

St. Paul's Lutheran Church - Board of Directors Minutes August 9, 2023

2023 St. Paul's Board of Directors:

Zac Huffman, Bernice Prescott, Cyndie Dixon, Carol Cook, Judy Tribby,
Madonna Howard, Patrick Dugan

Present: Pastor Stephen Mentz, Zac, Cyndie, Judy, Carol and Bernice

Call to Order - Opening Prayer

The July 12, 2023 BoD meeting minutes were **approved as read.**

Treasurer's Report - July, 2023 - **approved as presented.**

July Budget Status: **87.52%** of goal

- Offerings YTD: \$102,805.02; under goal by **\$14,665.95**
- Expenses YTD: \$64,849.55; under budget **\$52,621.42**
- Overall YTD: all income minus expenses **\$37,995.47**
- 2023 budget: \$193,764.25; \$3,726.24/wk needed to meet budget

- Pr. Teklu memorial fund: \$15,700.00 (July)

~ 8/2/23: Call with Fidelity to discuss how to set up Teklu Memorial
Scholarship with international transfer - Pending

BoD approved Fidelity for management of Teklu scholarship fund and possibly other LCEF perm notes that are reaching maturity. The emphasis is to increase ROI for St. Paul's.

~ Questions on possible tax implication for St. Paul's; Endy researching
with his church as they do int'l charitable work - Pending

Bernice advised her charitable organization has had no tax/IRS issues.

- 8/7/23: Mtg. with Chad Muntz and David Biddle, investment advisor, to discuss
options

~ Discussed the need to establish a Finance Team

~ Will continue with combination of term notes and money market
accounts through LCEF and/or banking institutions for now

Judy advised that at the just concluded LCMS convention, congregations and individuals are encouraged to invest with LCEF to increase the reach of "The Kingdom". LCEF loans funds to church organizations domestically and internationally.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor reported that Paul Koch wants to join S. Paul's. His membership will be transferred from Trinity Lutheran Church in Bowie, Maryland.
- Pastor requested that we invest in a water dispenser to replace the old water fountain in the Narthex. Zac will discuss with John Segelhorst and Del Jenstrom.
- Pastor Betzner and Pastor Mentz will continue to serve communion to some shut-in's. A schedule will be devised.
- Pastor Mentz requested that he be able to use the Apple computer in the church office, TSION, Pastor Teklu's wife, found the password and it was sent to Susan. This computer connects to the printer in the office for his convenience.
- Beginning September 10, during the Adult Forum hour, Pastor will conduct a course on Luther's small Catechism. This will be a course designed for new Lutherans as well as a refresher for adults who were previously confirmed. Class will not be held on September 17 but will resume on September 24.

Please note:

Circuit Visitor:

~Pr. Matt Hilpert, Galilee Lutheran, Pasadena, MD
808-347-2876 (M), 410-255-8236 (O)
m.hilpert@glcpasadena.org

Open Items from Last Meeting

- The Church calendar needs improvement. Some tasks to implement include, send a download link to the congregation, add to member website and fill with meaningful events, e.g., VBS

Current Agenda Items

- *Strategic Plan:*
The Strategic Plan needs a Strategic Vision Refresh that focuses on 2023 activities. This will be discussed on Wed. August 17 at the Ministry Team and Staff meeting.
- *LCMS June 2023 Convention*
Judy Tribby attended the LCMS convention which concluded Aug 3, 2023 and was held in Milwaukee, WI.
 - ✓ Each attendee was given a new Luther's "Catechism".
 - ✓ Chris Esget was elected the Synodical Vice President. He is from the English District.

- ✓ Various churches from other countries were welcomed into the Missouri Synod fold. Those churches are located in Sudan, Finland, Uganda, Ukraine, and Sri Lanka.
- ✓ No decisions were made regarding gender identity or sexual orientation issues, because much more studying must be done on the issues.
- ✓ The wellness and mental health of pastors and church workers are of the utmost importance to the leadership of the Missouri Synod. Monies are available for sabbaticals and other mental health assistance.
- ✓ It was voted to sever relations with Japan because they have ordained women.
- ✓ There is some tension between the Synod and leadership at Concordia in Texas. They want to separate from Lutheranism.
- ✓ There was a resolution to affirm in person communion rather than online distribution.
- ✓ A discussion ensued that churches encourage people to worship in person rather than online.
- ✓ Due to the shortage of pastors, different paths to ordination were discussed.
- ✓ It was voted in the affirmative to reject all forms of racism.
- ✓ The attendees voted no to the drafting of women into the military service.
- ✓ The attendees voted no to using fetal tissues obtained from aborted babies in vaccines.
- ✓ Pastor Harrison reviewed the guidelines for communion distribution. People attending a church do not have to be a member of the Missouri Synod in order to commune. He did recommend that the local pastor talk to guests before they take communion. He did give local congregations leeway regarding this issue.
- ✓ The use of wine during communion is encouraged but fruit juice is not prohibited. Gluten wafers should be provided.

“Calling A Pastor” SED, LCMS Manual

- The Congregation Profile is 99% complete; was sent to the congregation for comment. Next, we will submit the required documentation to the SED. A Call Committee will be established. Contact Zac if you would like to recommend someone to the committee.

Streaming and Video

- Service streaming set up in nursery (no sound yet)

Education - Outreach - Worship Updates

- Sunday school will resume on September 10, 2023

- VBS canceled due to lack of participants
- Worship Team meeting scheduled for Sunday, Aug 27, 2023 after service
- CCCC monthly specified food donations to continue
- Shut-in care bags to continue

Lutheran World Relief

- Cyndie Dixon will organize volunteers to pack school supplies
- Madonna, Bernice and Cyndie have shopped using Thrivent Action Cards for many of the supplies needed.
- The assembly of the bags will take place on September 17 after the Worship Service. All ages are invited to help.
- Kate and Madonna have provided Thrivent Action Cards.
- Some money has been donated to the cause as well.

Folk Scholarship was presented to Max Houck Sunday, August 6

1. Next BoD meeting: Wednesday **September 13**, 2023, 5:30 pm

2. Service Views 2023 - 2nd Quarter:

1st Q Avg: 85 total (49 in person, 36 via stream)

2nd Q Avg: 73 total (49 in person, 24 via stream)

July Avg: 75 total (44 in person, 31 via stream)

Sunday Services:

July 2 9:30 AM 85 total (50 in person, 35 via stream)

July 9 9:30 am 65 total (41 in person, 24 via stream)

July 16 9:30 am 76 total (42 in person, 34 via stream)

July 23 9:30 AM 93 total (45 in person, 48 via stream)

July 30 9:30 am 56 total (40 in person, 16 via stream)