



St. Paul Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Meeting
Meeting held virtually through Zoom Conferencing
Tuesday, April 21, 2020 – 6:30 pm

COUNCIL MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE					
X	Sarah Friesen-Carper, Pastor	X	Dale Brainard, Member at Large		
X	Tyler Kroschel, President	X	Chris Clark, Member at Large		
X	Andy Stoyke, Vice President	X	Jaime Fraley, Member at Large		
X	Julie Coozennoy, Secretary		Arlie Post, Member at Large		
X	Chris Timmons, Treasurer	X	Karen Rozeske, Member at Large		

Meeting called to order at 6:42 pm by Tyler Kroschel and opened with devotions by Andy Stoyke and God Sightings.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A motion was made by Karen Rozeske to approve the consent agenda, Pastor's, Committee's & Financial Report. Seconded by Andy Stoyke. Unanimously approved.

FINANCIAL REPORT

As of March 31, 2020	ACTUAL
General Fund Offering	\$13,348.75
Total Revenue	\$20,526.65
Total Expenses (before mortgage)	\$15,222.84
Net Income (after mortgage payment)	-\$ 13.19
Mortgage Balance	\$399,802.93
Edward Jones Balance	\$35,916.68

FINANCE REPORT:

- There was no finance meeting.

INTERIM PASTOR'S REPORT:

Pastoral note:

Wow! Things have really changed. I would never have imagined when I accepted this call as your interim pastor that we would be walking together through a global pandemic! It is impossible to fully prepare for this kind of thing. And it would be foolish to hold ourselves to standards we set for ourselves in "normal times." Psychological and medical specialists are weighing in on what our brains do when we experience trauma. Some things I've seen that I find helpful to understanding trauma response:

- Parts of our brain shut down in order for us to survive which means we are not able to fully process what is going on around us. We don't usually process trauma until years later when we feel safe enough to do so.
- Some people will feel numb or out of touch with their emotions, especially those who have experienced trauma in the past.
- Some folks become hypervigilant and anxious. Others may become hypoactive or depressed. All that indicates is the way your brain was predisposed to deal with extreme stress. It is NOT a reflection of who you are as a person or your self-worth.
- Lower your expectations of yourself and others. Just getting by emotionally and functionally is okay. Be kind to yourself and to others.

It is important for us each to find the right balance of caring for others and caring for ourselves. That balance will be different for each of us. Know that your congregation isn't going anywhere and we are here for one another.

There are some things that we cannot do right now as a congregation. Obviously, we are not able to worship together, nor can we gather in any other ways we've grown used to. In addition to that, we need to put some of our next steps in the recovery and healing process on hold for the time being. Or, at least some of those steps will look different from

what they might have been. However, I believe there is some goodness from this reality too. Being apart may help you to realize what is important about a church community and what is not. You may also find that you have a little more time to focus on the basics of faith: Worship, prayer, and Bible study. And perhaps you will take advantage of some of the virtual fellowship opportunities to connect with the dear ones of SPLC.

None of us can know what the future holds for us as a congregation. But that has always been true, whether we wanted to admit it or not. What we do know is that our God is steadfast and faithful. It is scary to live in uncertain times with no map to chart our way. But that is exactly what the earliest apostles did as they trusted the Holy Spirit to guide their new church. And that is our call now as well: to trust the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will never leave us or forsake us.

