

Agenda

Congregation Council

St. John's Lutheran Church
June 28, 2016 + 7:00 p.m.

1. Prayer – *We begin our meeting centered in the presence of God.*

Silence, then opening prayer led by Sara Redetzke. *A time of silence for prayer and for gathering our hearts and minds together will precede the prayer.*

2. Future dates

a. Boards – **Tuesday, July 12th**, Fellowship and Treats at 6:45 p.m., Business Management Board provides treats and Devotion. Meeting at 7:00 p.m.

b. Council – **Tuesday, July 26th** 7:00pm; prayer – Bill Carlson.

3. Consent Agenda Items for Council

- a. Treasurer's Report for May 2016
- b. Minutes from the May 24, 2016 meeting

4. Pastors' Reports

5. Congregational Mission Visioning Discussion

- a. Financial Health of Congregation. Growth
 - i. Foundation)
 - ii. Next steps for the Committee and the Council
- b. Stewardship. Synod has contracted with an organization to provide structured programming for stewardship campaigns.

6. Council Action Items and Updates

- a. Confirmation of Martha Erickson to Business Management Board
- b. 150th Anniversary Planning
 - i. Historian(s)
 - ii. Fund Drive(s) and project vetting process
 - iii. Worship
- c. Property and Grounds. Identification of projects for Council approval.
- c. Evangelism. Update on signage needed to support new logo. Additional funding for design of logo for The Voice and outdoor layout and signage.
- d. RIC Updates.
- e. Refugee Resettlement. LSS has advised that a family has not been identified, yet.

Update: Foundation fund status

7. Other business

- a. Continuing dialogue between Council and Staff

8. Prayer – *The president leads a prayer asking God’s grace and help on our ministry. Items could include specific congregation needs / issues / items for thanksgiving; specific ministry areas of the congregation needing to be lifted to God; and/or any individual needs or requests council members would like to share in prayer.*

Lord’s Prayer: *After the president’s prayer is concluded, we finish the meeting praying the prayer Jesus taught us.*

9. Adjournment

Appendix: Board Minutes from June 14, 2016

Adult Ministry and Education

14 Jun 2016

Present: Alyssa Ness (chair), Sandra Nyvall, Martin Thorsheim Staff: Pr. Jonathan Davis Guest: David Sudermann New Member

We welcomed Mr. Thorsheim to the board and gave him a brief summary of the current issues that this board is focusing on recently and for the year, including our goal to define our role(s).

Proposed Political Event for Fall 2016 Mr. Sudermann returned to give us an update on the political event he has proposed to take place at St. John's in the time leading up to the elections in November.

- At this time, no date proposed; he is hoping to observe the Pub Theology events over the next few weeks, and see how interested and receptive members of the congregation and community are towards such an event before he reconnects with Mr. Hofrenning and Mr. Kaiser. ○ Pr. Davis suggests that Mr. Sudermann meet with him in July to discuss potential Pub Theology topic(s)/article(s)/etc.; mentioned that the political event could possibly be advertised/pitched at a Pub Theology discussion.
- Greg Colby may be interested and willing to moderate such a discussion. ○ Some questions will be prepared ahead of time, but there will also be an opportunity to submit questions during the event, probably in an anonymous way.
- Mr. Thorsheim suggests that this type of event could cover some local political topics, as well as the broader national topics. Defining Our Board's Role: Delegate Reports At the previous meeting, all present agreed to make contact with a specific person/group under the Adult Ministry & Education "umbrella" to find out how the person/groups are doing and what they might need from our board by way of support. Mr. Reid & Mr. Dahlin are both away on vacation at this current meeting; Ms. Anderson has been kept late at her place of employment on both meetings dates. Therefore at this time there were only reports from Ms. Nyvall and Pr. Davis.
- Ms. Nyvall met with the library committee (Norma Gilbertson, Mary Polzin, Susan Canon) and offers the following:
 - The committee wants to be kept more fully apprised about Adult Education classes, confirmation events, and current events addressed at church and whether related materials could be purchased for them for placement in the library.
 - The library budget no longer exists as such; it was absorbed by another budget. ○ Committee is interested in obtaining new resource equipment and a new printer; upon conversing with Bernie, Ms. Nyvall notes that he has encouraged the committee to come speak with him about these needs. ○ Ms. Nyvall and Susan Schere will inventory the children's books (with Norma's blessing and Julie Brehmer's knowledge).
 - The committee wonders if there could be some sort of staffing in the library at certain times, and/or possibly an feature article in the Voice every month that showcases a book or the library in some way (more visibility)
- Pr. Davis suggests that a nonfaculty person could start some sort of book study which could bring awareness to the library.
- Pr. Davis consulted with members of the Adult Forum committee about future planning of Forum:

