

Congregational Meeting

June 26, 2022

Present: Pastor Teklu, Zac Huffman, Linda Hoffman, Penny Courtney, Cyndie Dixon, Jen Houck, Erin Mitchell, Dan Mitchell, Diane Segelhorst, David Sturgeon, Jerry Kane, Marg Kane, Sandi Corwin, Jane Felsentreger, Carol Cook, Bernice Prescott, Linda Craig, Dana Brown

President Zac Huffman called the meeting to order at 11:35am.

Pastor Teklu opened with prayer.

David and Amanda Sturgeon will sign the Constitution after the meeting because he and his wife are new members.

The December 2021 congregation meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Treasurer's Report (May, 2022)

- General comments
- 2022 Budget: \$195,154.63; \$3,752.97/wk needed to meet budget
- May budget status: **107.83% of goal**
- Offerings YTD: \$87,138.30; over goal: **\$6,323.85***
- Expenses YTD: \$59,906.52; under budget **\$21,407.54**
- Overall YTD: all income minus expenses **\$27,731.39**
- * Includes IRS Employee Retention Tax Credit: \$16,375.94, received

5/3/2022

Michelle Crislip has taken over as Financial Secretary and has submitted the reports in a different but acceptable manner.

Dana Brown in in charge of Accounts Payable.

The Board of Directors, as well as Jerry Kane, receive the Treasurer's Report on a monthly basis.

Jane moved and Penny seconded a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. It was approved unanimously.

Pastor Report: Pastor Teklu

“The God of heaven will make us prosper, and we his servants will arise and build,...”. (Nehemiah 2:20)

The Lord of the church has given our congregation the privilege to proclaim the Gospel through Word and Sacraments. The Ministry Teams have been working on the church’s vision to grow towards spiritual maturity and “an outward-facing church.” The Pastoral Office, the Board of Directors and Ministry Teams have also been working on the following activities in God’s grace.

Strategic Plan:

Vision

St. Paul’s is a vibrant, family-oriented Lutheran community united in fostering an outward-facing ministry by actively serving the congregation and community.

Goal/ Quarter 1 &2 of 2022

Support and nurture families/households by encouraging daily spiritual rhythms and providing engaging service opportunities to promote spiritual growth

Activities implemented to achieve Quarter 1 & 2 goals

- Daily devotion link from Lutheran Hour Ministries shared with members.
- Counseling
- Gospel proclaimed on various Sermon Series themes including: United in Christ, Why Church, God’s mercy, new life, and Suffering
- Confirmation class
- Midweek Lent devotion
- Easter celebration
- High School Senior recognition
- Single service on selected Sundays to facilitate all member’s fellowship
- Mail welcome letters and St. Paul’s Brochures to our new neighbors that move into Crofton and Gambrills.
- Subscribe database application software and enter members information
- Facilitate Summer outdoor fellowship/ “The Well” for all members. The event includes games, devotions, songs, meeting of young parents, Youth Group planning, VBS and refreshments.

1. Member's care.

Although the pandemic was a major hindrance for in-person visits, using the windows of low infection rates, St. Paul's members that are homebound, sick, and in particular need have been visited, counseled, encouraged, and comforted with God's word and sacraments. Homebound members get a hard copy of the weekly sermon and dial in to the Liturgical worship service via Zoom. We had two funeral services in the last two quarters as well.

2. Special Services

In God's grace we were able to have: Midweek Lenten devotion on God's mercy, Easter celebration, confirmands first communion celebration, and high school senior recognition.

3. Prayer Ministry

St. Paul's prayer team has been praying every Thursday for members, believers, community, our nation, and the nations of the world experiencing different challenges and blessings.

4. Worship Service

We offer Liturgical and Praise worship services every Sunday. Tonight, June 26, we are beginning an evening service for families that could not worship in person on Sunday mornings. Both *morning* services may be attended in person and online. We thank God for protecting us during the COVID 19 pandemic and enabling us to continue to gather and worship our Savior.

5. Adult Bible Class

We took summer break on Memorial Day weekend after studying the book of Acts. We will resume Adult Bible Class on Labor Day weekend. We are planning to study the book of Romans. I encourage all members to join the Bible class either in person or via Zoom. Bible study is where we grow in our faith as disciples and identify our spiritual gifts to serve the Lord.

6. Confirmation Class

Twelve confirmands attended Confirmation class. Education Team members and I taught the classes. We are blessed to observe our youth grow in their faith every week.

6. Youth Ministry

We are blessed that the Youth Ministry has begun under the direction of Chad and Andrea Muntz. I encourage parents to bring your children and youth to the church ministry where they grow in their faith.

7. Confirmation Class

After a year of confirmation class, eleven youth were confirmed last April. We thank God for the confirmands and pray that they stand firm in their faith through worship, fellowship and youth group mentoring.