In peace,
Pastor Sarah

- I. Administration
 - a. Weekly staff meetings with Office Admin – Melissa and I check in on FaceTime several times a week and are connected via email and text message many times a day
 - b. Weekly note from the Pastor in Refresh and ReNEWS
 - c. Weekly video from the pastor with Announcements and Devotion
 - d. Weekly Zoom check-in with the Executive Committee
 - e. 4 meetings to resolve a conflict
 - f. Melissa, Julie Coozennoy and I created a communications plan for the period we are away from church, specifically daily and weekly communications
 - g. Monthly meetings with Saint Paul Area Synod Interims – now via zoom
 - h. Monthly report to synod office
 - i. Bi-weekly Synod conference check-in via zoom
 - j. Synod Ministerium
 - k. 1 Synod zoom meeting re: communications in the pandemic
- II. Education
 - a. Weekly Bible study was suspended for Lent so the participants could focus on Wednesday evening worship. On-line Bible Study begins April 15th at 1pm.
 - b. Confirmation – Wednesdays 6:00-7:30; 2019-2020 theme: “What it means to be a Lutheran.” 18 students and 4 adult guides.
 - i. The Confirmation retreat is canceled as the Gustavus Adolphus campus is closed for the remainder of the semester.
 - ii. Confirmation is meeting via zoom on Wednesday evenings.
 - iii. The Confirmation service has been rescheduled to May 31st
 - c. Adult Forum on Sunday – Suspended for now
 - d. I am creating weekly content for Youth and Adult Bible Studies for our At Home Faith Formation curricula. I am grateful to Katie Fetterly and Chris Clark who create the content for young families, and Julie Coozennoy who publishes the items on the website.
- III. Worship
 - a. I am so grateful to Chris Timmons who is putting our worship videos together, to Kim Clark and all the folks who have given us music for video worship, and to the folks who are doing the readings for us. Video worship is different and a little weird. But it is good to be able to worship together even in this way. I find that video worship preparation is more time consuming than in-person so more of my time is wrapped up in that part of my job.

Bishop Lull has asked all the congregations of the synod to do worship from home in one form or another and to refrain from having communion virtually. The Executive Committee has decided to follow her recommendations. We know that other churches may choose to do other things. Our concern is for the safety and well-being of all of our worship attendees. And we look forward to the day we will be able to be together and to commune together.

- b. Sunday and Wednesday worship in Lent centered on the theme “Open My Life, Lord.” I was pleased with the attendance we had for Ash Wednesday and the two Wednesday evening services we were able to host. I especially am thankful to Lucy Stoyke who shared some of her art with us and how her art is part of her faith.
- c. The God Sightings we had been celebrating at the end of worship are on hold for a bit now. We are sharing other God sightings on the website and Facebook.
- d. 7 worship services; 5 sermons; 3 children’s sermons
- e. See attached for outline of worship through the Easter Season
- f. Weekly Preschool Chapel– W/Th 10am – suspended
- g. Weekly Prayer is suspended
- h. First Communion would have been on Palm Sunday with the children receiving their first communion on Maundy Thursday. We have postponed their first communion to Holy Trinity Sunday, June 7th.

IV. Pastoral Care

- a. Pastoral care looks very different now than it did before our stay-at-home order. Normally I report numbers, but now I’d like to update on what we’re doing for congregational care:
 - i. Regular phone calls with those who are not connected via internet
 - ii. 2 opportunities for virtual fellowship during the week – Tuesdays at noon, Sundays at 11am
 - iii. Every member phone calls to determine what people need and how they want to be connected
 - iv. Gathering birthdays and anniversaries and mailing cards to celebrate

V. Consultant’s recommendations

- a. Breakthrough Prayer Initiative – we continue to pray in worship
- b. The List of Loving Behaviors was adopted unanimously at the Annual Meeting. Tyler is working to create a large print banner that everyone can sign and hang in the narthex.
- c. Ongoing
 - i. Communications plan/Team – on hold for now
 - ii. Fellowship opportunities – virtual coffee hour
 - iii. Establishing Personnel Team
- d. Yet to Come
 - i. Mutual Ministry Team/healthy, proper channels for concerns and feedback and teaching the congregation to utilize them
 - ii. Further training for congregation and leadership on conflict transformation
 - iii. Governance – especially clarifying teams and duties and updating the constitution
 - iv. Clarifying identity and purpose – this will go hand-in-hand with the work around our financial future

Worship Plans April 12- May 31, Easter – Pentecost

THEME: New Life

+ April 12, 2020 - Easter

Jeremiah 31:1-6; Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24; Matthew 28:1-10

+ April 19, 2020 Second Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 1:3-9; Psalm 16; John 20:19-31

+ April 26, 2020 Third Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 1:17-23; Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19; Luke 24:13-35

+ May 3, 2020 Fourth Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 2:19-25; Psalm 23; John 10:1-10

+ May 10, 2020 Fifth Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 2:2-10; Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16; John 14:1-14