- A number of them expressed willingness to continue on the committee, but agreed that the planning process could use a fresh format. This will continue to be discussed and explored, but at this point in time, there is some interest in giving the pastors more leeway in choosing how to fill the schedule. Additional Notes & Upcoming Events
- Mr. Sudermann has compiled a list of 2016 St. John's graduates of various types, in the hope that perhaps they can be mentioned in prayer or otherwise acknowledged. He notes that as soon as the children of the congregation graduate from high school, they often just "disappear."
- General discussion about the Forum:
 - Pr. Davis provided us with a draft of what has been scheduled so far for the first half of the year; we will get regular updates on the changing schedule as changes are made.
 - Mr. Thorsheim noted that December 4 could serve as a sort of "debriefing" forum after the November elections, if desired.
 - Mr. Thorsheim also offers that, if we are seeking a more "scholarly" versus "wide-reaching" balance, they could be alternated every other Sunday (ex: "Bible study" one Sunday vs. "broader topic" the next Sunday).
 - Pr. Davis wonders how it might look to do at least some Forums concurrent with Sunday School lessons.
- Alan Storey/"Manna & Mercy" Retreat update from Pr. Davis:
 - Pr. Storey is a Methodist pastor from Cape Town, South Africa, known as the last conscientious objector to the apartheid.
 - The idea is for the event to be "open door" available to all (community, area pastors, etc.)
 - Event runs Friday, September 30, through Saturday, October 1.
 - Refreshments would be needed for Friday evening; Saturday breakfast, lunch, coffee/snacks. Ms. Ness will seek Ms. Anderson's input and insights on this matter to discuss at future meetings

Benevolence

No meeting in June.

Children's Ministry

June meeting is scheduled for later this month due to Board conflicts with original date.

Evangelism

Evangelism & Communications Board meeting minutes: 6/14/16

Members presents: Andrea Hoff (Chair), Daniel Edwins, Kristin Partlo, Erik Lindell

Absent: Alan Marks, Dave Zdenek

Topics discussed:

- 1) **Signage: interior and exterior:** Since our May meeting, Daniel, Dave and Alan met to discuss interior signage needs. Daniel noted that we currently have 3-4 signage types/styles being used. We agreed that now is a good time to make the signage consistent throughout the church, especially with the new graphic identity/recommended color palette. Steps to take in the coming month will be to take specific inventory of all the signs needed and get a cost estimate to produce these signs. We also have need for additional signs (ie. restrooms, directional signs to the top 5-10 locations in the church that most often need directing to such as the sanctuary, church office, Fireside room, St. John's Hall, etc). Regarding exterior signage. Pam and I met with Don Bratland. Don created a vertical layout of the new logo, address and worship service info to be used for new window decals. With some modifications, we agreed this could be a good design for the outdoor sign.
- 2) **Monitors:** Daniel, Dave and Alan also researched and made recommendations regarding monitor/s in the Commons area and at the southwest entrance. At a minimum, they recommended one monitor in the Commons (location likely on wall next to St. John's Hall entrance). Two monitors in the Commons would be preferred as well as one Monitor by the southwest entrance. Daniel recommends using MVix system for content and a commercial grade monitor. Approximate low end cost per unit (MVix+monitor) would be ~\$650 plus any electrician fees. We decided to discuss further at our next Board meeting before making a request to Council
- 3) **Bulletin boards:** Kristin and I met this month to look at bulletin boards and develop recommendations, changing content based on function with the hope of reducing stagnant and cluttered bulletin board content. We continue to be in conversation and planning around this topic and hope to have a recommendation in the next 1-2 months.
- 4) **Communications to-do list:** Leah presented a communications to-do list that she put together based on remaining steps for implementing the new graphic identity. Leah is collaborating with Daniel Edwins to develop a common email blast format that meets staff needs and, preferably, uses CCB platform.

Agenda items for Council meeting:

Update on graphic identity/style guide

Action item: Request for additional money for Holmes Design to both develop The Voice template and outdoor signage design/layout.

Faith and Health

Faith and Health Board

Members present: Naomi Bartley, Jennifer Edwins, Melissa Berthelson, Lynette Marks and Pam Fickenscher.

Members excused: Howard Thorsheim, Lareyna Iqbar.

Our board continues to edit/draft a manual addressing safety procedures for St. John's. Tasks were divided amongst board members present as assignment for our next meeting in July.

Property and Grounds

Property and grounds board minutes, from June 14, 2016.