8. Supporting Teams

There are active and helpful teams supporting the Ministry Team, including the Prayer Team, Worship Team, Sunday School Team, Sermon Series Team, Hospitality Team, Home Visit Team, and Advisory Team. The team members are committed lay ministers serving the Lord joyfully.

9. Training

There are different pieces of training provided by the District and Concordia Seminary that I have been attending. The activities have been helpful and eye-opening. Most parts of the trainings provide practical guidelines that seminaries do not teach. I also have coaches that mentor me. I thank God for all who are investing in me and other pastors. Currently Ms. Cyndie Dixon and I are attending a two - year discipleship training program, entitled Discipleship to Missional Community conducted through the District Office.

Meetings

There are various meetings that I have been attending, including Staff and Team meetings, Board meetings, Circuit meetings, District meetings, and administrative meetings.

Finally, I would like to praise the Lord of the harvest who gave me St. Paul's faith family and His grace to serve him. I also thank you all for supporting me in your prayers and resources.

In God's love,

Pastor Teklu Ketema

Old Business

Items of old business will be covered in the Team Reports below.

Team Reports

Worship Team Report: Jane Feltentreger

Altar Guild – Bernice Prescott

Altar Guild is recruiting new members. An article about the colors of the paraments and their reasons appears in the monthly newsletter.

The Guild will schedule a day to clean the wood in the altar area. The Guild gave each confirmand a cross for their Confirmation. The Guild has begun including the donations of Sunday flowers in Sunday's bulletin. Erin and Dan Mitchell, Linda Craig, and Bernice finished cleaning up from Easter. Bernice and Bob Prescott and Erin Mitchell moved Marilyn Harris' funeral flowers from the funeral home to the church for the morning service. On the Friday before Easter, Homestead Garden informed Bernice that they could not provide us with lilies. This year the lilies were purchased from Patuxent Nursery at a better price. Thank you to Bob Prescott for his immediate intervention.

The "Alleluia" banner was donated by Jane Feltentreger.

Liturgical Service – Charlton Henry

The piano and organ are in good shape. He has finished the hymns for June and July's Liturgical Services and will complete August soon.

Praise and Worship Service – Jane Feltentreger

Jane reviewed the history of the Praise and Worship Service bringing home the point that we are back at the beginning of its inception. We have a guitar and singer that are not always available. We have also exhausted people who have offered to select music for this service. The new plan is to use the piano and guitar to accompany the songs and to select familiar hymns and songs. The main goal is to preserve the Praise and Worship service. The make-up of our

congregation demands two different service on Sunday mornings – a traditional (Liturgical) and a contemporary (Praise and Worship). The new plan will go into effect on June 5th.

Thank you to Cyndie Dixon, Linda Craig, and Diane and Carrie Segelhorst for selecting music in the past.

Acolytes – Sandi Corwin

Sandi reported that there will be acolytes for the month of June with one vacate Sunday – July 19th for the Praise and Worship Service.

Pastoral Assistants and Ushers

These positions have also been scheduled for the month of June.

In the near future we will be adding a member's database, ICON CMO, which will contain information (birth, attendance, etc.) for all of it members.

The team decided that there will be one service on Sunday, July 10th, at 10:00 a.m. The service will be Liturgical. The Folk Scholarship will be presented during the service. A picnic will follow celebrating Pastor Teklu's 2nd anniversary as our Pastor.

The Team decided to offer a Sunday evening church service beginning on June 26th from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. These services would be held on the Sundays when "The Well" is not being held. These services will not be streamed. Cyndie Dixon, Charlton Henry, Bernice Prescott, Jane Felsentreger, and Pastor. Cyndie Dixon will serve as the facilitator. The services are planned by the Pastor and the lay members will help with the ideas, ushering, etc. They will meet on Friday, June 17th at 11:00 a.m. in-person at the church.

Communion at the rail – Even though the team realizes that people are ready for this, they voted not to begin "communion at the rail" at this time.

Return of the green hymnals – There has been a request for the green hymnals to return. In addition to the red/brown hymnals in the pew packs, a green hymnal will be added. Cyndie Dixon volunteered to research this and found them on Ebay. The total cost was \$311.33 and they arrived at the church on June 23. Penny

Courtney and Kate Hausner will share in the cost of the hymnals. Jane, Penny and Cyndie put them in the pews on June 23.

It was decided that Pastoral Assistants and Acolytes will opt to robe or not throughout the summer.

Submitted by

Jane Felsentreger, Worship Team Chair

Tech Team: Diane Segelhorst

Many thanks to the members of the Tech team who help every single week to present the services in church and stream them online. We are always looking for a few more people. One of the two positions needed every Sunday is really very easy – just advancing the slides as the service progresses. Anyone who would be interested in helping should contact Diane Segelhorst.