+ May 17, 2020 Sixth Sunday of Easter

1 Peter 3:13-22; Psalm 66:8-20; John 14:15-21

+ May 24, 2020 Seventh Sunday of Easter – Ascension of Our Lord

Acts 1:1-11; Psalm 47; Luke 24:44-53

+ May 31, 2020 Pentecost Sunday – Confirmation Tentatively Rescheduled

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; John 20:19-23

COMMITTEE REPORTS (as submitted by Director or Team Leads)**All God's Children Preschool**

- With the closing of Forest Lake School District, we have been closed as a preschool since March 16, 2020 and are continually closed as of now. I have been making videos at least twice a week. One with our normal songs, letters, shapes, and colors, and a second one with reading the letter of the week book and emailing them out and putting them on the facebook page. I have also been doing zoom conferences with the preschoolers and their parents and those are going very well. I am currently working on the budget for next year and we officially have 12 kids signed up but could potential have 18 with some of the current kids I know that said they would be coming back but just have not handed in registration forms as of yet. I have also been sending out extra activities for the kids to try and help them stay engaged during this time. I have been getting a lot of feedback that has been positive for doing this for the preschoolers. I am pretty certain that we will remain closed for the rest of this school year. I still want to be able to do a graduation for our preschoolers that are moving on to kindergarten and to have one more get together for the kids with their classmates sometime this summer after my girl scout troop does the playground out back of the preschool. It is a strange time but we are getting through it.

Altar Guild

- No Report

Building & Grounds

- No Report

Education Report

Confirmation update:

- Due to CDC and Minnesota Department of Health guidelines confirmation classes have not been meeting in person, confirmands met with Pastor Sarah via Zoom on April 1 and 15, and will meet with her on April 22 & 29. The classes have been split into 2 different sessions 6-6:45PM for the 7th & 8th graders and 6:45-7:30PM for the 9th graders. Pastor Sarah is using this time to check in with our confirmation students to see how they are faring in with the changes in their lives.
- Faith Papers were due to Pastor Sarah on April 15th for the 9th grade confirmation students.
- Confirmation Sunday has been tentatively rescheduled from May 3 to May 31.

Mission Trip update:

- The 2020 Mission Trip has been cancelled. The July 5-10th session was cancelled by YouthWorks. After reaching out to the families with our available options, there were concerns over the health & safety of the children, and participant availability became limited for alternate dates. Adult Leader Brandy Timmons spoke with Chris Timmons (Adult Leader) and Joanna Kroschel and determined cancellation was our best option. YouthWorks changed their cancellation policy after our second payment installment of \$1,000 was due on March 28, 2020. The original cancellation policy was that all funds to YouthWorks would be non-refundable. The updated cancellation policy states that of the \$1,500 we had already paid, the \$500 deposit would be non-refundable, \$500 would be set aside as a credit for the 2021 Mission Trip season and they would give us 1st priority for dates and location, and the remaining \$500 would be given back to the church by the end of 2020.

Youth update:

- With the closure of church, all youth education has been moved to the church website with an online, faith formation for all ages. There's a lesson each week for families to do together. Folks have also been encouraged to cut out and color a Flat Jesus and share pictures of him doing things with us throughout the day.

- There has been discussion that the Mother's Day plant sale could be set up as a pre-order type sale this year. More discussion and planning are needed around this.
- As of now, we are still planning on holding VBS the end of July. However, the ability to hold it will be subject to stay at home orders and the ability to prep in time. I also worry that families will opt not to come out of fear of spreading the virus. If we are able to have it, I do think we should make every attempt to do so. The kids need some "normalcy," and it is a great outreach for our church. The registration form has not been added to the website since we don't know if/when we'll be able to have VBS.

Communications

- No Report

Global Missions

- No Report

Loaves & Fishes

- No Report

Martha's Servers

- No Report

Outreach

- No Report

Prayer

- No Report

SPPRT

- No Report

Visitation

- No Report

WAM (Worship, Arts, Music)

- No Report

OLD BUSINESS

- **2020 Annual Meeting:** Follow-up with the questions from the annual meeting. There will be an email going out to the congregational members with the answers to these questions:
 - What are the IRS regulations in regards to fundraising to maintain our 501(c)3 status?
 - Request for a complete listing of all assets/designated funds.
- **All God's Children Preschool:** No additional information was received from the preschool, so this item will be tabled until information is received.
 - At the February council meeting, AGC requested permission to charge parents, who would like five day a week preschool, a reduced rate. No decision was made on this as we did not receive the additional information requested from AGC.
- **Financial Audit of SPLC:** We will begin the process of doing a financial audit.
- **Lenten Offerings:** \$660 will be sent to Lakes Center for Youth and Families (previously the Forest Lake Youth Service Bureau).

