

Council Minutes

February 17, 2025

Attending: Dan Strehlow, Dolores Pemble, Maria Gathje, Alex Zuzek, Dave Fry, Jen Klos, John Nye, Pastor Geier, Lois Twedt

Call to Order by Dan Strehlow at 6:02 p.m.

Secretary's Report, Lois Twedt

Pastor suggested eliminating 2 unnecessary paragraphs in the ASG report. Dolores made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report as amended by Pastor Geier. Dave seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Treasurer Dolores Pemble

No Council Action Required

FMT met on Monday, Feb. 10, 2025, for their regular meeting. After some discussion, the January financial reports were approved. The Financial audit was completed on January 28, and we reviewed and approved the report submitted by the audit committee. Dolores will forward to Council a copy of the audit committee's report. Interim plans for finance responsibilities are going well with some sorting and organizing remaining. There was a brief discussion on combining general and capitol income. Council discussed this possible change. We are waiting for an opinion from the bank since they hold our mortgage. Next meeting will be Monday, March 10. A motion was made by Jen and seconded by Dave to accept the Treasurer's Report. The motion was approved.

Vice President Alex Zuzek

No Council Action Required

A small team from Buildings and Grounds met with Scout member David Tireman in Feb. to discuss a possible Eagle Scout idea he would like to do for St. Philip's. Bill Pavlish, Steve Wolverton and Glenda Schnirring met with David. Five ideas were proposed to David and from David. He will select the one he prefers to do and come back to us with his plan.

Membership on this committee has changed as the year began. Dan Strehlow has chosen to step down from the committee due to his other duties. Additionally, Wayne Fahlstrom who has been on the committee for many years has resigned due to the fact they expect to move to ND.

Kent Hoffman has been added to the committee following the Ministry Fair in the fall.

Serving Ministry Report—Dave Fry

No Council Action Required

Fellowship

OLD BUSINESS:

1. FEB. 2 POTLUCK & ANNUAL MEETING: We had about 71 members at potluck. It seemed like plenty of variety of foods. Don't need set up in hall.

2. BLOODMOBILE: TUESDAY, MAR 18 Noon-6:00 Katy is getting the posters from Red Cross, she'll have a sign-up for kiosk and also info in bulletins and March newsletter. Patty and Glenda offered to work between 1-3 when sign-ups come out.

3. PHILADAZZLE DONATION: Becky Raimann responded that Worship and Music would like to use the \$472 donation (from Chris Falteisek in memory of Ellen) in purchasing large print hymnals and towards brass musicians for Easter (last year \$50 was paid each to the 8 musicians).

4. SAINTS GAME: Dolores Pemble will see what she thinks would be a good time/day event date for family night at Saints' game. She'll work with the group rep and look at some promotional ideas that might be for families (running around the bases on Sundays).

5. 2024 GRADS CARE PACKAGES: Twelve Devotional books, notes and \$10 Target gift cards were prepared to be sent out this week.

6. BROCHURE FOR VISITORS: We discussed brochure for Visitor's Center. Camille will try to have the brochure ready for New Member's meeting on Feb. 16. Lista will help put the format together.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. NEW MEMBERS: FEBRUARY 16 at 10:45: We will have an informational session for persons interested in being new members.

Prospective members are:

Kent Rischette & Sue Schwarting Shawn & Holly Busby 3560 Malcom Ave. Shawnbusby@gmail.com
753-232-7451

Kristian Sebion & Abigail Matthews, Kurt & Sharon Anderson

1227 Hillside St. 2729 Rushmore Rd Ka.sebion25@gmail.com Hastings

Fruit and pastries will be served. Glenda anticipates that 3-4 from council to attend. Patty and Camille will help Glenda and Dolores. Maybe others?

MARCH 2 RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS: New members will be received during worship service. Darla will make small loaves as gifts. 5 pans of bars are needed: Glenda, Patty, Camille, Kathy will bring.

2. LEADERSHIP RETREAT also March 2: Pastor and Amy will take care of lunch and refreshments. Glenda and Camille anticipate attending. Would others like to join us?

