

**Agenda**  
**Congregation Council**

St. John's Lutheran Church  
May 28, 2019 | 7:00 p.m.

**Prayer** - We begin our meeting centered in the presence of God. Silence, then opening prayer led by Terry Dell.

**1. Future Dates**

- a. Boards - Tuesday, June 11. Treats provided by Benevolence & Social Concerns at 6:45 p.m.  
Reminder: Please contact your board members prior to the meeting and remind them.
  
- b. Council - Tuesday, June 25, 2019, 7:00 p.m.; Kathy Shea, prayer.

**2. Pastor's Report**

**3. Treasurer's Report**

**4. Council Action Items and Updates**

- a. Mary Hoff - nominating committee and time and talents
- b. Stewardship - goals, priorities, ideas
- c. Pr. Pam's sabbatical
- d. ECC - Hearing Loop Update

**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**

## **Benevolence and Social Concerns Board**

**May 14, 2019**

Present: Jo Franklin, Gretchen Hardgrave, Carolyn Nitz, Kathy Schuurman, Sue Sharrow, Kathy Shea, Pastor Pam Fickenscher

### **Adult Education**

The first half of our meeting was with the Adult Ministry and Education Board. David Nitz suggested one or more Adult Forums on climate change and environmental sustainability to follow this year's Global Citizens Climate Lobby presentation by Howard White. The general sense of the two boards was that this was a good idea. Because this is such a broad topic we suggested four-six Forums over the course of the year. A subcommittee of Marilyn Calcutt, Rob Quanbeck, Kathy Schuurman, Jo Franklin and Kathy Shea will meet to put together some ideas. We talked about having a balance of topics from biodiversity to water, climate crisis, migration, and soil health. A field trip to the Gustavus Nobel Conference on Climate Change was suggestion. Other ideas were to have a book to read on topics discussed and to discuss how people can become personally involved in sustainability. The subcommittee will coordinate with Jonathan about dates. A discussion was held on Sunday, May 19, between services to give others a chance to provide input on learning opportunities.

### **Mexican Border Opportunities for Service**

Kathy Schuurman reported on her week with Border Servant Corp as part of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Hand-in Hand Family Reunification Ministry, in the El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico region. She is very committed to this ministry and to encouraging others to help. Kathy Chatelaine from the se MN Synod office will speak on September 5 at St. Johns as part of the Courageous Conversations Series held by WELCA. Kathy Schuurman will submit a written report to be used as part of the discussion. She told us how local churches receive immigrants released from detention by ICE if they have a sponsor. Then people get to have a shower, have their clothes washed and get a second set of clothing. They have a health check and volunteers work with the people to develop travel plans to the location of their sponsor. The children receive a stuffed animal that will fit in a backpack. We can support this ministry by giving money to the se Minnesota Synod Border Servant Corp program.

### **Campus Ministry Donation**

At Pastor Pam's request our board approved a \$1000 donation for Campus Ministries and Good Earth Village as part of a special offering at the se MN Synod Assembly at the end of May.

### **Other Funding Considerations**

We have been supporting the missionary work of Curtis and Katie Kline in Columbia and their ministry is ending June 30, 2019. We have been asked to consider supporting another Latin American Missionary, Gustavo Driau.

For the month of May we are encouraging congregational support of Lutheran World Relief.

Thanks for Carolyn Nitz for writing in the Voice and preparing announcements for the weekly bulletin and news blasts.

### **Other**

A World Hunger Team (invitation only) is meeting in Minneapolis in July, but no one from our board is available to attend.

Kathy Schuurman is the hostess at the Legal Clinic meeting at St. Dominics the second Tuesday of the month, from 2-4:30 p.m. She asks that someone from our board cover for her absence in August. She brings light snacks and helps as needed. They are still trying to get work out about the clinic. Five people came this month.

The Benevolence Board is responsible for treats and devotions at the June 11 Board Meeting. We will bring root beer floats.

