

Agenda
Congregation Council

St. John's Lutheran Church
March 19, 2019 | 7:00 p.m.

1. **Prayer** - We begin our meeting centered in the presence of God. Silence, then opening prayer led by Nancy Ordahl Knoch. A time of silence for prayer and for gather our hearts and minds together will precede the prayer.

2. **Future Dates**

- a. Boards - Tuesday, April 9, 2019, 7:00 p.m. Treats provided by Business Management Board at 6:45 p.m.

Reminder: Please call your board members prior to the meeting and remind them.

- b. Council - Tuesday, April 23, 2019, 7:00 p.m.; Martha Erickson, prayer

3. **Pastor's Report**

4. **Council Action Items and Updates**

- a. Bernie - Finance
- b. Soup Suppers - Please have boards be on time and helpful!
- c. 150th Events - Do not schedule conflicting events during this time
- d. Charitable Giving tax laws change and info talk - Matthew Rich & John Ophaug
- e. 3rd Street Assessment
- f. Signer - try to balance with UCC for two Sundays per month
- g. Hearing Loop Conversation - Mark Gleason ECC
- h. Youth position update
- i. Summer Worship Schedule Proposal - Nancy and the Worship and Arts Board

5. **Consent Agenda Items for Council**

6. **Prayer** - The president leads a prayer asking God's grace and help on our ministry. Lord's Prayer: After the president's prayer is concluded we finish the meeting praying the prayer Jesus taught us.

7. **Adjournment follows**

Youth Board Minutes

March 12, 2019

Present: Jenny Nystrom, Barry Becker, Rob Nutt, Johann Schroeer and Vassar Price; **Absent:** Emily Westerback, Dan Franklin, Sue Hagen; **Staff:** Angie Gehring

Soup Supper

- Youth Board clean-up March 13th at 5:30

Updates from Youth Transition Team

- First Round Interviews of 7 complete – everyone interviewed extremely well
- Second Round Interviews of 3 scheduled – 3/16/19
- Will bring 1or 2 finalist to St. John’s for final on-site interview
- Hope to have New Hire in place in May, but date flexible

Planning Retreats

- Need blocks of time to work on scheduling 2019-2020 calendar events and to work on identifying volunteers for 2019-2020 calendar
- 5/5/19 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Identifying Volunteers Retreat/Dinner – at Jenny Nystrom’s
 - Will NOT meet for regular Boards on 5/14/19 (retreat in lieu of board meeting)
 - For volunteers, plan to look to parents/adults who have shown interest/gifts working with youth, review new members list, talk to other congregates to identify potential volunteers
 - Can also identify ways to incorporate Best Practices for St. John’s Person-Centered Service Program for Youth/Family volunteers (see hand-out)
 - Discussed sending out blanket time and talents survey out of favor because if ask without follow-up, then worse than never asking
- At next YB meeting, will identify date for 2019-2020 Calendaring Retreat
 - Important to have new Director of Ministry with Youth and Families to be a part of that

Recent Events

- 2/27/19 Emily Fulton /Grab N’Go Service Project for HS Youth Group
 - Emily/Director of the Key talked about what services the Key offers
 - Good response to google docs request for donated items

- Youth assembled Grab n' Go bags to be donated to the Key

Rescheduling Events

- Feed my Starving Children – 3/9/19 Rescheduled due to Weather
 - Tabled event – Don't appear to have room on schedule this year; in past summer FSC event was not well attended
 - When schedule for next year, should broaden invitation to whole congregation & include transportation help
- Trapped Puzzle Room– St Paul
 - Preferred date 4/7/19
 - Secondary dates: 4/13 or 4/14
 - HS – Harry Potter room; decision to include MS but in separate room – Spies v Spies
 - Cost \$10 plus money for ice cream; YB will subsidize cost of Puzzle Room (want to make as affordable as possible)
 - Nelson's Ice Cream after event
 - Jenny will reschedule event w/Trapped and let Angie know details