Stewardship:

The Stewardship Ministry Team concluded its 2024 campaign with 107 pledges returned. This is three less than one year ago. Pledged for the General Fund is \$310,000, which is about \$20K less than in '23. The \$720,000 budget for 2025 is faithfully expected to be met with non-pledged offerings.

With the theme being "Abiding in God's Abundance" for the stewardship campaign, the team will keep the theme alive during the year by writing short pieces in the newsletter around the many ways we see abundance at SPLC.

In March, we will review the 69 Time and Talent forms returned and do thank you notes to those who responded.

HR Report—Natalie Carda

No Council Action Required

After the 2025 Spending & Revenue Plan approval from St. Philip's congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting held on February 2, the HR Ministry Team (HRT) provided documentation to

our accounting firm to update employee salaries by 4%, including retroactive earnings for January 2025. On the payroll dated February 7, 2025, the payroll was verified as accurate. In addition, Annual Salary Letters were prepared for each employee, signed by Pastor Geier, and distributed to each employee. Copies were placed in Employee Files. The Finance Ministry Team notified HRT the plan to utilize more services of our accounting firm and volunteers is progressing well. This plan will be evaluated in June 2025.

Worship Ministry Report– Maria Gathje

No Council Action Required.

Service Debrief: Attendance continues to be good. Musicians are much appreciated. Kelsey is doing a great job with the children, LuAnn with the bell choirs, and Noreen with Unity. Services are going well. The mural will be taken down prior to Lent and the railing will be put up.

Worship Leaders: The Time and Talent surveys have provided more names for worship leader positions, although more are always needed. Ushers and communion assistants will be needed for Ash Wednesday service. The rest of Lenten midweek services can get by with one person as worship coordinator/usher/greeter.

Fellowship donation: This ministry team has donation funds they would like to use toward music. It was recommended that it be used to cover the cost of brass musicians for Easter and possibly large-print hymnals.

Praise Worship Music Leader: There is a possible candidate to fill this position. Pr. Geier is working with HR to update the job description before proceeding.

Future Planning:

- There are children who would like to provide music with singing or playing piano pieces during communion distribution, offering, prelude, etc. Kelsey offered to organize this.
- Musicians are being recruited for Sundays and the Lenten midweek services.
- The midweek Lenten services will have an offering plate on the entrance table for offerings, rather than being passed. Worship coordinators for Lenten services will also serve as usher and greeter.
- Worship & Music will cover the cost of delivery of Easter flowers to keep cost down. Orders need to be in by March 3. Gerten's will be the vender.
- Marjorie Peterson has offered to assist the Olson family with upkeep of the flower urn at the church entrance that was donated in memory of Jim Olson.

Music planning (at this point):

- Feb 9: Margaret Cox and grandchildren on Cello
- Feb 16: Unity
- Feb 23: Bells
- Mar 2: Middle school children's choir/ Kelsey Wormley
- Mar 5, Ash Wed: Unity
- Mar 9: Adult choir
- Mar 12, Wed: Lori Best and Ryan Hummel (Holden)
- Mar 16: Unity
- Mar 19, Wed: ?
- Mar 23: Bells
- Mar 26, Wed: ?

Learning Ministries Report –Jen Klos

No Council Action Required

Pre-School:

The following updates were sent to our team via email.

- Currently 44 of our spots are filled. (we had one five-day student move to 3 days this month)
- Registration for current families and church members will start Tues Feb 11th and open to the public on Feb 18th at our open house from 5:30-6:30.
- Our yearly health nurse visit took place on Jan 19th. No major changes for us and she said everything looked good.

Faith Formation

The next Family Fellowship event will be Book Bingo on Sunday, February 23.

Becky has order VBS materials and has begun planning for Fall Sunday School.

ASG:

Old Business:

Mary Charlsen reports--the students won't be available for a presentation on their "Death Cafe" after all. Pastor's sessions on the 3rd Sunday for the foreseeable future will be "That's in the Bible?!?" things we don't usually talk about, but they are there.

Future schedules:

February: 2/2 Annual meeting

2/9 Dr. Tammy Champa survey summary [Chuck]

2/16 Estates & Wills [Doug] (overlaps time-wise with new member orientation, but no obvious conflict)

2/23 Pastor Geier – "That's in the Bible?!?" things we don't usually talk about, but they are there.

