

## **Council Minutes**

**April 17, 2023, 6:00 pm**

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 made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report. Natalie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

#### **Treasurer Deborah Dreher**

##### **No Council Action Required**

Review of March 2023 Financial Reports: Giving is down by about 12%. Expenses remain about 15% under budget, so our overall financial situation is still strong. Net Income is \$15,880. FMT discussed overall giving, and we will again review budget versus actuals after the five Sundays in April for a more comprehensive picture.

2022 Audit was completed by the Congregation elected Audit Committee. Christine Rydel will review and update some procedures, but no major issues were identified.

Notice was received from the City of Hastings regarding the assessment for St. Philip's portion of Pleasant Street Project. The amount is \$41,400. Payment is due in 2024, or payments made, up to 10 years, The interest rate not yet determined. Also, a question of whether there might be assessments on 15th Street in the foreseeable future. When FMT receives additional information, it will make a recommendation to Council regarding the assessment.

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**

- On 4/12, B&G team completed replacing 7 ceiling bulbs in the sanctuary. The team consulted with Brian Flaten , a member, about bulb shattering. That issue has now been solved.
- XCEL Energy paid a free visit regarding LED lighting, but the cost is expected to be high. No report on that yet.
- Plunkett pest control addressed an ant problem.
- On Monday, 4/17, the B&G team will meet with a city rep to select tree varieties for Pleasant Blvd upon street completion in the fall.

## **Serving Ministry Report--Pam Hoffman**

### **No Council Action Required**

#### Fellowship Ministry

New member reception will be 4/16 with bars being served.

Ladies Night Out will be on 6/28 with bowling at Park Bowl. Details are still being fine tuned.

Bloodmobile was 3/16. There were 22 donations. Thanks to Katy for taking this task when proposed by others. There will be another one on 8/24.

Administrative Professional Day is 4/26. Camille will pick up a bouquet of flowers for Lista as a thank you from the congregation.

David Weisser asked the committee if we should have Narcan available in the first aid kit.

#### 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 newsletter 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: We are so grateful for the new projectors!

It was suggested that when the Gospel reading is exceptionally long, the congregation be invited to sit down. The bell choir uses the individual stand lighting, as do some vocalists. LuAnn is keeping track of the lights and the battery usage.

Communion: Noreen will be asked to come forward at the beginning to be served or to use a communion kit. In order to reduce some confusion, the wine servers and tray handlers will be served by the bread server, and Pastor Geier and the bread server will serve each other. Trays will be completely filled with cups from now on.

Future planning;  
April 16 - New Member Sunday  
June 4 - Graduate Recognition Sunday  
June 18 - Outdoor Service

At the May meeting, the removal of social distancing tape from pews, and the shortages of worship coordinators and other worship leaders will be discussed

## **Learning Ministries Report –Abby Mattimiro**

### **No Council Action Required**

#### Preschool:

- 1) There are 40 registrations for the 2 fall classes.
- 2) We discussed if we needed to make weather policy changes to fit the district's two-hour delay policy. It was decided to leave as is. It was pointed out that on the TV when it has other schools with a two-hour delay it normally says NO AM Preschool. We will continue to stick with the district weather policy if school is delayed or canceled due to weather we will close. An early release day we will remain open as we end at noon anyway.
- 3) Working on plans for family fun night which is April 21st. It will include pizza, bounce house, craft, and a visit from the RAD zoo. Team members will help with this event
- 4) Health nurse made her visit last month and everything checked out good there. Few minor paperwork changes but she was very happy with our school.
- 5) Reviewed the budget and considering we thought we would go -30,000 this year we are happy to report at this time projections look like – 3,500. This does not include four more possible months of state grants.

#### ASG:

Due to a work emergency for our chairperson, Doug Schultz, no actual meeting was held.

After Adult Forum, April 2, it was determined that the following will lead the first 3 sessions of The Wired Word: April 16: Jennie Thomas, April 23: Chuck Clanton, April 30: Doug Schultz

At our April 24th meeting we will determine who will lead the last 2 sessions of The Wired Word for this spring, ending our program year.

We will continue to brainstorm for fall at that time

#### Faith Formation

No report received.

## **Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Warren Thomas**

### **No Council Action Required**

#### **\*Church Library Transitioning to Book Exchange**

Recently, church leadership has been reevaluating the idea of maintaining a church library. Church libraries are a long-standing tradition. But in today's world, where new and used books and public libraries are so readily available, and reference materials are easily accessible online, the library has become an underused and neglected resource. Most of the materials are quite dated, and many seemed never to have been used. The materials occupy a lot of prime space that may be put to better use.

However, the St. Philip's community does value books, reading, and sharing of information. With this in mind, we are re-instating the "Book Exchange" mobile displays in the narthex. The more current and relevant materials from the library will be placed there.