Upcoming Events Planning

- Spring Care Package event to distribute to homebound members
 - Dates: 5/1/19 assemble packages/pizza party; 5/8/19 deliver
 - HS Only
 - Identify list of intended recipients (Angie working w/Melissa Berthelsen)
 - Identify items to include: useful items/food and personal art/craft included – HS Ideas (Emily/Jenny; Melissa will give ideas for needed items)
 - Possible ideas – have Children's' program make art for basket (Barry)
 - At 150 year celebration 4/28/19 consider have table for congregates to write notes for recipients of baskets (Jenny/Emily)
 - Gather donations
 - Google doc to youth families
 - Need to consider financial options to purchase additional items
- 4/21/19 - Easter Breakfast Serving – Both MS & HS
 - Earn money towards camp if volunteer
 - Egg bakes; OJ; strawberries/melons; muffins – assigned by grade
 - Need to schedule adult volunteers so at least a couple each shift

Upcoming Events on Schedule

- 4/28/19 – 150th Celebration – local composers & visual artists
 - ?Showcase MS & HS Art/Music
- 6/23/19 – 6/28/19 Camp Amnicon Flambeau River Ramble - MS Youth Trip
- 7/14/19 – 150th Celebration – Outdoor Summer Event
- 7/20/19 – 7/28/19 Camp Christikon - HS Youth Trip
- 10/26 – 10/27/19 – 150th Celebration Capstone Event

Next Meeting: 4/9/19 at 7:00

Stewardship Board Minutes

March 12, 2019

Present: Allene Moesler, Mary Hoff, Mike Roth, Duane Engstrom, Samuel Lotegeluaki, Brad Kmoch, Kristy Harms; **Guest:** Ralph Yernberg

Future Dates:

Wednesday March 27, 2019/4:00 pm - 6:15 pm: Set up and serve Lenten soup supper

Tuesday April 9, 2019/6:45 pm - April Board meeting

Old business

1. Mary reported on giving for the 2019 Stewardship campaign
2. Shared Ministries update: Angie Gehring will step into the role that Mary Kelvie has left.
3. Thank You notes: Stewardship Board can send postcards to recipients.
4. Budget: Mary shared information with the Board regarding the budget.
5. Recognition Sunday - May 12, 2019. The Board approved continued use of the thumbprint theme developed last year. Announcements about the celebration/recognition event will appear in The Voice, the electronic monitors, a poster board. Collaboration with Children's Ministries/Julie Brehmer to engage the children in creating thank you cards.

New business

1. Snow Removal costs. \$150-\$200/snowfall. This has been an active winter. The Board would like to issue a challenge to "sponsor" the cost of snow removal for the many events we've had this year. The Board will work with Leah Garlie to create a slide for the electronic monitors to help share the message about the operational cost of snow removal.

2. Stewardship Campaign 2020 planning. Ralph Yernberg attended the meeting to share information with the current board. Ralph recommended checking the website for historical guidelines. Ralph recommended focusing on programs and relationship building vs. fundraising. Ralph recommended development of 2-3 strategies for presentation to the Council in May. We will need to focus on the “why” of giving, and the many ways that we give, i.e., time, talent, blessings.

Brainstorming resulted in the following ideas:

- “You Belong”
- The generosity of St. John’s and our community presence. Let’s tell our stories!
- God wraps us in his warmth, like a quilt. Let’s use the analogy of the many squares of a quilt that build the complete quilt to stitch together our campaign.
- Messaging about stewardship throughout the year will be critical.

Action Items

1. Recognition Sunday activities: Reach out to Julie Brehmer regarding engagement with children.
2. Review the Best Practices document for discussion at April meeting.
3. Refine the ideas about 2020 campaign strategies for presentation to Council in May.

Requests for St. John’s Council

No requests for March Council meeting.

Faith & Health Board Minutes

March 12, 2019

Present: Bonnie Peterson, Debby Nitz, Guenther Moesler, Melissa Berthelsen (Parish Nurse)

Melissa Berthelsen, Parish Nurse - Melissa was introduced. She gave an overview of her duties at St. John’s and her relationship to the Faith and Health Board.

Best Practices- Bonnie circulated a copy of a list of “Best Practices for St. John’s Person-Centered Service Program” and asked us to read at home. The best practices focus on 3 areas: Nurturing our People Service Culture, Recruiting, Orientation and Training and Recognition and Thanksgiving.

