

Council Minutes

March 20, 2023, 6:00 pm

In person or zoom

Attending: Dan Strehlow, Deborah Dreher, Sadie Reiners, Pam Hoffman, Natalie Carda, Marjorie Peterson, Abby Mattimiro, Warren Thomas, Pastor Geier, Lois Twedt

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

Secretary's Report—Lois Twedt

Deborah noted that a typo correction needed to be made in the third paragraph of the Treasurer's Report. It should have read \$1500 of the funds to OSEL. Deborah made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report with that correction made. Natalie seconded it. The Motion passed.

Treasurer Deborah Dreher

No Council Action Required

St. Philip's Lutheran Church continues 2023 in good financial position. Review of February 2023 Financial Reports indicate year-to-date Giving in three categories, General, Capital and Misc under Budget by 7.8%. Expenses are under Budget by 10.64%. Net Cash is \$10,769, primarily due to open staff positions. Pam made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report, and Warren seconded it. The Motion passed.

Vice President Sadie Reiners

No Council Action Required

- The Buildings and Grounds Team has not held a formal meeting in the past month but tends to needs as they are requested, such as snow covered sidewalks.
- The church fielded one e-mail and two phone calls from the City stating that our sidewalks were not safe for walking due to ice buildup. We worked with Precision to scrape them again and follow up with some sanding. Along with their effort was the effort of both Bill Pavlish and Steve Wolverton who took upon themselves to attack the worse areas. At present, there is a stretch west of the 15th St. exit lane that still has some ice on it. The winter has been particularly difficult to keep walks free of ice. Precision has been very cooperative and has our back on the matter.
- Sanctuary lighting is the second area of concern with some incidences of exploding bulbs over the pew area. At present that risk has been eliminated. Brian Flaten of Premium Electric was brought in to assess why the bulbs were exploding. It's a matter of our trying to move to LED bulbs. Brian has brought in additional expertise to see what it would take to have our fixtures accommodate LED bulbs which would be energy saving plus less activity with bulb changing. This is no longer a concern as guards have been placed on all the remaining lights.
- We expect to have the windows washed for Easter if the weather permits.

Serving Ministry Report--Pam Hoffman

No Council Action Required

Fellowship Ministry

Jen Klos and Katie Thomas came to our meeting gave us some good information on Ruby's Pantry.

The Bloodmobile is March 16th, 12-6.

New members will be received on Sunday April 16th. Bars will be served after the service.

Fellowship will serve Ice Cream Cups after the Outdoor service on June 18th.

Ladies Night Out will be Wednesday, June 28th. Mary Rock is checking out details for bowling.

Stewardship

Time and Talent sheets are continuing to come in and Lista is entering the data as it is received. They have received a little over 50 forms back with 86 people volunteering to do a task.

Forms will be available to those who forget to return one.

Staying connected will continue in the new letter coordinated by Geri Lundby.

HR Report—Natalie Carda

No Council Action Required

Nothing new to report.

Worship Ministry Report— Marjorie Peterson

No Council action required.

Service Debrief: Attendance at services is gradually increasing. The children's sermons are perfectly tied to the Sunday School lessons. Appreciation for the children's choir and the use of the Nicene Creed during Lent was expressed.

Communion: While the kneelers are used, only people who are comfortable negotiating the steps will be serving. Concern for the amount of wine in the cups was noted. Beginning Easter Sunday, the wine trays will be completely filled.

Music:

Bells and Chimes will play on Good Friday and at the 8:30 Easter service. A choral group will sing at the 10:30 service. Praise band equipment is being evaluated and sorted based on future usefulness. That area will be cleared and used by the Bells and Chimes.

Future topics:

Use of the library

Role of Worship Coordinator is under review.

Learning Ministries Report –Abby Mattimiro

No Council Action Required

Preschool:

No report received.

ASG:

The Paul Orman thing went well and is still on the church Facebook page for those who were not able to see it live.

Prayer of Good Courage series started yesterday, only 3 people total. Went OK, but would like to get more people to attend. May need to rework the blurb to emphasize that the sessions are independent and also focus on the prayer, not just the Bible study.

Doug to check with Sam Willis about how Financial Peace University went.

Have heard nothing more from WELCA about a women's retreat. May want to check again for fall.

Sessions needed for after Easter: Idea from Chuck Clanton: JCA will put on an anti-Semitism talk <https://www.startribune.com/these-minnesotans-are-pushing-back-against-the-rising-tide-of-antisemitism/600237627/> Jennie will check with them, if available, replace a Wired Word, if not, then try to preplan for fall.

Idea from last month: doing another month of the Wired Word. People seemed to like it. Going with that! Plan to do April 16th to May 14th and be done for the season. Jennie will let Lista know to sign us up on April 12th for another month and cancel on May 11th after the download.

Longer range planning:

Summer: Lisa has started conversations with Pastor about possibly doing something with him (or instead of him if he is spread too thin) for the campfire sessions this summer.

Fall: Lisa may want to do something on "Freedom of a Christian." Hers needs to be in September, before her classes start up again.

Doug to work with Katy Lindberg on the homelessness thing discussed last time.

Faith Formation

No report received.

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Warren Thomas

Council Action Required

Discussion & options for disbanding/condensing the church library to the council. Sally Anderson looked into the situation and made these suggestions:

1. Disband the official church library.
2. Go through the existing materials. Discard the unusable stuff (VHS, cassettes, damaged books). I am willing to do this.
3. Re-instate the "take one, leave one" shelving and fill it with the best of the collection. Encourage people to share worthwhile books - I am willing to write a newsletter article.
4. Also offer the less-desirable items that we don't want to keep to the congregation, for free. Things that are not taken by June will go into the garage sale or be donated.
5. Each year, when we are preparing for the garage sale, we can clean out the current collection and remove what is not moving, and add newer books from what is donated for the sale. That will help keep it fresh.

Deborah made a motion to move forward with Sally's recommendation for the library. Marjorie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Pastor Geier – March 2023 Council Report

- I attended the Synod's Pre-Assembly Conference Caucus' and workshop on February 25th
- 4 Hospital visits
- 1 pre-baptism meetings
- The normal regimen of staff, ministry team meetings, etc.
- I have been teaching the 56er Sunday School class during Lent.
- Broadcasting Ash Wednesday worship alone in the sanctuary brought back memories of taping worship during the pandemic. If it were ever to happen again, I would also send a Zoom link so that I would be able to see at least a few of those who were worshipping.
- Other than that, the mid-week services seem to be received well.

· By the time we meet, I should be able to share info on how our Council/Leadership Retreat went. Pastor will have a synopsis of the retreat by next meeting.

On a personal note:

- I have started another regimen of virtual PT to try to get more strength in my left calf.
- I spent Thursday through Saturday in Wisconsin celebrating a 2-year old's birthday.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Your Servant in Christ,

Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

Old Business

They plan to install the new front facing projectors on April 3 and 4. They should be ready for Maundy Thursday and the remainder of Holy Week. Some money has been donated for this cause.

Pastor will have a synopsis of the Retreat by our next Council Meeting. Sunday School will host a Family Fun Night on April 22.

New Business

St. Philips will be assessed \$41,000 for work to be done on Pleasant Street.

A motion was made by Deborah and seconded by Abby to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:56 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary