

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Board of Directors Minutes
April 28, 2021**

Audio Conference:

Dial In: 605-472-5577

Access: 494369#

2021 St. Paul's Board of Directors:

Zac Huffman, Bernice Prescott, Cyndie Dixon, Rick Wood, Jen Houck

Diane Segelhorst, Carol Cook, Pastor Teklu

Present: Pastor, Zac, Diane, Cyndie, Jen

Call to Order - Opening Prayer:

Pastor thanked God for the beautiful day as well as the opportunity to serve. He acknowledged how much we rely on God the Holy Spirit, His mercy and grace. He asked for His wisdom and strength as we plan for His church.

Approval of April 14, 2021 BoD meeting minutes:

Diane suggested that we clarify in the minutes that the Sunday School conducted in the Fellowship Hall is *Adult Bible Study*. The minutes were approved with the abovementioned edit.

Treasurer's Report - March, 2021

March Budget Status: **81.19%** of goal, up from February 68.98% (due to Easter?)

- Offerings YTD: \$37,241.64; under goal: **(\$8,629.65)**

- Expenses YTD: \$43,998.91; under budget **\$1,882.60**

- Overall YTD: all income minus expenses **(\$959.72)**

- 2021 budget: \$183,485.16; \$3,528.56/wk

- Diane had a question regarding the labels of the various columns on the Excel Spreadsheet as well as a question regarding the utilities. Charlotte responded during the meeting with clarification. The minutes were approved after the clarification.

Pastor's Report

- ***Member/family contact:***

Pastor had made contact with 20 families via phone calls, emails and mailings.

He hopes to begin in person contact next week. Three families have contacted him regarding family counseling. He has counseled two families one time. He referred one family to Christian pastoral counseling.

- He prayed for 15 Confirmation class members and their families. Twelve students attended the class; one via Zoom.
- Adult Bible study takes place in the Fellowship Hall each week between services. They are studying the Book of Acts. On April 25, there were sixteen attendees.

Pastor's goal is for the attendance to reach 25-30 members. In this way, the spiritual life of attendees will grow. People may attend through Zoom as well as in person.

- Pastor is conducting his first sermon series, entitled, "New Life After Resurrection". The feedback has been positive and attendance has been strong. The next sermon series will be entitled, "Living by Faith" and will last four weeks.
- The next Ministry Staff Planning meeting is scheduled for May 5, 2021 at 7:00. The focus will continue to be on planning second quarter activities that align with the Strategic Plan. The activity planning is being done by various, appropriate committees.
- Confirmation class began on April 22, 2021. More textbooks have been ordered. Pastor reported that the students did well working in small groups considering it was their first meeting.
- St. Paul's will begin "Oasis", a casual, outdoor service with devotions, games, music and basketball on the parking lot. This will begin on June 5 from 4-5:00. The details are still being worked out. Counseling and prayer will be provided and spiritual questions will be answered individually as needed.
- The 2nd service continues to be streamed through You Tube. Pastor would like 6 volunteers; two more are needed. Each volunteer will be trained.

Open Items from Last Meeting - None

Current Agenda Items

- *Reopening Ad-Hoc Planning Committee*
The CDC has loosened guidelines regarding masks, social distancing, and cleaning. Currently, social gatherings are no longer limited to ten people. The Fellowship Hall reopened April 5, 2021.
- Diane noted that the County Executive of Anne Arundel County has lifted restrictions on all social gatherings. This has impacted the groups that have previously met in the church building, such as Quilters, the Ladies Lunch, Music on the Parking Lot, etc. It was decided that they can gather in any number if they adhere to masking, social distancing, contact tracing protocols. The matter of opening the kitchen was discussed at length. Lifebridge hosts weekly dinners in the hall, uses the kitchen and are excellent at cleaning. Due to the pandemic, Lifebridge has not been able to host those dinners. It was decided that we should postpone making a decision at this time. Diane will confer with Judy for medical advice and ask Penny what her plans are for fellowship activities. We may conduct a survey asking the congregation's opinion regarding the reopening. When the kitchen does open, the attendees will be expected to wear masks because some members are not vaccinated. This will be safer for our elderly population.
- It was decided that all the pews would be opened, which would provide for better distancing. The pews will continue to be cleaned (wiped down) even though the

CDC determined the risk of virus transmission via surface contamination is low. This topic will be revisited at the next meeting.

