

**Minutes**  
*Congregation Council*

St. John's Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN

April 24, 2018

Present: Rob Quanbeck, Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Terry Dell, Jennifer Edwins, Martha Erickson, Erik Holloque, Dan Van Tassel, Nancy Ordahl Knoch, Jane Rinehart, Ruthie Neuger, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Mary Hoff, Mark Gleason, Alyssa Ness, Jenny Nystrom

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Rob Quanbeck. All Council members were present.

**1. Opening Prayer** - Offered by Martha Erickson.

**2. Future dates**

a. Boards – May 8, 2018 7:00 pm (at chairs' discretion). Treats provided by Property & Grounds Board at 6:45pm. Ralph Yernberg will make present a brief (approximately 10-15 minutes) introduction to accessing the Thrivent website.

Reminder: Please call or e-mail your board members prior to the meeting and remind them.

b. Council – **May 22, 2018**, 7:00pm; Terry Dell, devotion

**3. Pastor's Report**

Holy Week and Easter. Attendance for services during 2018 was slightly lower than some previous years. Spring break dates coincided with the dates for Holy Week and Easter. This is a busy time for the pastoral team and St. John's staff.

Official Acts: Elaine Kringen funeral

New Member Sunday: 9 households joined St. Johns on 4/22.

Pr. Pam and Jo Franklin attended the annual liturgical conference at Valparaiso University. Focus of the conference was on baptism and welcome.

Minneapolis Star Tribune included an article in the Sunday (April 22, 2018) Variety section about the TORCH program at Northfield High School. The article has been linked to the St. John's Facebook page.

Synod Assembly will occur the last weekend in April. Pr. Pam, Pr. Jonathan, Kristin Partlo, Tarkel Price and Jane Rinehart will attend the Assembly.

Pr. Jonathan and Angie Gehring are working to plan the youth mission trips, graduation recognition & celebration.

Pr. Pam accompanied a group trip to the Good Friday service at a Greek Orthodox Church in St. Paul. Attending the service provided a valuable experience for the group.

Stephen Ministries. Work is underway to pair Stephen Ministry volunteers with home bound members. Pairing home bound members with a Stephen Ministry member will augment pastoral and Parish Nurse outreach to home bound members. Rob asked how many people are currently active Stephen Minister volunteers; there are currently 15 active members.

#### **4. Council Action Items and Updates**

- a. Council and Board Summer Schedule – Rob Quanbeck. Boards are encouraged to meet over the summer months. If there is little to discuss, a meeting in July is recommended.
  - i. Meeting Date and Treat Schedule. July and August Devotion and Treat assignments were changed.
    01. July – Children’s Ministry & Education/Devotion-Erik Holleque
    02. August – Faith & Health Board/Devotion-Jennifer Edwins
    03. June – Benevolence Board/Devotion-Jane Rinehart
- b. Thrivent disbursement update. St. John’s has received the first disbursement from Thrivent. Ralph Yernberg is of the opinion that the disbursement amounts could be increased with education for Thrivent contributors. Funds have been disbursed as follows: Children & Youth - 40%; WELCA – 40%; Capital projects – 20%. Rob Quanbeck made the motion to continue to disburse Thrivent funds in the same manner for 2018. Motion passed unanimously.
- c. Library update – Adult Learning/Alyssa Ness. Alyssa provided an update on the status of the library reorganization project. A group has been formed to spearhead this initiative. Shelving has been identified as a need to organize materials in a manner that would encourage use of this resource. The group is also looking at software to manage the materials.
- d. Grace Overflowing update. Pledges for this campaign total \$820,000.00  
At this time, 40% of the pledged funds have been received. Bernie Renander is developing a cash flow plan based on the pledged amounts. A Spending Committee has been identified and will be tasked with driving the release of funds.
  - i. Worship and Arts Board will commission art and music in honor of this event
  - ii. Celebration planning will occur to commemorate this event.
  - iii. Proposed celebration events:
    01. St. Olaf Choir Sunday – January 2019
    02. Easter 2019
    03. Summer celebration event
    04. Last weekend in October/Reformation Sunday – Capstone celebration
  - iv. New benevolence project is being planned to take advantage of the generosity of the funds pledged.
  - v. Properties projects
    01. Restoration of Good Shepherd window will begin in the next week or so, based on weather conditions.
    02. AC control replacement will begin within the next week or so.
    03. Largest projects in the Capital campaign are tuck pointing and renovation of Fellowship Hall.
    04. Sidewalk replacement to address heaved concrete will be addressed now that the snow has melted and the ground frost has thawed.
    05. Pew refinishing update: Terry Dell provided an update on the status of this project. Sandblasting the pews did not result in the desired outcome; the process is too aggressive for the wood. Other refinishing processes may be costly and time-consuming. The process is being examined.
- e. Funeral Hospitality Group update – Rob Quanbeck. Recommendations are being drafted for presentation to the pastoral staff. Recommendations from the Funeral/Hospitality group will be shared with Council following approval by pastoral staff. Changes to the funeral and hospitality functions will be phased in over time, upon approval by the Council.

#### **5. Consent Agenda Items for Council**

- a. Treasurer's Report, March 2018

b. Minutes from the March 20, 2018 meeting  
Mark Gleason made the motion to accept the Treasurer's Report for March 2018 and the Minutes from the March Council meeting. Jennifer Edwins seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**6. A closing prayer was offered by Rob Quanbeck, and he led us in the Lord's Prayer.**

**7. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Harms