

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Council President Justin Arndt at 10:00 AM. Council members in attendance were Joel Arndt, John Ornes, Bud Osteboe, and Lori Brueggen. Steve Brandau joined the meeting, via conference call, shortly after the meeting began. Pastor Cathleen Morris and Nalani Bever were also in attendance.

Pastor Morris shared a prayer.

A report with regard to the upcoming chicken dinner fundraiser was made by Lori Brueggen. With just one week left for ticket sales, there now seems a possibility to sell in excess of the original 300 ticket goal. Work schedules, etc., will be determined the first week of September.

Council President Arndt advised the members he had spoken with several of the parents of our Sunday School children. The parents expressed a desire to see how the school openings go before a decision is made on when to begin Sunday School. After discussion, the consensus of the body was to delay the start of Sunday School until October.

Pastor Cathy shared her thoughts that it is important for the children to have some type of contact with the church, while returning to the classroom, at their respective schools. She suggested each child receive a Story Bible. This will enable the children the opportunity to continue learning the stories of the Old and New Testament in a form which, at their age, is easier to understand than the formal Bible. Motion by Joel Arndt, second by Bud Osteboe to gift a Story Bible to our Sunday School children. MC

Pastor Cathy stated she is still planning to hold confirmation for our 4 students on October 25, 2020. Her intent is to meet prior to this date with each student. The meetings will be outside, one-to-one, with social distancing. The students will use this time to complete their memorization and favorite Bible passage requirements.

There will be one student for a confirmation class this year. This student is from Elroy and Pastor has discussed the possibility of having the student join the confirmation class at Grace Lutheran Church in Elroy. Grace will start confirmation the first of the year. Council members supported this possibility, understanding the benefit of multiple students in a class. Pastor will keep the Council informed after speaking with the parents of the student.

A brief discussion was held as to when to return to a 10:15 worship service. In view of Sunday School being delayed until October, as well as the chicken dinner fundraiser, John Ornes made the motion to continue the 9:00 AM drive-in service through the month of September, second by Lori Brueggen. MC

Nalani Bever reported the offerings for the month of July were in excess of expenses by \$3,000.00, thus reducing our year-to-date deficit to \$2,170.00. There are no out of the ordinary expenses for August, but she noted September would bring an insurance installment.

Nalani Bever made a report on the church organ restoration and advised the members, as with any remodeling project, we can anticipate some additional costs. Steve Brandau has repaired the plaster damage caused by years of the leaking roof, as well as installing additional lighting in

the pipe chamber. All but the tall wooden pipes have been removed from the chamber, which exposed damage to a number of pipes caused over the years by falling plaster. We should be able to find used pipes to replace these, at a reasonable cost. Nalani indicated she will be making a report with regard to the restoration in the newsletter and advise folks that additional contributions will be needed. This is a very labor intensive project as all electrical connections must be done by hand. No easy way other than one at a time. Considering there are around 500 pipes folks should be able to understand the increased labor costs. The organ should be ready for the Christmas service, and perhaps earlier.

John Ornes brought the matter of First Communion to the table. We currently have two students in third grade. John wanted to remind members of this important time for children and be sure, with all the changes, this did not get forgotten. First Communion class will be a priority once Sunday School begins. This class will be led by Pastor Cathy.

Lori Brueggen inquired with regard to a baptism and Pastor indicated she felt the outdoor service could certainly be a setting for the baptism.

Pastor Cathy will be scheduling Assistant to the Bishop Libby Howe to participate in a service. Libby had been scheduled to share a service prior to the pandemic shutdown.

Pastor Cathy will be away from October 7 through October 13 and suggested the possibility of a lay member service, in her absence, with resources coming from the Synod Creation Care Team.

Following The Lord's Prayer, motion by John Ornes, second by Bud Osteboe to adjourn the meeting. MC

Nalani Bever
Recording Secretary