The display units are based on the Little Free Library concept. Anyone may take a book to enjoy. Anyone may leave a book or resource they think will benefit others. Items may be returned, or not. We hope to see a steady turnover of new and interesting items suitable for our church community.

This is a work in progress. Volunteers are going through the existing materials. Pre-school staff will select children's items that fit into their program. Some reference books may be retained, at staff discretion. Most of the remainder will be offered at the garage sale in June.

We invite you to use and enjoy the book displays and keep them in mind when you have good books to share.

\*Bruce is reaching out to OSEL for information on how they are using QR Codes as a means of donating to the church and activities.

## **Pastor Geier – April 2023 Council Report**

- The evaluations from the Council/Leadership retreat are at the end of this report. While the responses were positive, I am open to ideas that would increase the number of participants.
- The normal regimen of staff, ministry team meetings, etc.
- I am thankful our new projectors were installed prior to Palm Sunday.
- I thought our midweek and Holy Week services went well and having two services on Sunday was the right decision.
- Four chapel times with our preschool have been fun.
- I was proud of how hard the 56ers worked on memorizing and reciting the Holy Baptism section of Luther's Small Catechism.

- I led two sessions for children and their parents in preparation for receiving Holy Communion and 10 celebrated for the first time on Maundy Thursday.
- I also did an “independent study” for another youth with his parents.
- On March 21, I attended the Hastings Show Choir finale and connected with eight students and four sets of parents.
- On March 22, I attended the Hastings Ministerial Association.
- On March 28, I recorded a session at KDWA and shared some of what has been going on as well as things we are looking forward to such as our garage sale and VBS.
- On March 30, I attended our synod’s Spring Ministerium at St. Paul Reformation Lutheran Church.
- We are planning on taking our confirmation class to Feed My Starving Children next Wednesday, April 16. (19)

There are currently 54 people signed up for Family of Faith Fun Night on Saturday, April 22.

Click on this link as Pastor Geier would like to discuss this at our meeting.

<https://spas-elca.org/event/tools-for-the-church-reaching-outside-our-walls/>

On a personal note:

- Last Monday I played tennis for the first time in seven months. (I didn’t play well, but I played.)
- I am still working on building back strength in my left calf.
- After having my flight moved up an hour and twenty-five minutes, I will be leaving immediately after worship on May 14th for a week-long vacation in California.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Your Servant in Christ,

Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

## MARCH 19, 2023 COUNCIL RETREAT CLOSING EVALUATIONS

What did you enjoy most?

- listening to others
- writing the letter to St. Philip's
- reading in Revelation comparing to St. Philip's
- the ice breaker and the "letter from Jesus" – very thought provoking
- opportunity to share ideas without fear of reprisal
- Bible study
- the Bible study we had with the discussions we had afterwards
- brain storming for direction of our church
- open discussion about St. Philip's
- hearing everyone's passion for supporting our ministry
- lunch, laughter
- personal sharing
- fun treats
- getting down to real issues
- discussion about topics relevant to St. Philip's as in the later portion
- the open discussion
- the signs from the churches in Revelation to St. Philip's. It made you think about our church.

From what did you feel you gained the most benefit?

- an appreciation for the efforts made by others for the success of this ministry
- your contemplative prayer
- others had the same concerns I had
- hearing the passionate ideas that people are thinking about. You do a good job of getting people to talk
- opportunity to learn more about fellow members
- more understanding of where the church is moving towards
- everyone's view points and suggestions
- the discussion about St. Philip's
- the letters.
- look at ourselves – strengths and weaknesses
- realizing that many others care deeply about St. Philip's
- give and take between participants
- breakout session
- knowledge of the concerns of St. Philip's

What would you like us to keep from this retreat for next year's retreat?

- the potato bar
- review goals
- great format – keep it going
- I like the format
- treat
- keep it the same
- open dialog
- love the location
- it is always good to hear what is on other's minds

What would you like to see changed for next year, and how?

- personal invitation to 5-10 people to attend as “potential future leaders” – young people?
- an update on progress made after last year’s retreat
- more coffee
- I like the format
- greater attendance
- look at this year’s goals (2023) and see where we are now (2024) and grow from there
- greater emphasis on the world outside of congregation
- no change
- shorter mixer

## **Old Business**

Fifteen members attended the Leadership Retreat. A value of the retreat for Pastor is that he gains insights by getting feelings from leadership of the church.

We are very grateful for the projectors.

## **New Business**

There is an opportunity for growth-Tools for the Church, Reaching Outside Our Walls- happening on Saturday, April 29 at Gustavus Adolphus in North St. Paul. The session focuses on finding out demographics within our area and thereby, helping us to be the most welcoming that we can be. Anyone interested in attending should respond to Pastor.

It has been suggested NARCAN nasal spray be added to our first aid kit. Deborah made a motion that we purchase NARCAN to be included in our first aid kit. Marjorie seconded the motion. The motion passed.

A motion was made by Abby and seconded by Sadie to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary