

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH, Utica, Nebraska
VOTER'S MEETING MINUTES
February 18, 2024

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Jeff Wellman called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m., with 55 Voting Members and numerous Guests in attendance.

OPENING PRAYER was led by Chairman Wellman.

MINUTES OF LAST VOTER'S ASSEMBLY:

Minutes of the last Voter's meeting held on November 19, 2023 were printed in the January 2024 Grapevine Newsletter for review. Jeff Schlechte moved to accept the minutes as printed, Neal Koch Second. Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: (Lana Hoffschneider)

- Lana provided Reports of the 2023 Annual Budget Plan, Receipts & Disbursements, Endowment balances, providing specific information of increases and decreases for each of the budget categories. Debt reduction was completed in 2023!

PASTOR'S REPORT: No additional report, other than these Membership Changes:

Membership Changes:

Baptism: **Graham Douglas Tonniges -- 12/10/23**
 Corbin Mark DeWald -- 12/10/23
 Rigley William Hitz -- 12/31/23

Weddings: None

Funerals: **Rita Ritterling -- 12/21/23**
 Woody Ziegler -- 12/22/23
 Christine Erks -- 1/17/24
 Ardith Stuhr -- 1/30/24

Transfer In: None

Transfer Out: None

Releases: None

Affirmation of Faith: None

Reaffirmation of Faith: None

Confirmation: None

Adult Confirmation: None

DCE REPORT: (Brittany Fulcer)

(December- February)

- Usual duties- teaching confirmation/midweek, leading school/preschool chapels, leading Sunday School
- Attend monthly DCE meetings
- Sunday School Christmas Eve Program went well! No flood this year!
- Working with our church secretary to make pre service slides
- Youth group continues to have good attendance each week
 - Christmas Caroling was fun! We went to some new houses!

- Candlelight service led by high schoolers went awesome!
- Youth led two advent meals- money that will go towards a Gaga Ball pit
- Attended Nebraska District Gatherings- JH- 12 kids HS- 15 kids
- High School Lock-In New Years Eve- 21 kids
- Helping advise on tech upgrade situations
 - New projectors have been installed
 - Working on new computers.
- Continue to work on finding a designated spot for our youth to be
- Made a Lent family devotional and purchased an Arch book for families as well
- Met with families to start planning out for Confirmation Sunday. There are four 8th grade confirmands.
- Helping coach girls' basketball

ELDER'S REPORT: Wayne Heine (Head), Rod Erks, Mike Rathjen, Doug Gruber, Kurt Bulgrin, Mitch Stuhr

Wayne Heine reported:

- Attempting to work through all items going on with resolution before summer – hopefully.
- Call process on-going.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Josh Struble-Head Trustee, Brandon Borchers, Eric Peeks, Greg Heine, Justin Slawnyk, Clark Gruber

- Clark Gruber reported: Sprinkler dry system not operational, wet system is operational
 - \$55,000.00 for narthex wet system – Nifco estimate + drywall repair and paint – this repair is needed and is scheduled for repair.
- Question was asked about the lights on east side of church? Any plans to fix? Trustees will take a look at this.
- Working on new lights in the altar area
- Church laptops/computer replacements needed (see new business report)
- Leaky faucets to be repaired in bathrooms, showers in locker rooms, kitchen faucet
- Storm damage repairs still in process.

BOARD OF EDUCATION: Jason Fehlhafer-Chair, Theresa Fritz, Todd Schmieding

Mr. Bob Brauer, Principal reported:

- We have 4 student teachers with us.
- Concordia basketball tournament for girls and boys coming up
- Lutheran Schools Week at St. Paul coming up
 - Fun Day is March 3
 - Kindergarten roundup on Wednesday, March 6
 - Science Fair in 5th and 6th grade on Thursday, March 7
 - February 29 the York University play production will be at St. Paul School and all are invited to attend this production.