Projects completed in the time January-June 2022:

- Created new sign-up genius to manage tech team assignments – thanks to Jen Houck for setting this up and continuing to maintain it
- Repaired wireless microphone charging station
- Repaired one wireless microphone and purchased one replacement battery
- Installed organ microphones and wired them into the sound board
- Cleaned out and organized the sound booth, the tech closet behind the drum set, and the tech items stored in the music room
- Put together a mobile sound system to support The Well and other offsite services. Set up system for the first Well service. We were able to use existing equipment for this system except for one wired mic with on/off switch, which was purchased for approximately \$35.
- Mentored new Office Manager Leigh Ann Hinton as she learned to use the Proclaim software for producing the services
- Erin Mitchell taught both Diane Segelhorst and Leigh Ann Hinton to use the Canva software to produce graphics for the services, YouTube and social media.
- Rick Wood trained Diane Segelhorst, Leigh Ann Hinton, and Zac Huffman on programming the outdoor electronic sign. Leigh Ann has been updating the sign regularly – Diane is the back-up.

Projects for 3rd quarter 2022:

- Complete wiring diagram for sound/video system
- Improve video system by replacing multiple combiners and splitters with central hub
- Provide combined camera and slide feed and audio to the nursery TV that mimics the stream but in real time
- Repair the Narthex speaker system
- Hire sound professional to help balance sound board and streaming audio feeds
- Investigate replacement of (ancient) streaming computer with computer purchased by previous tech lead – not sure it is appropriate

Diane Segelhorst

Tech Team Chair

Fellowship Team: Penny Courtney

- 2 funeral receptions (Myer / Grieco)
- 2 Soup & Sandwich Suppers during Lent
- Easter Breakfast between services
- Reception for Communion/Confirmation
- Reception – High School Graduation
- Though not arranged by Fellowship Team, Men's Coffee Hour, Ladies Lunch and Breakfast fellowships continue monthly.
- Plans for remainder of 2022: Celebration Potluck 2nd Sunday of July, Pastor's 2nd anniversary at St. Paul's. More – TBD.

Outreach Report: Penny Courtney

- In February sent Love Boxes for college young adults
- Set a goal of 500 Hygiene Kits to Lutheran World Relief (Ukraine) as a Lenten discipline project for the congregation; provided an opportunity for community to

help; 2 Scout troops participated in project. Total of 609 kits donated. Extra supplies distributed to Light House Shelter (Annapolis); homeless projects at two neighborhood churches; Arundel Vol Fire Dept. Nothing was wasted!

--- Held 1 Food Drive and 1 Food/Baby Pantry Drive to benefit CCCC elements. Certain food staples donated to Lutheran Mission Society each time. Ladies Lunch/Marj Kane sponsored an annual Baby Shower for the CCCC Baby Pantry – it was generously supported.

--- CARE bags/friendly visitors continue on a monthly basis to homebound/ill church members & friends. About 16 individual bags each month. Each household was gifted with Easter flowers in addition to the CARE bag.

--- PLANS for remainder of 2022 – TBD. Stay tuned!!

Planning for April 2023 – Sight and Sound – Moses/ bus and lunch/ looked for date Tuesday of Holy week April 4/56 seats on bus/working on price

Penny Courtney, 31 May 2022

Education Team/Sunday School/ Youth: Erin Mitchell

Youth: Chad/Andrea Muntz

Youth Group officially started in January with much brainstorming from the few attendees about what they would like to see their group look like. Following Confirmation Sunday, the group has grown to a high point of 5 attendees for the last few weeks of the year, up from the 1-2 youth in attendance from January-April. This is a result of Confirmation and the 5th graders aging out of Sunday school. The youth were able to put their Confirmation verses on the youth room walls and take some ownership in their space thank you to a Thrivent grant. Sunday morning classes are paused for summer, but Andrea and Chad Muntz will continue to get the youth together for a check in during The Well. Fellowship this summer will be spontaneous – not planned – as all of our families are traveling, reconnecting with those we were unable to be with during the height of the pandemic. Once the group reconvenes regularly in the fall, they will set aside a regular fellowship time, but they do not want to put any more pressure on the already maxed out families for the summer. Side note, youth group is very much in a rebuilding phase after the pandemic. While many members of the

congregation have great memories of how it was in the past and great ideas to plug the kids in for service around the church, please be mindful that this generation of kids has had a very different experience than previously with the pandemic and also that our new fearless leaders have a very accurate pulse on what the youth and families need and are able to commit to. They will let the committee heads know when the group reaches a point where they are ready to start helping out with service projects.

Education and Sunday School: Erin Mitchell and Bonnie Weinhold

First Half of 2022 Education Team Report

Sunday morning education classes are paused for the summer and will resume over Labor Day weekend with a kick-off event for all ages. Details will be determined this summer with information to follow.