Lenten Book Study: Cindy Toppin leading one on "What We Remember Will be Saved," by Stephanie Saldaña, about refugees and keeping their culture alive. Starts following beginning March 12.

March

3/2 Cindy promoting the book study for 5 min, followed by ? Wired Word or chaplaincy, advanced directives or caregiver care. These topics will continue March 9, 23 and 30.

April: ??? tentative: Different faith communities – have speaker come in and talk about their community. Udai Singh (Chuck's friend, Hindu), Someone from the Buddhist temple south of town, Jennie to find a Muslim speaker, someone with Jewish connections—this may go to first Sunday in May.

Either Wired Word Mother's Day or just be done for the year.

Possible Future Adult Forums:

Mary Carlsen workshop on filling out health directives & end-of-life options [Someone local may be more appropriate. Jennie to check on alternative presenter for a Sunday morning about them and fill out on own.]

Care for the care giver [Jennie to talk to Senior Center about]

Jennie to see if and when Lisa has any ideas she would like to do and do March newsletter blurb.

Interserve:

Pastor has information on progress.

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – John Nye

No Council Action Required

CMT did not meet. Nothing to report. John will check if any more bids have been received for 4 outlets.

Pastor Geier — February 2025 Council Report

- Participated in ministry team meetings, staff ministry team meetings and weekly contemplative prayer group meetings.
- Visited nursing home and home bound members and celebrated Holy Communion.
- Six hospital visits and multiple pastoral care events.
- Visits with five members
- Preschool chapel on January 22, 30, February 4 & 5
- Hastings Ministerial Association on January 22
- Chapel at Benedictine Living Center on January 27 & February 17.
- Served at Culver's with Preschool staff for fundraiser on January 27.
- Chapel at Oak Ridge on January 29.
- Synod Candidacy meeting on February 6.
- South Conference meeting at All Saints Lutheran in Eagan on February 11.
- Hastings 7th & 8th Concert Band on February 6
- 5th Grade and 6th Grade band concerts on February 10.
- Worked with Deborah Dreher on February 12 to organize "stuff" in old sanctuary for storage/give away/trash.
- Requesting that anyone planning to attend the March 2 Leadership Retreat, respond they are coming.

Other things to consider:

- From Thursday January 23 through Saturday January 25, we went to Glendale, WI to make sure our grandchildren were still cute. (They are.)
- I was pleased with our annual meeting and the delicious meal afterwards.
- Theresa Chatelle shared that they had located a suitable space for Food 4 Kids, but thanks us very much for our ongoing support.
- I along with Dan Strehlow will be attending our pre-assembly conference caucuses and Tool Kit for congregational leaders on February 22nd at Shepherd of the Valley in Apple Valley.
- I have a lead on a potential praise worship leader and will hopefully have more news shortly. After talking with Deborah Dreher on the HR Ministry Team, we decided that hiring the person as an independent contractor (like we do for our custodial services) would be best.
- I am also looking to move forward with a potential candidate for our Director of Youth Ministries after further consultation with the HR Ministry Team.

Your Servant in Christ,
Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

Old Business

Food 4 Kids has found a suitable home and will not need to use our facility.

Job descriptions for elementary and high school Youth Ministries positions have been sent to HR. The High School position would be posted for up to 20 hours.

CMT is working on getting more bids for the 4 outlets.

New Business

Pastor will be meeting with a potential Praise Worship Leader this week.

The council felt a new policy should be established requiring three bids to make larger purchases. The Finance Committee will determine what dollar value is considered a larger purchase, and the Constitution will be re-visited to see if there are already guidelines in place.

Following a review of the annual meeting, several suggestions were made:

- *Provide childcare

- *Place info on zoom connection and voting info in front of the annual report

- *Do votes on Tithing distribution choices earlier in the meeting, to accommodate counting of votes.

- *The Nominating committee should find the 3-year audit committee member, synod assembly volunteers and the next year's nominating committee members, rather than looking for volunteers at the annual meeting. A notice should be put in the November newsletter looking for possible interest in these positions.

A motion was made by Alex and seconded by Dave to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary