

## St Stephen Lutheran Church

### Church Council Meeting Minutes, June 13, 2022

Mira Stearns called the meeting to order at 7:10 pm in person

**Present:** Pastor Jim Woodruff, Betsy Clark, Ken Smith, Mira Stearns, John Rohr, Judee Bramscher

**Absent:** Patsy Olson

**Devotions** – Pastor Jim

Tanzania trip – Amazing to me the significant difference that can be made in a congregation but in more a community when we see the effects of our relationship with Lukani church. 1) sanctuary they are building, largest sanctuary in the Iringa diocese. Fundraiser July 9 to try to raise significant portion of the remaining money. Their vision in everything they and we have done really extends to the whole community, not their church. 2) scholarships, over the years we have sponsored 300 or more students. Many of these graduates are people who have gone on to college, further education. They are taking positions throughout Tanzania of real leadership that will affect that nation for years to come. Sebastian Chaula at Lutangilo secondary school is now headmaster. When he arrived 10 years ago, they were at the bottom level nationally. Now they are at the top 11% nationally. Upendo Ulime is in her second year of medical school. 3) water project with St. Paul Partners and other water groups. Vision of the Lukani congregation to bring in water wasn't just for the congregation but for the entire village. The current water system feeds about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all the area of Lukani village. St. Paul Partners is looking to extend the project to get to the remaining village. Doctor at the dispensary said that dysentery and infant mortality decreased 90%. We at St. Stephen also need to think beyond OUR walls and to those in need around us, not just in our church.

**Prayer Concerns:** John Rohr sister Chris. Marla's mom Bonnie. Keep John Farmer family in everyone's prayers. Joanne Alstad died, funeral will be in their home town of Sleepy Eye. Mavis Garrett currently in hospice. Continue to pray for the people of Ukraine. Bless our friends in Lukani.

**Approval of Minutes:** No changes to the minutes. Minutes for May council meeting were voted on.

*A motion was made by Ken Smith 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Rohr, to approve the May 2022 council minutes. Voted on and carried unanimously.*

**Adjustments to the Agenda:**

Add Relay to Life to "New Business." Marla to report.

**Treasurer's Report** – Patsy Olson

Balance Sheet: Total cash assets: Checking \$96,123.00. Savings \$32,763.20. 4 CDs totaling \$48,270.56. Grand total \$177,156.76.

Benevolence Fund: Net income balance of \$381.72. Expenses of note: ELCA mission support \$1,000; Tecate \$100; journal entry transferring \$366.67 for support for the TZ mission trip and TZ scholarships.

Capital Fund: Net income \$108,262.20. Will be a withdrawal in the next month or so for the furnaces in the amount of \$35,000 or so.

Cash Reserve: Net income \$32,233.29.

Current Fund: Total income \$125,814.70. Expenses \$167,761.26. Net income deficit \$-41,946.56. This is a higher negative number than we are accustomed to. In looking at a 7-year history through mid-year, this is about 10% higher than average. June numbers will give us a better idea of where we stand with current funds. We are right in the ballpark as we have been in previous years. Pastor Jim did report he is concerned that we continue to have an in-person participation of ½ of what we had pre-COVID. How do we get people to return to in-person worship? Judee stated that she feels people have become complacent and just not coming as they can watch the live stream.

Special Designated Fund:

Special designated accts \$30,744.94; Funding accts \$20,642.88; Tanzania accts \$12,668.94; Tecate acct \$2,900; Special designated memorial accts \$12,867.36; TOTAL NET INCOME \$79,824.12.

*A motion was made by Marla Amborn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Smith, to approve the Treasurer's Report. Voted on and carried unanimously.*

**Pastor's Report** – Pastor Jim Woodruff

Marla did great job filling in while Juli and I were gone to TZ.

SPAS Synodical convention was held May 13-14. Mira, Ted, Juli, and Jim were representatives.

Summer Gap program resumed. BBQ Wednesday attendance immediately doubled with BBQ.

Funerals coming up for Joanne Alstad and John Farmer.