Sunday School had approximately 10 children attending regularly during the first half of the year. About half of those children have left for the youth group. In February, the children successfully collected items for the Ukrainian refugee relief efforts. Bonnie has been working diligently to send faith home with the children through the programs Faith Five and Families Celebrate Summer. Sunday school will need some new volunteers for next year. Please prayerfully consider using your time and talents to help teach our young ones.

Confirmation class concluded with the first communion and Confirmation of 11 young members. These youth will continue to acolyte or serve on the tech team to stay involved. Youth group is working hard to draw those Confirmands in. Thank you to Judy, Bonnie, Cyndie and Sandi for assisting with the class.

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Adult Bible study had a steady attendance of the same adults each week. Numbers are lower than Pastor would like, but many have left to serve in other capacities during study time. Pastor is looking into ways to bring in more of the congregation for Bible study.

Background checks and child abuse training was implemented and has been completed for ALL adults working with minors. Moving forward, any members who would like to work with children will be required to complete the training, sign the agreement and submit to a background check prior to being able to do so.

Along the safety lines of children, we will be implementing a new registration form through Google forms for all Sunday school and youth group attendees. We will be collecting important information such as emergency contacts, allergies, etc. and will require the form to be completed immediately when a new child joins. The form will have a QR code tied to it that will be posted in the youth room and Sunday school classroom and will be available on our website. We are also tying the photo/video release form into this registration form for ease of collecting.

VBS will not take place this year as a stand-alone event. There are not enough available volunteers. Instead, we are trying something new with VBS Express. A short, 30-minute program will take place during The Well on June 12, July 17, August 14 and September 11 for children aged 3-11. The theme is God's Wonder Lab. Each lesson will be based on a Bible story and have a coordinating science experiment.

Moving into the second half of 2022, we are hoping to grow our programs. In order to do so, we need to find a way to reach more families in the community. We will continue to encourage our youth to bring their friends and hope that our recent Confirmands will all attend this fall. Sunday School is also going to be in need of more volunteers. Bonnie has been teaching every Sunday and needs more of the parents and members to step in and take on some of the responsibility. We are hoping to offer a preschool Sunday school class in the fall, but the ability to do so depends greatly on more help.

Web Team Report: Patrice Jenstrom

No written report. Patrice continues to work diligently to maintain the St. Paul's website.

Property Team: Zac Huffman

John Segelhorst – Chair

Diane Segelhorst

Patrick Dugan

Zac Huffman

Del Jenstrom

Patrice Jenstrom

Craig Silbert

Steven Wise

There were no major projects during January - June, 2022. The Property Team continues to address minor day to day issues as they occur.

Completed:

- Fellowship Hall water heater replaced
- Fellowship Hall chlorine pump for water replaced
- Fellowship Hall door weather stripping replaced
- Fellowship Hall ceiling leak repaired
- Sunday school projector screen and shades installed
- Replaced Pastor's office /conference room lock
- Repaired/rekeyed lock between Pastor's office and outer office
- Modified shelving in office closet to instal new locking file cabinet
- Received and installed donation of new office furniture
- Disposal of old office furniture
- Cleaned out and organized old files (Diane, Penny, Zac)
- Installed keyboard tray for office manager
- Installed front entrance door bell

To Do:

- Install new altar lighting
- Determine best option(s) for altar hand rail
- Install new narthex bottled water dispenser system

- Paint church front entrance way
- Hire new cleaning company
- Hire a grounds maintenance company

Presently, Steve Wise is mowing the grass and generously contributing the wages he would receive to the Youth Group.

Linda Craig asked if a rail could be installed at the Sacristy.

Respectfully submitted,
Zac Huffman

Ad Hoc Reopening Team – Zac for Diane

Diane suggested that we disband the Ad Hoc Reopening Team at this time, with the understanding that depending on the status of COVID the possibility of reforming may be necessary at a later date.

Hospitality Team: Jerry and Marj Kane

Jerry announced that we have had no response from the mailing sent out by the Hospitality Team. The team has been sending mailings out each week for one year. He suggested to Pastor that we cancel our subscription to New Movers. Zac will cancel this week. He also recognized that the best way to proceed would be to implement more social media. David suggested that we talk to Amanda Sturgeon for suggestions to proceed.

New Business:

Pastor and Zac continue to search for a Contemporary Music Director.

Zac questioned if the position of the Financial Secretary is still necessary. The counters are essentially doing the work that is done by the person in this position. The year-end reports are being done by Michelle Crislip and Jeri Delahanty. This matter will be discussed at the next BoD meeting and if approved, an amendment will be made to the Constitution.

Linda motioned that the meeting be adjourned.

The meeting concluded at 1:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia L. Dixon

Secretary of the Board of Directors