

# St. Paul's Lutheran Church

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La Crosse WI 54601

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## July/August BOND—2017



### Council Meeting Minutes

June 13, 2017 - 6 pm

**Present:** Present: Emily Lewandowski, Cheryl Peters, Bob Rasmusson, Ardu Cleveland, Curt Everson, John Heim, Nancy Jones, Merley Rasmusson, Joyce Wichelt, Julie Schroeder

**Guest:** Pastor Ted

Call to order at 6:02 by Bob Rasmusson

**Devotion:**— Joyce Wichelt – Terry Hershey – reflecting on Pentecost “The Art of Making Fire” Julie will do devotions for July

**Mission statement:** We are guided by the Holy Spirit in a Christ centered mission to love and serve God, those in need and one another.

**Lighting of the Christ Candle** – Joyce

**Pastor Ted's Thoughts** -Everyone is a winner!

- Pastor Ted is here to share his thoughts with us on another option for St. Paul's future.
- Pastor loves St. Paul's, wonderful people here and he wants the best for us
- This option continues St. Paul's into the future by giving St. Paul's to the Lutheran institutions including the Synod, Lutheran Social Services, etc.
  - ◇ St. Paul's would not have any financial responsibilities
  - ◇ The current services would continue as parishioner's transition, which would be 1, 2, 3 years... After that, St. Paul's would be available for weddings, funerals, etc. The church would still be ours 'in a way'
  - ◇ We would work with Bishop Arens

### Council Member Thoughts:

- ◇ Very intriguing
- ◇ Revelation from God
- ◇ Would become part of one of our options
- ◇ Excellent idea – would answer a prayer
- ◇ Maybe others would rent space like the Chinese
- ◇ The congregation will be going through a process and we appreciate all Pastor Ted has to offer – he's here for us.
- ◇ The council will think about this individually and bring this up to Pastor Ben who will begin his preaching and discussion on June 26<sup>th</sup>.

**Approval of minutes:** Motion made by John to approve May 9 council minutes, second by Nancy, motion carried.

### Member Concerns:

- The newspaper ad needs to be updated removing the second service
- One member shared thoughts how St. Paul's will end up and wanted to join with another church. We would need to bring people in by going out and inviting others to join.

A website designer looked at all Lutheran websites in our area and choose ours to be highlighted – Kudos to Dick!

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## Executive Committee:

- Assembly report
  - ◇ Impressive speakers over the three days
  - ◇ Bob went to one workshop with Libby on the 'Cycle of churches' which discussed the options for transitioning a declining congregation. This talked about the life of the church as it grows from conception up to the top at maturity then down through declining, struggling, and finally closure.
  - ◇ Synod will only be able to fill 85% of the calls.
  - ◇ La Crosse Area Synod will only get one seminary graduate this year. The amount of pastors needed to fill vacancies, next year, increases substantially because of retirements.
  - ◇ If St. Paul's would decide to call a pastor, it would take 3 to 5 years to get one.
  - ◇ St. Paul's is currently having trouble getting supply pastors.
  - ◇ Churches in our area really just exchange members. Example, when one church loses 1000 members, 800 join another church, the other 200 fade away...
  - ◇ A 'congregational sustainability assessment' was presented. Bob asked that the council members fill these out, it's eye opening.
  - ◇ Synod budget was reviewed and passed at Synod.
  - ◇ There were three resolutions:
    - ◆ World hunger idea –Churches were asked to have one member be a representative with a one to two year commitment.
    - ◆ David Larson is retiring

## Treasurer's Report:

April, took in more money than we spent  
May spent more money than we took in  
We're doing better than last year

## Old Business:

Pastor Ben options, we will add Pastor Ted's idea

## New Business:

- Synod Assembly – discussed previously
- Curt offered Coulee Carrier
- Circles of support removed from outreach and replace with World Hunger

## Team Reports:

- **Building and Grounds – Bob**  
Repair of parking lot
- **Congregational Care – Ardus**  
as submitted
- **Stewardship/Outreach – John**  
as submitted
- **Worship/Music – Cheryl**  
as submitted
- **Youth/Education – Curt**
- **WELCA – Ardus**

## Closing – 7:20

**Next Meeting;** July 11, 2017 at 6:00pm

Unapproved minutes, subject to change

## TEAM REPORTS

### CONGREGATIONAL CARE TEAM

VISITATION – COMMUNION MINISTRY

(12) Communion Visits

(17) Telephone Calls

(06) Visits, No Communion

(17) Cards Sent

Communion Team Members:

Lorraine Bummert

Ardus Cleveland

Carol Dahl

Judy Brockman, Coordinator

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## HOSPITALITY

THANK YOU – Carol Dahl, Joan Everson, JoAnn Hoeth & Bev Scott for providing refreshments for Sunday Morning Coffee Fellowship during the month of May.

## STEWARDSHIP TEAM

With help from this committee, St Paul's hosted the Washburn neighborhood potluck meeting on May 23. There were 30+ attending from the association, and they gave many compliments to our facility. they would like to have a meeting(s) here again!