NEW BUSINESS

- **Health of Congregation / Response to On-line Worship:** Very favorable response to the online worship, positive feedback around having the kids involved in service. Weekly phone calls are being made to the congregation.
- **Paycheck Protection Program (PPP):** Discussion was held around applying for the PPP (churches are eligible). The approximate amount we would be applying for is \$20,000 (ten weeks of payroll).
 - **Andy Stoyke made a motion to move forward with the paperwork to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Seconded by Karen Rozeske. Unanimously approved.**

- **Mission Trip Update:** YouthWorks cancelled the July 5th through 10th session. After much discussion, the mission trip leaders and parents chose not to reschedule to any of the other dates. YouthWorks' updated cancellation policy states that of the \$1,500 already paid, the \$500 deposit would be non-refundable, \$500 would be set aside as a credit for the 2021 Mission Trip season (giving us first priority for dates and location) and the remaining \$500 would be given back to the church by the end of 2020.
 - **Andy Stoyke made a motion that the \$500 credit (from YouthWorks for the 2021 Mission Trip) be split among all youth attending the 2021 Mission Trip. Karen Rozeske seconded. Unanimously approved.**
- **Building Maintenance:**
 - Spring Clean-up will be done on a smaller scale, family (or very small group) based. We will have specific times people can sign up to work on a specific area of the church (keeping your social distance). We will also look into the possibility of doing our portion of the Adopt-A-Highway.
 - Building and Grounds team will get bids on resealing the church's parking lot.
- **Sunday School Proposal for AGC Space:** The Sunday School would like to repurpose the second Preschool room as a large group room for Sunday School to use after worship on Sundays beginning in the fall of 2020. The council agreed this would be a good use of the second space. AGC Director, Pastor and Sunday School coordinators will sit down to discuss details.
- **Sunday School Mother's Day Plant Sale:** In light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting stay at home orders, SS is weighing options for the annual Mother's Day plant sale. At this time, they will be looking at preorders (online) and possibly an outdoor sale on May 17th. Chris Timmons, Council Treasurer, set-up PayPal so we can use this for prepayment.
- **Summer Worship/Musicians:** Due to all the unknowns, no decisions have been made about the summer schedule.
- **Lawn Mowing:** Tom Miller and Chris Clark have agreed to cover the majority of the lawn mowing for the summer. There may be a need for a back-up mower from time to time.
- **Letter to Confirmands:** Pastor will update the letter from the Church Council to the confirmands welcoming them to the congregation as voting members of the congregation.

A motion was made by Julie Coozennoy to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dale Brainard. Unanimously approved.

Date & Time: Tuesday, May 19 at 6:30 – Building tour at 6:00 pm (to be determined)

Devotions: Julie Coozennoy

Submitted by:

Julie Coozennoy

Julie Coozennoy

St. Paul Lutheran Council Secretary

Summary of motions made at April Church Council Meeting

- **A motion was made by Karen Rozeske to approve the consent agenda, Pastor's, Committee's & Financial Report. Seconded by Andy Stoyke. Unanimously approved.**
- **Andy Stoyke made a motion to move forward with the paperwork to apply for the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP). Seconded by Karen Rozeske. Unanimously approved.**
- **Andy Stoyke made a motion that the \$500 credit (from YouthWorks for the 2021 Mission Trip) be split among all youth attending the 2021 Mission Trip. Karen Rozeske seconded. Unanimously approved.**
- **A motion was made by Julie Coozennoy to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Dale Brainard. Unanimously approved.**

Summary of motions made via Email between the March and April Council Meeting

- **On March 18, 2020 Tyler Kroschel made a motion to approve the March Church Council Minutes via email. Seconded by Chris Timmons. Unanimously approved.**