**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

October 23, 2024

Attendees: Donna Felch, Tom Splittgerber, Chad Berke, Stefanie Trakel, Michelle Zuengler, Pr Kyle Backhaus, Sara Chapman, John Rische, Jeff Berg & Pr Kyle Backhaus

Excused: Mark Buffington & Jim Weber

Guest/s:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Topic | Discussion | Action | Responsible Party |
| Call to Order |  | Vice President Jeff Berg called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm. |  |
| Opening Devotion & Prayer |  | Pr Kyle opened with a prayer. |  |
| TGP Update | Census remains full on all days. Balancing the participant to volunteer ratio continues to be a challenge as there are many inquiries and a wait list. Leah is no longer taking tours until November as the wait list is long. More volunteers are desperately needed as the need is great. Leah is attending the Sheboygan County Caregiver Conference to push for volunteers, along with posting volunteer ads and advertising through the United Way. A Volunteer Christmas Party and training will be held again in December.Memory Matters has grown a little, with a nice supportive group. November Giving Campaign will be starting shortly with a goal of raising $45,000. This ministry continues to be blessed with amazing support from family and friends. |  |  |
| September Secretary Report |  | A motion was made by Chad Berke to approve the September Secretary Report. Donna Felch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. |  |
| September Treasurer Report |  | A motion was made by Mark Buffington approve the September Treasurer Report via email on October 17, 2024. Donna Felch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. |  |
| Divine Call to Pastor Adam Wolfe |  | A motion was made by Tom Splittgerber approve recommending to the Congregation that they extend a Divine Call to Pastor Adam Wolfe via email on October 10, 2024. Donna Felch seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. |  |
| Guatemala Mission Trip | Aaryn Feile requested the Guatemala Mission Trip in August 2026. | A motion was made by Donna Felch to approve the Guatemala Mission Trip. Michelle Zuengler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. |  |
| Solar Panels Discussion | Chad Berke and Stefanie Trakel met with representatives from Texan Solar, which is the Solar Panel company recommended by the LCEF. There are considerable rebates for purchasing solar panels, however the cost would still be over $365,000. The maintenance is minimal but we would have to deal with snow on 322 panels. At this point the team is not recommending moving forward with this project.  |  |  |
| Door Replacement Discussion | The exterior doors on the building are beginning to wear. Quotes were given totaling over $175,000 to replace the doors. This is something we would replace in sections. | John Rische will review the list and assess the doors to determine if different repairs/replacements would be appropriate instead of replacing the entire door. He will report back. | John Rische |
| Elder Team Update | The Elder Team reviewed the Call process. |  |  |
| Senior Pastor Update | Visitation is very busy right now, we had several funerals and weddings. FMSC went very well with 625 volunteers and over 400 kids will be fed for a year. Julie Jones will be attending some conferences for Celebrate Recovery. She is also connecting with Russ Schulz, a member of our church that is a counselor and wanting to get more involved.AIM had 20 attend this past weekend with one more session to go. Pr Kyle is assisting with chapel at LHS and Bethlehem in the near future. Trunk or Treat is on Sunday. Last weekend we had 16 attend Camp Luther for a weekend mission trip. Savannah will be returning from leave on Monday, October 28. The Tuesday Pastor Bible Study is going well with good discussion. |  |  |
| Walk In – Financial Discussion | Michelle Zuengler and Donna Felch met with Brad Ten Pas regarding various ideas. He suggested more graphic financial reporting at Congregation Meetings, which we will try at our meeting later this evening. He felt most people don’t understand all the numbers. He also feels we should monitor attendance as that can lead to trends in giving. He also suggested forming a financial committee to look at other financial instruments to grow funds for big projects, such as the parking lot. He also suggested we do more long-term capital planning. | While we do not use the stock market as an investment option, there maybe lower risk options for some of our long-term projects. Donna will look into this further.Longer term capital planning is a good suggestion and will be implemented. | Donna FelchStefanie Trakel |
| Walk In – Handicap Accessible Bathroom Doors | A member has requested automatic entrances on our bathrooms as it is very difficult for handicapped individuals to enter.  | A motion was made by Jeff Berg to approve the installation of automatic handicap entrances on the bathrooms by the usher room, not to exceed $6,000. Michelle Zuengler seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously. | Stefanie Trakel |
| Adjournment | The next Council Meeting will be Monday, November 18 at 5:30 pm. The Columbarium Team will be presenting. | A motion was made by Jeff Berg to adjourn the meeting at 5:27 pm. Seconded by Chad Berke. Motion carried unanimously.  |  |
| Closing Prayer |  |  |  |