## **Adult Ministry and Education Board Tuesday, May 14, 2019**

Attending: Marilyn Calcutt, Rob Quanbeck and Andy Nelson

The first half of the Board Meeting time was spent in a joint meeting with the Benevolence/Social Concerns. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss working together on upcoming forums for the next year on climate change and sustainability. It was the general consensus of these combined groups that this would be a purposeful venture and a variety of topics were suggested as topics for forum presentations. A subcommittee was formed consisting of Kathy Shea, Marilyn Calcutt, Kathy Schuurman/Jo Franklin and Rob Quanbeck. This group will begin discussions on these forums and report back to their respective boards.

The Adult Ministry and Education Board moved to the library to hold their meeting.

### **Financial Report**

The Adult Ministry Board has received a donation from Lydia Circle in the amount of \$100 to be deposited into the Library Designated Fund.

### **Day Trip to Minnesota Landscape Arboretum**

Robert and Sandra Nyvall will be the leaders for this trip which will be held on June 18. Reservations will be made for a maximum number of 35 people. The cost for the Arboretum will be \$36 which will

include admission, box lunch in a private room, 50 minute narrated tram ride around the grounds and a 10% discount in the Arboretum store. Northfield Lines will be contacted to secure a bus for this trip. Sign-ups will be held on the Sundays prior to the trip.

### **Wednesday Night Pizza**

The Red Barn is back in business after the tornado and it was decided that we would do a St. John's Family Night at the Red Barn on Wednesday, June 26. Families are encouraged to attend and we can have a Wednesday night pizza dinner together.

On August 14, we are planning another family pizza night at Berne Woodfire Pizza in West Concord. We hope families will spend the evening together enjoying pizza and the music that will be provided.

### **Library**

New to the library this summer will be a Summer Reading Group held on the third Wednesday of June, July and August. The books selected will be Little Faith by Nichols Butler, A Road Back to Sweetgrass by Linda LaGarde Grover and Tinkers by Paul Harding.

### **Men's Group**

Discussion and planning is in the works for getting a men's group organized. Rob and Andy have been working on this and would appreciate any suggestions anyone may have.

## **Faith and Health Board Minutes**

**May 14, 2019 - 6:00 p.m.**

Present: Bonnie Peterson, Nancy Kluver, Melissa Berthelsen, Debby Nitz, Shirley Keltto, Guenther Moesler

**Blood Drive** - May 16 - The blood drive is scheduled 1-7 pm. Debby, Gunther, Shirley, Melissa and Bonnie will work at the check-in and snack tables at various times throughout the day. Bonnie will attend a Red Cross volunteer workshop in Eagan that morning. Bonnie is working with the Red Cross to set up an additional blood drive for August. She is also working with someone to make a graphic to display that shows the congregation how close we are to having the goal of 150 pints. Our blood drives are open to the public.

**Table for Mental Health Awareness Month** - Jane Rinehart and Barb Kuhlman will have a table on Sunday May 19 between services to let the congregation know about local mental health services. May is Mental Health Awareness Month.

**Wellness Information** - Melissa will follow up with Betsy Spethmann from the Northfield Hospital regarding a time to come to St. John's to speak about medicare wellness check ups.

**Transportation to Sunday Services from Parkview** - Nancy will contact a couple of area churches to see what they might be doing on this front with their members. Melissa will follow up with Pastor Fickenscher about members who reside at Parkview and their needs getting to church. She will also contact staff at NRC about drivers and vehicles.

**“Being Mortal” Event** - Debby and Melissa attended the showing of the PBS show “Being Mortal” at Weitz on April 23. This event was sponsored by the Northfield Hospital’s Advance Care Planning Advisory Council and Carleton College’s Ethical Inquiry. Following the film a discussion was led by Daniel Groll and Susan Lohmann. We discussed the possibility of showing this film at St. John’s maybe early in 2020 and have Susan Lohmann speak.

**July Board Meeting** - Bonnie reminded us that our board is scheduled to provide treats for the July board meeting. July 13 - reminder that this is the date for the next 150th Anniversary event - a church picnic at Way Park.

