed. Directions will be sent to worship leaders.

Learning Ministries Report – Abby Schultz

Preschool Ministry Team Meeting

"We just communicated as a team via email this month with Lorelei being out on a medical leave.

- Next fall's numbers are very low at this point. We have got our new signs out front and plan to really up our online advertising. District numbers along with parents returning to work from Covid add to the low numbers.
- Conferences are coming up the next few weeks.
- End of the year program will be May 26 & 27. (last days of school)"

Faith Formation Team Meeting

See attached PDF of Faith Formation Team Meeting

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Bruce Arndtson

The charge for Easter advertising at Walgreens was \$209 for the week. (Compared to the \$105 quote.) The ad in the newspaper, also for Easter, was \$85.

The committee discussed advertising at Walgreen's again for June 19 outdoor service. Following the price discrepancy, this will probably not happen. The committee suggested printing door hangers and having youth hang them as a way of spreading the word of the June 19 service.

Pastor Geier – March 2022 Council Report

- The biggest news is the change in Ellen Diischer's employment status which I am presuming has been addressed by the HR Ministry Team.
- Thanks to all who attended our neighborhood meeting on April 13th regarding snow and potential flooding of our neighbors to the south.
- For several weeks we have been able to get ProPresenter7 to do what we want! There is still more to learn.
- Sarah and I (Mostly Sarah) lead a confirmation retreat on April 2nd at the Gathering Center at Schaar's Bluff. Ten youth participated, and I believe it was a worthwhile experience for all.

- We also hosted two sessions for those wishing to celebrate 1st Communion on March 26th and April 9th.
- Sarah (with a bit of help from me) distributed Easter cards with a Culver's custard tokens to our Sunday School families to encourage engagement.
- I concluded teaching the 56ers Sunday School and thought they did a fine job leading worship on Maundy Thursday
- It was nice to welcome new members for the first time in a while!
- I am excited to start planning for our Leadership Retreat next month. David and Lois will not be able to attend.
- On a personal note, starting tomorrow evening, Amy and I will be dog sitting a "mostly potty-trained" corgi that belongs to Cal & Sadie while they are on their delayed honeymoon. Prayers for patience are appreciated.
- Also, the weight loss journey continues...

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Your Servant in Christ,

Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

Old Business

As a follow-up to last meeting's discussion on BSA requiring the church to charter the troop that currently conducts their meetings at St. Philips, a panel of 5 guests from BSA attended to explain the requirements to, and answer questions from, the council.

A main concern was the liability risk of the church/currently Pastor. BSA has a liability insurance to protect the charter representative. Our church policy provides a \$1,000,000 coverage.

Other concerns expressed were unresponsiveness of BS when asked to assist on projects in the past and the difficulty in finding that leader/representative from the church to fill that role.

The council will continue this discussion and get back to BSA.

New Business

Katy Lindberg attended to share information that Farmers Insurance is opting out of institutional coverage by Fall. Katy is finding an alternative insurance company.

Procedures for good order—"written motions"—will be saved for the next meeting.

Bruce made the motion to adjourn and Deborah seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary