

## July 2018 Council Minutes

St. John's council met on Tuesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the Conference Room. Present members included Jen, Marlo, Kim, Al, Jon, Dan, Sharyn, and Kelly. Pastor John, Deacon Amanda, and Lindsay were also present. Joel and Kyle were absent. Fred Asche was present as a guest/presenter representing the Properties Commission.

### **1. Call to Order/Approval of Agenda**

Jen called the meeting to order at 7:05. Marlo moved to approve the agenda. Al seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **2. Devotions**

Sharyn led devotions from the Book of James.

### **3. Reports**

- a) *Previous meeting minutes* - Al moved to approve the June meeting minutes. Jon seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- b) *Discuss staff and commissions reports* – Fred briefly informed Council that there is an old altar that has been stored in the back garage for decades. It's possibly made of walnut and in good condition. The Properties Commission would like to see it displayed/utilized in the church. Lindsay suggested placing it in the youth room to allow youth to practice worship activities. Fred thought it could be placed on wheels if needed to be transported to the Fellowship hall for activities as well. He also mentioned that there are cabinets in the shed. Amanda suggested using them for Sunday School rooms or elsewhere.

Vacation Bible School had the largest attendance ever, which is attributed to offering early drop off for children, as well as bussing back to several area childcare programs. Over 100 children attended every day. There was a lot of very positive feedback reported from children, parents, as well as older school-age helpers who volunteered to assist with the program. Council wishes to thank all staff, volunteers, families, and food/supply donators for helping to make this a success.

Lindsay, youth, and chaperones recently returned from the National Youth Gathering in Houston, TX. St. John's youth had a very positive experience from the trip, have had many uplifting stories to share, and were able to discover many God Sightings throughout the trip. Council would like to thank the congregation, parents, and kids for helping to make this experience possible.

### **4. Financials**

- a) *Summary of the past month's financials* – Kim reviewed June financial reports. She pointed out that the church currently has a negative balance in the checking account (\$-3869), and that the church has had to borrow against some dedicated accounts. While giving is generally slower in the summer months, it is expected to pick up as attendance increases in the next couple of months. Marlo made a motion to approve the reports. Dan seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- b-c) *Boiler leak/Thrivent Choice* – Pastor John and Jen drafted a letter seeking the congregation's help with paying for the pipe repairs. This "bucket campaign" has already collected \$5000, which is an excellent start. The foundation also has assisted towards the campaign with \$3000, and the Thrivent Choice request was approved for \$5000. The church is hoping to raise \$20000 from the

congregation, due the location of the leak which is difficult to access/pinpoint, affecting steel beams and concrete, and repairs will be substantial. Due to many unknowns, the church has not been able to obtain a first estimate yet. Al reported that perhaps Evan's boiler license and profound knowledge may help with offering his assistance towards the project. Kim is working on special documentation forms so that future special offerings are communicated to all parties involved.

- d). Kim briefly spoke on e-giving platforms and plans to have something introduced by fall. More will be discussed in the August meeting. The selected tool/program may be coordinated with proposed website work mentioned under New Business 6b, as there will likely be shared benefits and investments.

## 5. Old Business

a) *Call Committee Update* – Al updated council on the Call Committee progress. Council received a copy of the Ministry Site Profile that was created by the Call committee based on research conducted by the transition team, and input from the council and congregation. St. John's will host a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:30pm to introduce anyone interested in the Ministry Site Profile. Pastor Susan Miller from the synod office will be present to facilitate the conversation on the call process. She has already indicated that the Ministry Site Profile is clear and transparent to prospective candidates. While many rural congregations may struggle with recruiting lead pastors, she indicated that Kasson has a convenient geographical location to MSP and Rochester, which should help to make St. John's desirable.

b) *Council Visibility* – Joel was not present to report.

c) *Roundtable*

CKP: Marlo brought up CKP's need for a bridge teacher for the 2018-2019 school year. CKP is looking for support and ideas such as recruitment websites. Marlo will have Rachel forward job information to Amanda and Lindsay to share in their seminary circles.

Confirmation: Lindsay reported that confirmation interviews are being scheduled the last two weeks of September. Council is encouraged to participate.

## 6. New Business

a) *Inclusivity* – The Ministry Site Profile has uncovered the importance of inclusivity, which is currently an important topic for the ELCA. This involves values versus action, and many topics involving social justice, and to ensure that the church is safe and welcoming to all. Kelly emphasized the importance to understand the ELCA's published statements to make everyone welcome to worship. Sharyn briefly shared information on the Human Library to understand some of the differences and conversations that are involved.

b) *Website* – Jen introduced a branding proposal from Katie Livingood for \$2000. It includes a request for proposal for a website communication tool, logo creation, and style and elements guide. Kim would like to meet with Katie to discuss e-giving and calendar options. Kim suggested asking Thrivent for funding assistance. Lindsay suggested discussing funding with Youth and Family Commission since the website and calendar are critical communication tools for their work. Jon made a motion to accept Katie's branding proposal for \$2000 and requested that she applies for \$1000 for Thrivent funding and council seek assistance from existing budgeted items or dedicated

accounts for \$1000; this is to avoid increasing the overall budget. Al seconded the motion. Motion carried.

c) *OASIS*

Meals: Kim presented the importance of the serving OASIS meals to kids and families after school. It offers fellowship and feeds kids. However, despite asking for \$5 for a meal, the program averages a loss of \$232/week. The 2017-2018 school year reported a loss of \$3374 - \$2795 of which occurred in 2018 to-date. The meals are currently catered. With the current system, if kids go up for seconds, St. John's is charged for another meal. Not all kids pay for meals, either due to lack of understanding the cost or also due to financial hardship. The Education Commission wants to have all kids fed, regardless of the ability to pay, but is suggesting having meals made by volunteer groups and families to help curb the costs involved. This also provides an opportunity for groups looking for fundraising ideas. It would be ideal to have a coordinator to help schedule food prep and clean up teams. Marlo and Al suggested 1-2 lead people to provide kitchen tutorials on kitchen processes, food prep, and training.

Volunteers: Amanda and Lindsay said there is a great need for 8-10 adult (18+) volunteers to help with OASIS education. Volunteers can assist weekly or monthly as it fits their schedules. Amanda is in the process of purchasing acrylic table tents for the fellowship hall for temporary announcements, and this may be a good avenue to bring attention to the volunteer opportunities for OASIS.

## **7. God Sightings**

Several members shared God sightings they had recently witnessed.

## **8. Motion to Adjourn**

Jon moved to adjourn. Al seconded the motion. Motion carried.

## **9. Lord's Prayer**

Council closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

## **10. Upcoming events/meetings**

Next council meeting is Tuesday, August 14, 2018 7:00 pm in the Conference Room. Plan to discuss E-giving platforms. Townhall meeting planned for Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>. All-commission meeting scheduled for Sunday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. Note that Pastor John will be absent August 1 – 9<sup>th</sup>. Jen will not be present at the August council meeting.

August devotions will be led by Jon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kelly Utesch