Oct. 24 Blood Drive with the American Red Cross -We discussed an idea from last year's Faith and Health board to have a goal of 150 pints of blood donated at this year's blood drive to coordinate with the 150th Anniversary celebration. We agreed this might be a challenge but one we would explore. We agreed that we'll definitely go with the Oct. 24 date as it is already on the official printed church calendar but we may need to add dates to achieve the goal. Bonnie will make contact with the ARC to see how this might fit with their schedule.

Mental Health information - Debby Nitz will contact Jane Rinehart and Barb Kuhlman (mental healthcare professionals and St. John's members) about staffing a table in May (Mental Health Awareness Month). We will need to clear the date with the church office and do some PR once the date is set.

Betsy Spethmann (Director of Community Relations, Northfield Hospital) - Betsy participated in our health fair last year and offered to come back to share information on free Medicare Wellness exams possibly in May. Melissa will contact her.

Soup Supper - Faith and Health will be cleaning up after the soup supper on March 20.

- Melissa let us know that boards have been encouraged not to schedule anything major on Sundays in October and November this year due to 150th Anniversary activities.
- Melissa also told us that a new Stephen's Ministry training session will be coming maybe as early as this fall.

Grief Gathering - We will be coordinating another gathering this June most likely with Pastor Fickenscher.

Next board meeting - April 9; Bonnie will confirm the time that works for board members.

Submitted by Debby Nitz

Children's Ministry and Education Committee Minutes March 12, 2019

Members Present: Staff Member Julie Brehmer, Kris Vatter, Amy McBroom, Melissa Pellinen, Rachel Brownlee, Scott Boehning, and Erik Holleque

After devotions, Julie met with the Worship and Music committee to discuss the Pray Ground, while our committee discussed our duties laid out by the constitution. The Worship and Music committee was receptive for the concept of the Pray Ground and the project will be implemented on the Sunday after Easter Day. There will be a small table, some books, and soft toys in the area near the baptismal font for Kindergartners and preschoolers.

Joint VBS will be held at St. John's this summer the week of June 10 for age 3 to 2nd grade. The theme will be To Mars and Beyond. Summer camp will also be in June at Good Earth Village, June 24-28.

There are 17 pairs in the Prayer Buddy Program during Lent. On Passion Sunday four stations will be set up in St. John's Hall around the days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Day. Activities will be designed to teach the children about the uniqueness of those days. The Easter Egg Hunt will be on April 20. Donations of candy will be needed.

On the last day of Sunday School, May 12, an intergenerational event will coincide with volunteer recognition planned by the stewardship committee. Ideas were shared, but plans for that day have not been finalized.

Submitted by,
Erik Holleque

Adult Ministry and Education Board
Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Members attending: Marilyn Calcutt, Kathleen Hanson, Anita Hellie, Andy Nelson and Rob Quanbeck

Updates:

- Library Book Sale: Donations in the amount of \$90 were received; this amount will be deposited into the Adult Ministry Designated Fund. All remaining books were boxed and delivered to the Hospital Auxiliary for their book sale in April.
- Lenten Book Read: Forty books were sold. Thirty-nine people signed up to participate in discussion groups; two on Wednesdays and two on Sundays.

Upcoming Events:

The committee spent the meeting time discussing a variety of events which could be of interest to members of St. John's. It is the hope of the committee that they can plan a variety of events that will be of interest to a wide audience of all ages.

The following are in planning stages:

- Bus Trip: The next bus trip would focus on a day at the Minnesota Arboretum. Robert and Sandra Nyvall were suggested as possible leaders for this tour; Rob Quanbeck will be contacting them to determine their interest. Possible timing for this outing would be May.
- Berne Wood-Fire Pizza and Concert Series: For a family friendly outing a Wednesday evening in late June would be planned at the Berne Wood Fire Pizza located at Zwingli United Church of Christ in beautiful Berne, MN (near West Concord). There is music entertainment each Wednesday evening as well as some relaxing evening time to spend in fellowship. Because of the planning of this Pizza/Concert series it was decided to table the Sunday Supper event until next summer.
- Cultural Cooking Class: A Saturday gathering that would involve attendees to learn how to make a variety of cultural cooking (Mexican, Asian and of course Lefse). Also available would be a coffee bar for those Saturday morning coffee lovers.
Contacts will be made to determine the interest of people to be our "demonstrators/teachers". There would be a minimal charge for people attending to help cover the cost of supplies by the demonstrators.