We want to thank all St Paul's parishioners who gave their support to the Sugar Creek 'horse' project. Summer camps are on-going, so our prayers and volunteers are needed.

And, again on June 12 the Salvation Army's 'Feed the Kids' program is starting with the help of our faithful group of 10 or more St Paul's volunteers, led by LaVerne Ness and John Cleveland. John has again agreed to buy the fruit for each Monday. These brown bag lunches help to feed approximately 300 children. Please pray for these children and help support this wonderful outreach of St Paul's. Special envelopes are provided for your checks.

Much gratitude and hearty 'thank-yous' to John Cleveland who so aptly and faithfully keeps up our beautiful flower beds, most recently by planting the Pentecost geraniums!

Submitted by John Cleveland, Joyce Wichelt, John Heim

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC TEAM

John Cleveland and Ellen Klemp met after service on [May 21<sup>st</sup>](#).

Hymns for the following Sundays [June 4<sup>th</sup>](#) through [Aug 6<sup>th</sup>](#) were selected.

Trina stopped in and is willing to continue selecting a Contemporary Spiritual closing hymn on the Sundays she is musician.

John and Ellen thank her for helping continue this ministry and sharing her gifts.

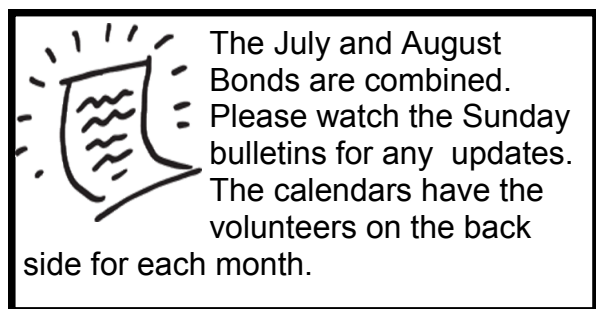
Digital Sign messages were discussed.

- Starting Monday [May 22<sup>nd</sup>](#) the sign will be changed to: **JESUS HAS ASCENDED.**
- Then on [June 4<sup>th</sup>](#) the sign will change to: **BE NOT AFRAID, CHRIST IS WITH US.**
- On [June 11<sup>th</sup>](#) the change will be: **ABIDE WITH ME**
- On [July 4<sup>th</sup>](#) the sign will say: **HAPPY BIRTHDAY USA**
- [July 11<sup>th</sup>](#) once again the sign will change to: **EXAMINE YOUR SELFIE**
- Finally on [Aug 6<sup>th</sup>](#) the sign will change to: **HANG OUT WITH JESUS**

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for [Aug 13<sup>th</sup>](#) – Hymn selection will be 8/13-10/15/17

Submitted;

Ellen Klemp



Church and office will be closed Tuesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> in observance of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Please plan accordingly.



W-ELCA meets Thursday, July 13th @ 11:30 am for their luncheon at the Radisson. Please notify Carrie Pearson (791-2763) by July 6th, if you will be attending. All women of the congregation are invited.



## Lutheran World Relief

We are nearing the time to assemble kits for Lutheran World Relief and hope you will help us.

We have some school supplies but are out of crayons, so crayons (boxes of 16-24) are our greatest need. Other items for school kits are 8"x10 1/2" notebooks, rulers, unsharpened pencils, pencil sharpeners, ballpoint pens, blunt scissors, and 2 1/2" erasers. Watch for back to school sales which usually start in July.

Health kits include a lightweight bath towel, adult toothbrush, sturdy comb, metal nail clippers and 2-3 bars of soap to total 8-9 oz.

Baby Care kits require the same amount of soap, so we can use many bars. There is a box for soap contributions on the table in the narthex.

We just received a letter telling us that some of our school kits and quilts were shipped out on April 27, 2017 and went to Peru to those affected by floods in March.

Thank you

Ruth Johnson



**FEED THE KIDS**—is the Salvation Army summer program to insure that kids get fed during the summer, when school is not in session. St. Paul's will again be helping to pack lunches every Monday through mid August **We again will be supplying fresh fruit on Mondays—can you help with the cost of the fruit?** Please make check payable to St. Paul's and place it in the offering plate or drop in off at the office. Please give generously to help the kids get fresh fruit for the summer.

To volunteer, please contact La Vern Ness – 791-2767, John C – 788-9527, John H – 788-9698, or Joyce W – 788-4602.



Cash for Trash—Please save Milk Moola caps and bag strips from Kwik Trip's milk and juice. They are redeemed for cash for St. Paul's.

Box Tops for Education from General Mills, Green Giant, Progresso, Ziploc and other products are worth \$.10 cash for Hamilton School.

Pull tabs from aluminum cans benefit Ronald McDonald Houses.

The Labels for Education program (Campbell soup labels) will be discontinued the end of this month.

There is an orange collection box on the table in the narthex for your contributions.

Thank you for participating.

Ruth Johnson