Members present: Bill, Char, Pat.

Staff present: Tim

Projects in the works, scheduled, and completed:

- repair sidewalks \$4075
- replace for boiler valves. (maintenance fund) \$2459
- hedge along Otterness property. Also had to trim some trees to allow more light for the new hedge. \$3000
- tree on southwest corner of property is dead. This was donated by Wil Broze, many years ago. (Memorial). Wil and Knechts Nurseries, are working on replacement options. St. John's would cover The cost to remove the tree.
- woodwork maintenance program. We started this in February. It costs approximately \$450 a month depending on the amount of work that was done.
(450 x 11 = \$4950)
- mulch supply for "Adopt A Garden" \$1500 (grounds upkeep fund).

Other Targeted projects for 2016:

- paint and scrape exterior stain glass sanctuary windows. Stain glass window above front steps . Eight windows above the coat hooks . Nine exterior basement windows . \$14,000
- refinish wood doors to the main entrance of St. John's Commons. \$6000
- crack fill and seal coat North and South parking lots. Also includes restriping parking lots. \$9100
- install air conditioning for Nathan's office and small meeting room upstairs \$5000

This is a total of approximately \$34,000

The Property and Grounds have a budget of \$33,000 to work with this year. We believe some of these items would be considered normal maintenance, and should probably be funded from the maintenance funds.

One project that has just recently surfaced, that was not in our original plans. The south east entrance (door number 10) to Fellowship Hall. The roof is beginning to leak very bad and is starting to deteriorate the walls. This will cost approximately \$5500 to put a new roof on that area. This is a project that will need to be taken care of sooner than later.

There are several very large projects that need to be done in the future. We will have to set up some special Fund Raisers, donations, or gifts from St. John's congregation. We need some thoughts and ideas. Our Board talked about the 150th anniversary committee helping figure out some of these projects. Have we established this committee yet?

- replace 30 ton air conditioner \$49,600
- refinished pews and sanctuary \$41,500
- New blacktop for southwest parking lot \$47,000

I would like to discuss this at the council meeting. We are looking for any thoughts, suggestions, or ideas to help us out, and to keep these projects moving forward.

Thanks Bill Malecha
Property and Grounds Board chair.

Stewardship – June 7, 2016

We met at the Van Tassels' home and opened with chat, refreshments, and a prayer for guidance. Attending were Pastor Pam, Sandi, Patty, Mark, Dave, Dan (chair), and Rhoda (who served as scribe in Susan's absence). While Ralph couldn't be here, his favorable view of participating in the GBS program was shared in an email the chair read at the meeting.

Discussion centered on the pros and cons of linking with the comprehensive "Stewardship for All Seasons" professional fund raising program of Gronlund Sayther Burnkow (GSB), which has been endorsed and is partially underwritten by the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. The need to meet earlier than at our normally scheduled time was called for by the mid-June deadline for still applying to be part of the 2016 cohort.

The costs involved are relatively minimal: \$500 or so for printing and either a flat \$1,000 per year or 10% of increased revenue. Our participation entails group attendance at six periodic meetings to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, in Owatonna, beginning in late August and ending in early April.

We would likely want and need to expand our team to carry out the responsibilities of attending and following up on the cohort meetings and engaging in face-to-face and written and other communications with all St. John's members as we seek to invite participation in the pledging effort.

It was observed that we have a promisingly substantial base, but that aside from those who faithfully pledge and honor their pledge, there are some who pledge and don't give and others who give but don't pledge. Another significant factor is that a sizable portion of the financial support presently is borne by an aging segment of the congregation, most of the top givers being over age seventy. Obviously, we need to plan for the future by building and encouraging greater support from the younger constituency.

We shared ideas about how best to ask church members to give and how to maximize the making of pledges an experience resulting in the joy of giving. Some may rightly feel that the only time they hear from the church is when they are asked for money. How do we convey the sense that giving is

an opportunity and that giving should be factored into the household budget as a priority? What are the best and most positive and effective ways to approach members in the solicitation process? Would a revival of the so-called "cottage meetings" make for a more welcoming and personalized method of sharing and living up to our stewardship goals?

Mark pointed up that we might even get a donor to underwrite the expenses of our going forward with the proposed program. Patty said she's convinced that by trying this new program we will end up ahead of where we are now. Everyone agreed. Another sentiment we rallied to was that "It's easier to give if you pledge."

The upshot of our give and take? It was moved, seconded, and unanimously agreed that we undertake the "Stewardship for All Seasons" venture. Pam and Dan will communicate with Brent and the Council, anticipating their full advocacy.

Minutes edited and approved by the chair