Goals/Ideas for upcoming year:

- Men's Group: Andy and Rob presented a proposal for a men's group. The first step will be their contacting Pastor Pam and Pastor Jonathon for their thoughts as well as contacting the "Men's Night Out" group. Another first step could be a survey to gain interest of the men at St. John's. It would be goal to not start this group solely on the "build it and they will come" theory. The focus of this group would potentially come out of the survey as to focus, activities, etc.
- Senior Ministry: Discussion was held on the installation of the "loop" sound system at St. John's and committee was told about the presentation to be held on Wednesday, March 13. Also discussed was the inclusion of hymns and text readings in the large print bulletins and the "parking" of the increasing number of walkers that are present at worship services. Kathleen will contact the Worship & Arts Board.

- *Kitchen Electrical:* After the Adult Ministry Board set-up and served the Soup Supper they became aware of the deficiency of the electrical wiring in the kitchen area. We believe this kitchen is a center part of a ministry at St. John's; it was decided that we ask Christy Hall Holt to join us at the April meeting to discuss this situation.

Benevolence and Social Concerns Board

March 12, 2019

Present: Jo Franklin, Gretchen Hardgrave, Carolyn Nitz, Kathy Schuurman, Sue Sharrow, Kathy Shea, Dawn Tommerdahl

Peace and Justice Committee Report – Dawn Tommerdahl

The current focus of the committee is on the offering of Letters for Bread for the World. March is a good time to do this because legislatures are in session. They recommend a focus on some aspect of nutrition and specific pieces of legislation. Judith Stoutland works with Lutheran Peace Fellowship which has many on-line resources. They also support the Sept. 21 – UN International Day of Peace celebration in Northfield. Peace and Justice sponsored two St. John's Forums, one on the Citizens Climate Lobby and one by the JRLC. The JRLC day on the hill in St. Paul was snowed out this year. They also support community events such as municipal ID, and Neighbors United. As needed they support book drives for Rice Co Jail and volunteer at Ruth's House. The Courageous Conversations sponsored by WELCA overlaps with Peace and Justice interests. The committee currently meets quarterly and has a small but active membership.

Food Shelf – has been remodeled – looks like a grocery store. They just received walk-in cooler and freezer. Doors open at 11 a.m. They need volunteers to rescue food, sort through food. They also need people to help assist shoppers, stock shelves (from Channel 1), and deliver food once a month. Volunteers can sign up on web site.

We put short articles in Voice and in the weekly newsblast. Kathy Schuurman will ask Leah about putting an announcement on scrolling screen. Kathy Shea will ask Bernie about amount received so far in March. In previous years we have collected close to \$10,000. Gretchen will ask Don Sahling about the need for volunteers for Thursday Table and how they have been recruited in the past.

Mexican Border Opportunity - April 1 – 6

Kathy Schuurman and Jean Callister-Benson are going to help with ministry Las Cruces, NM, as part of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Hand-in-Hand Family Reunification Ministry.

Person Centered Service Projects

We talked about the handout from the Stewardship Committee and thanking people for their service.

The Legal Clinic - a Grace Overflowing project is being used. Kathy Schuurman reported that the clinic is the 2nd Tuesday of the month and that 6 people came this month. They had three lawyers available, two who specialize in immigration. They are trying to get the word out that this clinic is available. Sara Karki's Forum talk on this project was cancelled due to snow and we hope it will be rescheduled.

News about benevolence

We discussed having short articles in the Voice and news blast about groups we are supporting. We have four fundraising efforts to the congregation through the year. These are in/out funds where money raised is directly donated.

January – Missions

March – Food Shelf

May – Lutheran World Relief (LWR)

November – World Hunger

Carolyn will write article about LWR for May Voice – due April 15.

We agreed to Clean-up for the Lenten Supper on April 3 and will be at church by 5:30 that day.

Due to conflicts of a couple committee members we plan to meet via email in April.

Kathy Shea, Chair Notes

Worship and Arts Board

March 12, 2019

Prayground - Guest: Julie Bremer – Experiment to connect PK-K kids into the service within the sanctuary space doing soft and quiet things in the front of the sanctuary, with parents nearby (per Grace Lutheran)

5x7 carpet in the front (font side)

Positive reactions from churches that have them

St. John's will try it during quieter summer months, with full support of Worship and Arts board.