- Zac recommended that AA resume meeting at St. Paul's on May 5, 2021. The kitchen will remain off limits. The board agreed.

Strategic Plan Project:

- The focus continues to be on planning second and third quarter activities. Zac and Pastor will meet with Tina Jaison on April 29.
- St. Paul's has purchased the Mapping Center to access the area's demographics. Diane asked if we have an up-to-date brochure to hand out to her new neighbors. Presently, one does not exist, but Jen volunteered to work on designing one. She requested that info for the activities be sent to her for inclusion in the brochure.
- Oasis is part of the Strategic Plan focus. This will begin on June 5th from 4-5:00. See details above.
- A Children's Music program had been proposed but at this time the focus is on making Oasis successful. Perhaps this program will begin in August. Jane is recruiting people to implement. Pastor would like to implement a parent support group to run concurrently.

Streaming Video & Audio

- The target date for streaming of both services has yet to be determined as more volunteers are needed. Pastor would like six volunteers to serve on the Tech Committee to enable both the Traditional and Contemporary services to be streamed.
- Diane mentioned that there was a problem with the audio and video capabilities and that Proclaim is not as straightforward as it could be. It could be the way it was wired. Pastor will ask the Tech Team for clarification and, possibly hire a professional to correct the problem. Zac said that the issue should be researched further.
- Awards will be announced in May 2021 for the SED \$1500 technology grant. The application was submitted by Charlie Frater on April 4, 2021.

Outreach CCCC Food Pantry / Baby Pantry collection:

- The drive was held on Sat, April 24, 2021 from 9:30 - 11:00am.
- Penny had written an article and pictures were submitted 4/27/21 for possible inclusion in SED newsletter.

Basketball Net Purchase Update:

- Del Jenstrom researched the purchase of a portable basketball hoop for use during "Oasis". He will order a Lifetime 90023 Portable Backboard Basketball System for \$207.35 through Amazon. It should be received within a week. The BoD approved the purchase and installation.

Library:

- Judy requested the purchased of a small IKEA bookcase for additional books. It would cost about \$50.00. The BoD approved the purchase.

Photo directory:

- Some edits must be done to the directory to accommodate new member pictures and changes of address. Diane will put an article in the newsletter requesting new/changed information from the congregation. The congregants should submit the changes by May 23. Jen will gather this information. Diane will ask Kate Hausner to help review for accuracy. Jen will publish electronically and make 75 hard copies. The target date for completion is the end of May.

Church Cleaning Service:

- For many years, St. Paul's has employed Cover All as its cleaning company for \$375.00/month. The work has been mediocre. Periodically, some women from the Lifebridge congregation conduct a deep cleaning of the church building. It was suggested that we hire these women to clean on a regular basis. Some concerns arose at this suggestion, such as, insurance and the hiring of individuals as opposed to an established company. Zac will discuss with Charlotte and research.

The next Congregational Meeting will take place on June 13, after 2nd service, at approximately 11:30.

The next BoD meeting will be held Wednesday May 12, 2021 at 5:30PM. It was decided that they will meet one time per month. The next Ministry Planning meeting will be held on May 22.

Service Views 2021:

4/1 Maundy Thur: 66 total (38 in person, 7 live stream / 21 later, 0 audio)

4/2 Good Friday: 42 total (24 in person, 16 live stream / 2 later, 0 audio)

4/4 Easter Sunday:

8:15am 40 total (40 in person, no live stream, 0 audio)

10:30am 75 total (41 in person, 10 live stream / 24 later, 0 later)

April 11

8:15am 30 total (27 in person, no live stream, 3 audio)

10:30am 50 total (27 in person, 23 live stream, 0 audio)

April 18

8:15am 30 total (27 in person, no live stream, 3 audio)

10:30am 37 total (25 in person, 12 live stream, 0 audio)

April 25

8:15am 32 total (29 in person, no live stream, 3 audio)

10:30am 39 total (29 in person, 10 live stream, 0 audio)