St. Paul Lutheran Church

**CONGREGATION MEETING MINUTES • October 22, 2024**

**Call to Order**: President Tom Splittgerber called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m.

**Opening Prayer**: Pastor Kyle Backhaus

**Secretary’s Report - Minutes of June 18, 2024 Congregation Meeting**: *A motion was made by Fay Risse and seconded by Bill Schultz to approve the Secretary’s Report from the June 18, 2024 Congregation Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.*

**September 2024 Treasurer’s Report**: Donna Felch presented the financial reports. Three months into the year we have a deficit of $56,858. Giving is almost exactly the same as last year at this time. There is nothing unusual to report. *A motion was made by Lee Wilcox and seconded by Dick Boenisch to approve the September 2024 Treasurer’s Report. Motion carried unanimously.*

**Divine Call:** The Call Team is comprised of the following: John Rische, Mark Buffington, Sara Gartman, Joe Zuengler, Brad Ten Pas, Michelle Bohm, Marilyn Risberg and Amber Christel. Pastor Kyle shared the timeline thus far.

The Call Team and Church Council is recommending we place a Divine Call to Pastor Adam Wolfe from Divine Redeemer Lutheran in Hartland, WI. Pastor Adam was born and raised in Germantown. He graduated from Concordia Mequon in 2016 and from Concordia St. Louis Seminary in 2020. He is married to Morgan Brandt Wolfe, a former daughter of our congregation. They have 2 boys, Micah (4) and Liam (2).

Pastor Adam has a professional appearance and a relaxed style. He can preach topically or liturgy. He is engaging and a Biblical teacher. He was originally called to be a Mission and Outreach Pastor, he now serves as Family Life Pastor, doing a lot of care visits. He is currently an Associate Pastor and he prefers this role, with less focus on Administration. His current church is of similar size with 3 full time Pastors and a part time Pastor.

Pastor Adam said he would decide in about 2-3 weeks, we are unsure of when he would start.

We did have two good candidates that were both very capable. The Call Team felt more comfortable with Pastor Adam and felt his sermons online fit just a little bit better with us. If Pastor Adam were to decline, we would have a discussion about considering the other Pastor.

*A motion was made by Mike Holden and seconded by Bob Mehre to approve extending a Divine Call to Pastor Adam Wolfe. Motion carried unanimously.*

**Congregation Concerns**:

*It was requested that we have a blended service during the 9:30 Sunday Worship Service. It wouldn’t have to be every week, maybe 2 out of 4 Sundays. This would give the choir more opportunity to perform.*

*It was requested that an update on the Columbarium be given in the future.*

 Donna Felch reported that the Columbarium Team will be presenting at the November Council Meeting. More information will come following that.

**Adjournment:** *A motion was made by Fay Risse and seconded by David Scherer to adjourn the Congregation Meeting at 7:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.*

**Closing Prayer**: Pastor Kyle Backhaus

Attendance: 109