Worship service this Sunday outdoors. Brenda Steady will be leading it.

Children ministry things starting this week.

Special Olympics program starts this Thursday.

Family movie night at Redeemer Friday night.

Cindy Bittner back July 3. June 26 Gerrit Lamain thank you reception following the worship service. He will continue to come back when Cindy is off her 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month.

Property issues: asphalt was repaired underneath canopy on Thursday. Tom Scott will take lead of sprucing up that area. Peace poles (now two), one at west and one at north entrances are on order. Benches by west entrances ordered. Char Redepenning wants to use money from Floyd benevolence to put a bench at the back peace pole area. He loved the rain garden.

Furnaces – Yale called. Todd Jelle project manager. Installation within the next several weeks. They will give heads up on time.

Z systems, haven't gotten hold of Freddie. Need new mixer in the fellowship hall. Cost is too high, want to get cost back down to \$6,000.

### **Ministry Team Reports:**

Worship and Music Committee – Cruisers will not be supplying music during the summer. However, they are hoping to provide music during our Rally Sunday service/picnic September.

Fellowship – Betsy Clark

Need to have meeting with Mira and Patsy regarding God's Work Our Hands on Rally Sunday. Betsy will set that up.

*A motion was made by Jim Woodruff, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Rohr to approve Pastor and Ministry Team reports. Voted on and carried unanimously.*

### **New Business:**

Drawn to the Word (informational) – Marla Amborn

Mural is created by Paul Oman during a worship service tied to the theme of that day. Marla was invited back to Immanuel to see this on their 135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church and it was very beautiful. Everyone who was part of that service loved it. At Immanuel he had a large 5 x7 foot canvas. They chose a passage and throughout the service he was painting it. We did a series of readings and hymns that went with that theme. They install. It's \$3,500 to do it. We could think about this for St. Stephen. It was necessary to have several month lead time at Immanuel before he came. At least 4-6 months lead time is necessary. Mentioning this as a possibility here at St. Stephen. How did Immanuel fund it? Tapped into memorial funds that seemed appropriate for the anniversary (135<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Immanuel).

Ken – we have been talking about getting Sebastian Chaula here as well. Tie the two events together? Just discussion at this point.

Relay for Life – Marla Amborn

Viki unable to chair it. Marla and Ted Field will chairing it. Viki reviewed all process with us. Has it well organized. We need sponsors and team members and to sell luminaries. Needs to be done end of July. Will be at the South campus of White Bear HS from 6-11 pm in person (not overnight). We should start setting up a table in narthex starting next Sunday. Marla will ask Ted to do it next Sunday. We should get it into the weekly bulletin too.

Tanzania Update – Ken Smith

Jim covered everything well in his report. Worst part was Juli was ill the Sunday at Lukani. Logistics of travel went well. Pastor Maketa was assured that it was not accommodations, but we are just being very careful because of COVID. We would love to get more people involved in the trip so it is a mission of the church, not the same people going. Might be able to tap into endowment fund when its up and running to help with funding. Trip cost this time was approximately \$4,000.

## **Old Business:**

### Live Stream Installation – Pastor Jim

Covered this under PJ report.

### Special Olympics – Marla Amborn

She has recruited a bunch of people for the program. Zack van dyke is volunteering. Enough of a team to run the program. Hopefully they have a good experience.

### Adding 3 Council Members – Betsy Clark

The letter to prospective council members has not gone out yet. Tanzania trip delayed it. Should get letter out in the next week. Will have update for next month.

### Furnace Update; Completing Asphalt on Canopy Repair; Peace Pole(s) – Pastor Jim

All covered under Pastor Jim's report above.

### Review meeting highlights – ALL

1. Tanzania update
2. Outdoor worship this Sunday
3. Relay for Life signup starting now, Luminary Sunday July 24
4. Furnace replacement will be starting in next few weeks
5. Canopy work complete including asphalt

*A motion was made by Mira Stearns, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ken Smith, to close the Council meeting. Voted on and carried unanimously.*

**Adjourned at 8:20 pm**

**Closed with the Lord's Prayer**

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Clark