

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
**CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES • May 3, 2016**

**Call to Order:** President Mark Buffington called the meeting to order at 6:34 pm.

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Tom Gudmundson

**Secretary's Report - Minutes of April 19, 2016 Congregation Meeting:** *A motion was made by Paulette Hinkelman and second by Shelly Johnson to approve the Secretary's Report from the April 19, 2016 Congregation Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

**Calling New Associate Pastor:**

President Mark Buffington presented information about the steps the Call Team has taken over the past year. He shared information regarding Pastor Peter Kelm, including his background and strengths. On April 20, 2016 the Call Team and Church Council approved recommending a Call to the Congregation. Pastor Kelm was made aware of the decision and when the Congregation Meeting would be.

On Monday, May 2, Pastor Tom and Mark Buffington received an email from Pr. Kelm as follows:

*"As a few of you may know, I was diagnosed with gallbladder cancer about a year ago. After surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation treatment, God has graciously given me more than five months without needing treatment. On Monday, however, we found out that I will need more treatment. In the next week we will find out just exactly what that plan will look like. Whatever God's plan is, we know that we are in His loving arms, and that He will continue to take care of us, for Jesus' sake. I wanted you to know this information as you prayerfully decide to call a pastor. God be with you, and I ask for your prayers even as I will pray for you! In Christ, Peter"*

The Call Team and Church Council met earlier tonight to determine if their recommendation has changed, given this new information. It was noted that Pastor Kelm did not remove himself from the Call List, but rather was informing us of his condition. The decision was to leave it up to the Congregation to decide if a Call will be extended.

A variety of Congregation Members expressed their thoughts regarding the Call. Pastor Tom then led the Congregation in prayer.

*A motion was made by Dave Weinhold and second by Mike Holden to extend a Divine Call to Pastor Peter Kelm. A written ballot was taken. Motion carried.*

**Congregation Concerns:**

**Prayer Vigil:** Pastor Tom has concern that there hasn't been enough prayer focused on the Call process. Now more than ever, we need a Prayer Vigil where people can sign up to pray for the Call process, including Pastor Kelm's decision and for his health. Pastor Tom will put something together in the very near future.

**Adjournment:** *A motion was made by Brad Johnson second by Dave Weinhold to adjourn the Congregation Meeting at 7:18 pm. Motion carried.*

**Closing Prayer:** Pastor Mark Janzen

Attendance: 52