One more way to include and uplift our children within the community. Christmas Program

The Christmas Program is a long-standing tradition, expected and cherished by many. Curiosity regarding the origins of the alleged observations of "last minute stress and sometimes conflict" around this event led to an impromptu post-board meeting conversation with the chairs of the Worship and Arts board, the Children's Ministry and Education Board as well as the Director of Children's ministry. From that conversation it was concluded that better communication needs to occur specifically between the Director of Children's Ministry and other staff who may have encountered sentiments regarding the program of which she is not aware.

This event has traditionally been within the "jurisdiction" of the Director of Children's ministry, and she is ultimately responsible for the program, decides the details of where and when, and pulls together the team that she needs to make it happen.

We as a board wish to express our support for every effort which includes and uplifts the children and youth of St. John's. It is important to engage them and retain them as leaders in the church and the Christmas Program is an excellent opportunity for them to serve in leadership roles.

The Worship and Arts board promotes the idea of keeping the program simple (fewer musical numbers for example, which was how it was handled this past December) and finding other ways to reduce pressure on music leadership-securing music and musicians sooner, for example.

Using a written service that anyone could be a part of, while reserving the leadership roles for children and youth was another idea.

There is plenty of opportunity for creative thinking when the planning for next year's program commences later in the year.

Per Mary Hoff's request – passed out postcards for expressing gratitude. All member took some postcards with them.

Summer Schedule begins May 26 (not in sanctuary due to work being done there) Service times will be at 8:30 and 10 from 26. May through 8 September.

One service Sundays in July only – keep it the same for “experiments” sake (data collection and comparison in regards to attendance). 9:30 start time.

Proposal: One Sunday per month: June 9, July 12 (picnic weekend), August 11 – different old liturgy on the second Sunday of each month and then September 8 which is also the last Summer Schedule Sunday.

People who have expressed interest in working with old Sunday liturgy - Tony Becker, Ruth Legvold, Carolyn Jennings

Old hymns? John Rondestvedt - Using an older hymn if fitting on a certain Sunday – Nathan will reach out to John.

Resurrection Stained Glass and Maakestad Sculpture placement

Proposals: Resurrection window panels- one panel suspended in front of each east window in St John's hall, mounted on the back of beam (Scott S idea)

“The Firebird of Pentacost” (not official title) sculpture suspended from NW corner of St. John's Hall (Joe Shaw's idea)

Submitted by Nancy Ordahl Knoch March 12, 2019

Evangelism and Communications Committee March 12, 2019, 12:00 p.m.

Attending the meeting: Mark Gleason, Chair; Judy Karlson; Daniel Edwins; Kristin Partlo; Leah Garlie.

1. Gleason reviewed February Council meeting highlights and budget summary.
2. ECC members reviewed schedule for Wednesday, March 13 dinner, set-up and serving.

3. Members reviewed progress on oral/video histories for 150th anniversary, including lining up March interviews. The emphasis in March will be on continuing to collect oral histories of members with experience in the arts. ECC is aiming to collect 150 interviews during the sesquicentennial year. Discussion focused on how interviewers can record metadata, how interviews will be stored at St. John's, and how interviews will be shared on the St. John's website. Overall, the interview project is coming along well. Members are pleased to have the opportunity to reflect on their experience at St. John's and what the church has meant in their lives.
4. ECC is proceeding with planning for a CCB workshop-training. Kristin and Leah will be conferring on a schedule and content. Kristy Harms has mentioned that Stewardship would like to sponsor a workshop training.
5. Mark has completed ordering of new A-V recording equipment. Thanks to advising from NTV director Paul Hager, the purchase of equipment is around \$3300 of the allocated \$5000. ECC is also looking at purchase of a large format flat-screen TV.
6. Hearing related needs: ECC scheduled a presentation-demo of hearing loop technology on March 13, 1 p.m. Around 16 people attended. ECC will report to Council regarding the event and request guidance for next steps. ECC has successfully tested software for closed captioning and will soon implement a pilot program for persons whose needs cannot be met by the FM hearing assist units or prospective hearing loop technology. ;
7. ECC has completed design and ordering of new parking lot banners. Daniel Edwins designed the 150th Anniversary theme and Leah is working on the ordering of the banners.