

St. Paul Lutheran Church
CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES • December 18, 2017

Call to Order: President Margaret Hand called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Tom Gudmundson

Secretary's Report - Minutes of November 29, 2017 Congregation Meeting: *A motion was made by Dave DePagter and seconded by Paul W Ten Pas to approve the Secretary's Report from the November 29, 2017 Congregation Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

Divine Call of Pastor Kyle Backhaus: Mark Buffington, chairman of the Call Team, presented information regarding Pastor Kyle Backhaus. The Call Team conducted a phone interview with him and then Mark and Jim Fasse traveled to Texas to meet with him. Based upon that, the Call Team recommended to the Church Council, who is recommending to the Congregation that we extend a Divine Call to Pastor Kyle Backhaus.

Pastor Backhaus was born and raised in Sheboygan Falls. He is 30 years old. He graduated from Concordia Mequon in 2009 and received his MDIV from the Concordia Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana in 2014. He has served at his current dual parish in Gonzales and Rosansky, Texas for the past 3 years. His wife Tessa has a degree in nursing. They have 2 girls, ages 5 and 2. Pastor Kyle and Tessa both were members and grew up in St. Paul.

Pastor Backhaus' has a casual appearance. His style is relaxed, engaging and relational. He has an expository preaching style, meaning he will focus on one bible verse and really dig into it. He is a team player. He feels he would join the team by first assessing things and then looking for ways to improve. Communication is very important to him in regard to team ministry.

It was asked what the success rates are for Pastors that return to their home Congregation. Pastor Tom responded that when he was in the seminary they were told not to do it. However, that really applies to smaller churches. This was asked of Pastor Kyle and his response was that he has been away from this church for 15 years. St. Paul has really grown during that time. The people that joined during that time have no idea who he was and even those members that were here when Pastor Kyle was may not have known him, simply because of the size of the church. He is not concerned with this and Pastor Tom agrees.

Pastor Kyle indicated that if his parents or inlaws were in need of Pastoral care, he would take the role of a son/son-in-law and let one of the other Pastors handle the situation.

The vision is not for Pastor Kyle to become the Senior Pastor. We will search for that position at a later time and it will involve a separate Call Team.

We will continue to pursue a seminary graduate at this time, until we have an accepted call.

It was asked if the LCMS would ever allow women to be Pastors given the increasing shortage of Pastors. Pastor Tom commented that it would never be allowed, there are strong theological reasons for that.

It was also commented that if Pastor Kyle accepts the Call it may be easier to look for a Senior Pastor with that individual knowing that Pastor Kyle is younger and already here, so they would have support.

A motion was made by Lee Wilcox and seconded by Rick Leicht to extend a Divine Call to Pastor Kyle Backhaus. A written ballot was taken. Motion carried.

Congregation Concerns:

None

Adjournment: *A motion was made by Kris Matthies second by Faye Risse to adjourn the Congregation Meeting at 6:53 pm. Motion carried unanimously.*

Closing Prayer: Pastor Mark Janzen

Attendance: 60