Submitted by Debby Nitz

### **Youth Board Minutes May 14, 2019**

Present: Jenny Nystrom, Barry Becker, Rob Nutt, Vassar Price, Emily Westerback, Dan Franklin, Johan Schroeer

Absent: Sue Hagen Staff: Angie Gehring, Pastor Jonathan Davis

#### **Updates from Youth Transition Team**

- New Hire for Director of Ministry with Youth and Families – Emmanuel Kaghondi  
Strong, positive feedback from meet and greet prior to making hiring decision

July 1 st tentative start date

- Welcoming/Get-to-know-you events for congregants to meet Emmanuel  
May 15th with Youth –final day programming walk to ice cream  
During regular events: National Night Out/July 150 yr celebration  
Hosting events in homes? (decided likely replace this w/Red Barn)  
Red Barn Pizza Gathering 6/19/19
  - Include contact info if need ride
  - Youth Board will cover up to 10 pizzas

- Invite families
- Need to confirm Emmanuel can come

### Youth Board Planning Retreats

- Blocks of time to work on scheduling 2019-2020 calendar events and to work on identifying volunteers for 2019-2020 calendar
  - Decided to do Volunteer retreat prior to calendar retreat as important to have Emmanuel involved in 2019-2020 calendaring if possible
- Identifying/Supporting Volunteers Retreat – June 9, 2019 3-7 p.m. at Jenny’s Potluck
  - Will NOT meet for regular Boards on 6/11/19 (retreat in lieu of board meeting)
  - Plan to look to parents/adults who have shown interest/gifts working with youth, categorize volunteers by gifts, find ways to allow more parental volunteering
  - Identify ways to incorporate Best Practices for St. John’s Person-Centered Service Program for Youth/Family volunteers
- Calendar Planning – August 4, 2019 3-7 p.m. at Barry’s
  - Earliest date with most everyone available and after Emmanuel’s start Date
  - Potluck
  - Attempt to get 2019-2020 tentative calendar
  - Consider identifying a few annual goals

### Recent Events:

- 4/21/19 - Easter Breakfast
  - Event went very well
  - Amount raised-\$1505
  - Feedback on event
    - Volunteers/Youth Involvement was good
    - Donations
      - Review amounts/types of food
      - E.g. too much milk, redistribute
- 4/28/19 High School Club - Peggy’s
  - No one was able to make it, limited attendance at HS club this year, but those who have gone have enjoyed it
  - Perhaps start at Middle school to get in habit?
  - Need to seek feedback from Peggy
- 5/1/19 - May Day Spring Care Package event distributed to homebound Members

Items included: prayer shawl, potted flowers/plant, chocolate, hand lotion, notes

Feedback:

Address for one was incorrect; One was a little caught off guard, otherwise overwhelmingly positive

Kids took turns presenting/talking

Received sweet thank you note and other feedback of gratitude

### Upcoming Events

- 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
- 8/6/19 – Night to Unite
- 10/26 – 10/28/19 – 150th Celebration Capstone Event

Next Meeting: 6/9/19 at 3:00 at Jenny's – Volunteer Planning Retreat

## Evangelism and Communications Committee

May 14, 2019

11:50 a.m., St. John's Hall

Present: Mark Gleason (Chair), Kristin Partlo, Daniel Edwins, Judy Karlsen, Leah Garlie

### Minutes

1. ECC reviewed agenda of April Council meeting, including family ministry hire and approval to proceed with hearing loop project.
2. ECC members reviewed progress on oral histories for 150th anniversary, lining up May and June interviews. ECC has finished 22 interviews, some of them involving more than one person, e.g. married members. ECC reviewed Daniel Edwins excellent video of the Arts "Beyond Words" forum on the arts. We discussed with Leah how to post the video on the St. John's website.
3. ECC continued discussion of logistics for interview: metadata forms, backup, posting on website, summaries.
4. ECC reviewed policies and practices for the bulletin boards in the common areas, making recommendations for placement. Leah will implement these to see how the new configurations work in terms of reaching intended audiences.

5. The board continued its attention to improving congregation use and satisfaction with the CCB platform, and we are still working towards a training event (Stewardship).

6. Installation of the new A-V recording equipment will be delayed until after painting of the balcony.

7. Mark G. reported meeting with lead donors on hearing loop project and confirming their contributions. His next step is drafting a Voice column, with the draft first to ECC and then to the pastors for their edits and approval. The column will invite St. John's member to contribute to the hearing loop project. ECC will continue to implement at the same time A-V software for closed captioning;

8. We continued to discuss the right size of big screen to propose, with an 86" inch tv a possibility, since will fit into the elevator, allowing use on all levels of the church buildings.