**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

Monday, February 28, 2022

Attendees: Pr Kyle Backhaus, Tom Splittgerber, John Rische, Donna Felch, Michelle Bohm, Stefanie Trakel, Michelle Zuengler & Chad Berke

Excused: Mark Sbrocco, Paul H Ten Pas & Jeff Berg

Guest/s: Thomas Walkenhorst & Pr Rob Schrader

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| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible Party |
| Call to Order |  | President Tom Splittgerber called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm. |  |
| Opening Prayer |  | Pr Kyle opened with a devotion and prayer |  |
| Worship Ministry Update | Thomas is wrapping up Holy Week and already beginning to plan for Christmas. He works closely with the Pastors to coordinate all aspects of worship so that they fit together with the theme.  He has lots of new ideas to continue expanding his role and enhancements to worship services such as adding strings and brass to services, beginning drama and expanding children’s messages in the summer. He’ll be working with Pr Rob on a 2 week sermon series on worship, such as “why we sing”.  Starting with 2023, he’ll be taking over Usher Scheduling, relieving Sharon Roehrborn of her many, many years of faithful service in this role. A huge thank you to her for her dedication over the years.  Thomas would like to do more to extend worship outside of the walls of St. Paul and maybe even start Faithful Fridays, a song-based focused service.  Thomas continues to struggle getting volunteers and musicians. He is making intentional asks to try to recruit more. |  |  |
| Associate Pastor Update | Pr Rob is busy assisting in various ministries including leading the Joel Bible Study, AWANA, Confirmation, Jail Ministry, Baptism Classes, Funerals, Shut in Visits, Celebrate Recovery and Love Inc.  He’s been focused on building Small Groups, which has been challenging getting people involved. He continues to pray God will move hearts!  Pr Rob is working with Kris Hoppe to develop a Widow’s Ministry which will have a visitation and Small Group component.  He meets monthly with area pastors to pray for our county and keep in touch with things that are going on in our community.  He’s also working with our Public Relations Coordinator Amber to revamp our website and update the color scheme of our logo, which he shared with the Council. | Pr Rob is eagerly looking for feedback and ideas as he continues in his role here at St. Paul.  The Church Council approved with a show of hands the new logo colors. | Pr Rob |
| February Secretary Report |  | A motion was made by Paul H Ten Pas via email on 3/2/22 to approve the February Secretary’s Report. Michelle Zuengler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. |  |
| February & March Treasurer Reports |  | A motion was made by Paul H Ten Pas via email on 4/8/22 to approve the February & March Treasurer Reports. Michelle Zuengler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. |  |
| Blacktop Project | All contracts and down payments have been made. A timeline of the project was shared and will also be published in the May Newsletter |  |  |
| Tuckpointing Project | John Rische shared a quote from Jos Schmitt in the amount of $13,948 to repair the mortar around the throughout the exterior of the building. Some of this should have probably been repaired last year. The building also needs to be cleaned by power washing it. In addition, this project should also be coordinated with the exterior sealing project that Jim Fasse is assisting with. | If anyone has additional vendors that could quote the tuckpointing project, please put them in touch with John Rische.  Stefanie will put Jim Fasse in touch with John as well regarding coordinating the sealing of the building. | John Rische  Stefanie Trakel |
| Estate Planning Update | Tom reported that Jim Fasse will head up the team which will include Paul H Ten Pas and Mark Buffington. | Tom will find one more team member and then they will begin meeting. | Tom Splittgerber |
| Elder Team Update | No report |  |  |
| Senior Pastor Report | Pr Kyle shared his worship plan through Thanksgiving. He also asked for sermon suggestions from the Council.  Confirmation is May 1. Pastor’s Conference is May 2-4. He has been asked to guest preach Memorial Day weekend at Christ Lutheran in Sheboygan for their 75th Anniversary, as he was baptized there. He also has several weddings this summer.  Pr Kyle serves on the Hispanic Ministry Team for the County, which will be meeting this week to review financials. He recently officiated an Adult Baptism for someone who just went through AIM. He also may begin serving on the Board at Lutheran High. He’s also starting to teach the Wednesday Morning Bible Study on “How We Got the Bible”.  The South Wisconsin District Convention is Jun 12-14. Paul H Ten Pas will be our Lay Delegate.  Our Core Values include “Progressive”, which can be interpreted incorrectly in our current culture. The Bible Versus associated with it relate to diversity in worship practices and a vision for reaching out. Pr Kyle is look for suggestions on a different word to avoid confusion.  Quarter 1 membership numbers were shared. We have 2,185 baptized members, we added 5 this quarter. We’ve had 87 losses, some deaths and transfers, but 75 were removed to follow our new membership policy.  Pr Kyle thanked Michelle Bohm for her service to the Church as her term on Church Council will be ending in June. |  |  |
| Walk In Items: Lutheran Education Scholarships | Stefanie presented a recommendation to increase scholarship amounts by approximately 12%, which is about how much tuition has risen at Lutheran High in the last 5-6 years. | A motion was made by Donna Felch to approve the new scholarship amounts as presented, effective with the Fall 2022 school year. Michelle Bohm seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.  This will be included in our budget for next fiscal year. | Stefanie Trakel |
| Walk In Items: Electrical Project | Final quotes will be reviewed at the May Council Meeting. We are having significant issues finding other electrical contractors willing and able to quote the project. |  |  |
| Adjournment | The next Church Council Meeting will be Monday, May 23 at 6:30pm. | A motion was made by Chad Berke to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 pm. Seconded by Michelle Zuengler. Motion carried unanimously. |  |
| Closing Prayer |  | John Rische closed in prayer. |  |