

**ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATION
COUNCIL
MINUTES
April 30, 2018**

Present: Greta Blegvad, Anne Daly, Mark Finck, Kerrill Foster, Lindsay Freytag, Jean Hovland, Matt Hummel, Mandy John, John Jordan, Charlie Laidlaw-Smith, Jim Rengert and Pastor Betsy Williams

Absent: Don Miller

Mandy John, President, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Pastor Betsy Williams offered devotions and prayer.

A motion was made by Charlie Laidlaw-Smith and seconded by Kerrill Foster to approve the minutes of March 19, 2018. The motion was approved.

Committee Reports

Congregational Care—Members of the committee visited nine homebound members and sent a sympathy card to Larry Kopp on the loss of his son.

Education—Items are being worked on behind the scenes.

Evangelism—Items are being worked on behind the scenes.

Four Church Farm—Sixteen people attended the Easter sunrise service. No committee meeting was held.

Mutual Ministry—will have a meeting in May

Property—Cleaning schedules are being discussed. A hole in the main parking lot exit near Locust St. will be repaired and the lot re-stripped. The dumpster has been moved. The landscaping looks great. Gerry Billy will meet with the committee next month to discuss building security. Some downtown churches are considering hiring an off duty police officer to patrol the area.

Rental Property—all properties are rented and the rents are up to date.

Small Group Ministry—Will be meeting at a later date.

Technology/Website—Nothing new to report. Jerry continues to post excellent church service videos on Facebook.

WELCA—The April rummage/bake sale was a success with about \$1000 total raised. These funds will be used for funeral luncheons. Clean up from the sale is underway.

Worship—The committee is planning the Pentecost and summer services. The committee recommends that the two small organs in Weisgerber Lounge be removed or donated. A notice will be published in the Forward. There will be a

concert provided by St. Paul's musicians and community musicians on Sunday, June 3 at 2:00 p.m. The music will be secular and include handbells, choirs and instrumentalists. Please invite friends.

Youth Ministry—Pastor Betsy would like to schedule a reception to recognize the years of service that Crystal Stamper provided activities and programming for the youth and vacation bible school at St. Paul's. Her efforts are much appreciated. A motion was made by Jean Hovland and seconded by Charlie Laidlaw-Smith to recognize Crystal at a reception. It was suggested that youth that have been in the group be contacted and send a card to Crystal. Charlie Laidlaw-Smith and daughters will work on contacting the youth. Pastor Betsy will contact Crystal and arrange the date.

A motion was made by Kerrill Foster and seconded by Anne Daly to accept the committee reports. The motion was approved.

Treasurer's Report

Kerrill Foster presented the March treasurer's report, and also provided a copy to Council members of her year-end report and PowerPoint presentation given to the church members earlier this year in case there are questions. A motion was made by Charlie Laidlaw-Smith and seconded by Greta Blegvad to accept the treasurer's report. The motion was approved.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Betsy has visited members who were hospitalized.

She will perform a wedding for the Willis's who are not members, but friends of members. Caroline King has donated a telescope to the church. Pastor Betsy suggested using it at the Four Church Farm for a gathering. Jim Williams is learning how to use it.

There have been concerns about items that are borrowed from the church such as tables and chairs. The policy already in place states that the white tables are not to be removed from the church. It is acceptable for the old wooden tables to be borrowed along with folding chairs, but they must be signed out by stopping by the church office during church business hours. The number of tables and chairs borrowed needs to be documented. The items borrowed need to be signed back in.

Plans for the June 11 to 15 LOMO day camp are underway. Hosts for the teachers have been arranged. Someone for the kitchen is still needed. There is a possibility that preschoolers will be able to attend part of each day. A motion was made by Charlie Laidlaw-Smith and seconded by Jean Hovland that the \$25 per camper fee be waived. The motion was approved.

Old Business

The retreat for Council members with Bob Abrams from the Synod was discussed. Possible dates include May 26 or June 16, but the date will be postponed until July since Bob Abrams is not back in the office yet. Mandy will send an e-mail to Council asking which dates in July they are available.

Lindsay Freytag reported that Pastor Waack from our sister St. Bartholomew Mechlennburg church states that some of their members will visit us in either 2019 or 2020. They are still determining which date would be best. Lindsay attended a "Church of the North Task Force" meeting in Springfield, Ohio on April 28. Fewer and fewer Ohio churches have partnerships with the northern German churches. Transportation to church for non-drivers was again discussed. The description of the scope of the Congregational Care Committee includes providing transportation of non-drivers. Lindsay Freytag will contact committee members to determine the best way to do this.

A small Alcoholics Anonymous group and Narcotics Anonymous have meetings at St. Paul's. A new larger Alcoholics Anonymous group of about 40 people has asked to use space at St. Paul's. A motion was made by Kerrill Foster and seconded by John Jordan to let the new Alcoholics Anonymous Group meet at St. Paul's on Saturday's from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM with the understanding that they will move upstairs if St. Paul's needs the space for such things as the rummage sale, and that a fee of \$50 per month be charged for the 2 larger groups and as is currently done, \$25 per month for the smaller Alcoholics Anonymous group. This motion was approved. The new AA group will start meeting May 5. Pastor Betsy will notify the Narcotics Anonymous group about the fee.

The Southern Ohio Synod Assembly will be June 1 and 2. The cost is \$300 per person which is double the cost of past assemblies. A motion was made by Kerrill Foster and seconded by Charlie Laidlaw-Smith that St. Paul's not send anyone to the assembly due to the increased cost. The motion was approved. Pastor Betsy is to send a personal note to the Synod about why no one from St. Paul's will be attending.

Mandy reported that she met with Denise Crews about her concerns and ideas for St. Paul's. Denise's ideas about branding and its definition were reviewed. This will be discussed again at a later date.

The Listening Post appointments will take place May 11 and 12. Members and newly confirmed members are urged to sign up for a time. Jean Hovland volunteered to call members who do not have an appointment yet. Council members will show people to their Listening Post appointments, and council members present signed up for times.

Jean Hovland requested that the monthly Council agenda be made available the Sunday before the meetings.

New Business

The next Council meeting will be the third Monday, May 21, at 7:00 PM due the Memorial Day holiday.

A letter was received stating that due to a downward trend of camping and retreat usage, Camp Mowana will close and likely become a land conservancy in August 2019.

The Vice President of Council's duties include updating the constitution and policies. The rotation and number of Council members needs to be updated. The ELCA has newer recommendations for the constitution of churches. These items will be reviewed this summer.

September 18 is the God's Work Our Hands service project. Ideas for potential service projects are needed soon so that Thrivent action grants can be requested. It should be a project that all ages can help with.

Jean Hovland recommended the book, *Called to Lead*, to Council members.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:45 PM.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 21, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted
Lindsay Freytag
Secretary