

St. Stephen Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
March 14th, 2011

Charlie with Patsy giving devotions called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Present: Charlie Jackson, Pete Johnson, Patsy Olson, Larry Nihart, Marissa Amborn, Marta Hohnstadt, Jenny Nordahl, Pastor Him Woodruff, Cheryl Skrypez, Bill Kneip, John Farmer & Nicole Ternus.

Absent: Anne Jackson-Field.

Prayer Concerns: Judy Bramscher, Joyce Alexander, & Marjorie King.

Approval of Minutes: Bill made a motion to approve the minutes with the changes (change dollar amount for Special Designated account under Treasurer's Report) & Cheryl 2nd. Motion carried.

Adjustments to the Agenda: Alan Dahl Fundraiser, Ag project Fundraiser.

Treasurer's Report: Made a Benevolence payment to Wapo & the Synod. Current we're not far off from where we were last year. Expenses are in-line except for the insurance. Making 4 payments instead of 10 – it's a wash budget wise by the end of the year. Working on a payroll audit. QuickBooks will no longer be supported after May. If we order by the end of April we'll save \$80 & if we upgrade to pro we'll save another \$40. QuickBooks offers training so Patsy is going to go on April 7th. Larry made a motion to approve & Marissa 2nd. Benevolence - \$1,143.23; Current – (\$15,644.97); Special Designated - \$132,257.65; \$3,068.97.

Pastor's Report: Introduced two new ministries: The Service of Prayer for Healing & Wholeness, which we'll hold on a quarterly basis & the noon Lenten services. Continuing with the season of Lent. The noon service is a shorter more traditional service & has the same theme as Wed evening. It is also followed by a soup & sandwich lunch. We continue to present the various needs of our Ministry Teams each Sun through Palm Sun. We are almost done with refurbishing our property. Baptisms: none. Weddings: none.

Memorial Projects: The top for the welcome desk has been ordered. To save money we're waiting for them to deliver it when they have another job in the area. We're still waiting on the doors White Bear Glass had to order parts for them. We got the go ahead for the new blvd sign, it will be an internally lit sign & Tom Scott, Matt Nordahl, Chris Volmer & Lois Brosi are working on this. Bill has excellent volunteers!

Exterminator: Called VIP Pest Control. It was \$75 for the initial visit including the Youth Bldg. We can call them as needed for a charge of \$40 per time.

Everyone in Mission: Bill is up next. What have you been hearing? Jenny only talked to 2 people but it was a bad Sun since it was Spring Break week. Stewardship talked to 2 people. Anne talked to 30 people. We need to update the Time & Talent sheets. Is there a Youth Time & Talent sheet? We need to focus on the 10th – college age kids.

First Sun Brunch: Thanks Larry for taking the first one. There was a good turnout. Larry will email a list of who is hosting. There will be a brunch in April & May & then will start up again in Sept.

Stained Glass Windows: The presentation will be April 10th in an adult forum. There will be a 24-page booklet describing the windows. We will give out one booklet to each family who contributed a window & will sell the others. There will be an initial printing of 150 booklets & we will print them ourselves. We're working on a framed sign in the narthex for who donated the windows.

Marketing: We need to look at the website. It's relatively current but we need to update the pictures on there. We need to find someone to take responsibility for updating it. Marissa is working on getting an evangelism team together & hoping to find someone to fill this role. There needs to be a process for how things get put on there. Organize what goes in, updating, keeping it fresh, and requesting info from teams. Talking about someone contacting the newspaper more often. Someone in charge of internal communication & someone in charge of external communication. Welcome desk & staffing need to talk about this soon. Would like to do quarterly calling of the congregation members. It's a good time now with the upcoming Lenten season. Discussed agreed it made more sense to call 3 times a year at Easter, Rally Sunday & Christmas. If you get info about changes when calling turn it in to the office. Are we doing anything with Marketfest other than what the puppets are doing? We should have someone from the church be a representative at the puppet booth to talk to people. Do we advertise in the Pioneer Press? Should look into it.

Worship & Service Hours: There is a concern. This is something we need to move on right away. We will be holding an adult forum on this issue. Planning on continuing with summer hours. The survey is already drafted. It will be available in paper form & online. This needs to be done by mid-May. One goal is to create truly contemporary service. There are half a dozen different goals that different people are presenting. We need to see the survey before it goes out. Do we have the numbers to continue with 3 services? Is there a Council vote – Yes.

Deb Nelson Fundraiser: Friends of Deb's want to put together a fundraiser. She's underinsured & going through major medical treatment. They would like to hold the fundraiser here at church. It is recommended that we do this. Pastor Jim moved to support the fundraiser for Deb & have it here at church & Jenny 2nd. Motion carried.

Alan Dahl Fundraiser: Alan would like to do a meat raffle as a fundraiser for the health ministry team. He will use the money raised to get more supplies for CPR training. Is there any president for doing raffles? We've done it once before two years ago during the Music Festival & Auction. Don't want to see this become a common thing around here. Any costs for this will come out of the raffle itself. He would like to get 5 more adult dummies. Maybe we should charge more for the outside trainings? Not sure that he can make a profit on the training. Bill made a motion to allow Alan to have a raffle to raise funds & Pete 2nd. John & Larry abstained. Motion carried.

Ag Project: We are committed as a church to get Lukani involved in the Ag project. The cost is \$2000 for 3 years. Would like to have a door offering at services on March 27th. We are well on the way for costs for this year. Also have a basket on the braided bread table. Marta made a motion to approve & Marissa 2nd. Motion carried.

John made a motion to adjourn & Larry 2nd. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Nicole Ternus.