- Nick Muench has been extended a call as the next St. Paul School Principal and Teacher.
 - An invite has been extended to him to visit our facility.
 - Nick has been asking good questions, and anticipate hearing from him within the coming week.
- Discipline policies in handbook are being reviewed by the Board.
- Looking at possibly installing security cameras on playground, parking lot, gym, school hallways.....
 - Board of Ed will communicate with our tech person regarding security cameras
- Gaga Ball Pit has been purchased and will be installed on the school playground.

YOUTH BOARD: Rachel Saunders, Clint Turnbull, Kara Hawley

Brittany Fulcer reported:

- Looking at youth group fundraisers for the National Youth Gathering being held next year.
- Working on preparing college care packages for student members.

FINANCE BOARD: Jon Koski (Head), Carl Fehlhafer, Larry Griffiths, Scott Gierhan, Curtis Saunders (Finance Secretary)

- Partial year giving reports have been distributed.
- PCI compliance for debit/credit transactions completed
- Year-end reports are still being worked on.

STEWARDSHIP BOARD: Diane Steinhausen, Stacie Turnbull, Peggy Heine

Diane Steinhausen reported:

- Time & Talents surveys have been received, with 39 surveys turned in
 - The Board will compile this information from the surveys into a database with Brittany
 - Surveys ARE STILL being accepted !
- Looking forward to checking out the district stewardship program

OUTREACH BOARD: Nancy Richters, Rhonda Kovac, Carol Erks

Chairman Jeff Wellman reported:

- 40 Children's Bibles have been distributed in the church pews for kids to utilize at church or to take home, if needed.
- Rhonda is going to develop thoughts and ideas for outreach in church and community.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Teacherage and Special Voter's Meeting Update –**
 - Appraisal was done of the lot were the house sets for consideration
 - Table discussion on the house pending the call to Nick Muench
 - If he would not accept the call – then a special voters meeting will be held with house options being presented.

- **Youth Giving envelope process –**
 - currently nothing in process. The Finance Board and the Stewardship Board will review and work on putting together a process to reach out to the young members and new members of St. Paul Church.
- **Youth Space –**
 - Continue to look at possible spaces that are handicap accessible
 - Jon Koski's garage, which is located to the North of the school might be a possibility.
 - Having conversations about this being a place for youth to gather – checking in to Insurance, Agreements, etc.
- **Constitutional Review Update –**
 - **Constitution Article IV, 4.1.3, Membership –** discussion was held.
 - Proposed Revision is to change voting member age from 18 years to 19 years.
 - Constitution Article IV, 4.1.3 – Tim Heidorn moved to remove the proposed revision and to keep the original Article IV, 4.1.3 as is, which states that Voting Members are communicant members who have reached the age of 18 years. Jeff Schlechte second. Carried.
 - **Constitution Article XI – Limitations on Holding Office –** discussion was held.
 - Proposed Revision reads: *“Women of the congregation who are communicant members may serve as officers and as members of boards and committees, as long as the positions are not directly involved in the specific functions of the pastoral office, or as a member of the Board of Elders or chairman of the congregation, in accordance with the teachings of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod.”*
 - Constitution Article XI - Jason Richters moved to adopt the Revision to Article XI. Stacy Turnbull second. Carried.
 - **Bylaws 14.0 Voters' Assembly, 14.1 and 14.3 –** discussion was held.
 - Proposed Bylaw Revision 14.1 reads: *“Voters' meeting shall be held quarterly, beginning in February of each year.”*
 - Proposed Bylaw Revision 14.3 reads: *“A voting member who has missed five consecutive regular meetings of the Voters' Assembly shall be contacted by the congregational secretary. If the member has not expressed a desire to remain on the Voters' Assembly roster prior to the sixth meeting, he or she will be released as a voting member. However, he or she may reapply for reinstatement of voting privileges.”*
 - Bylaw 14.1 & 14.3 - Clint Turnbull moved to adopt the Revisions to Bylaws 14.1 & 14.3. Greg Heine second. Carried.
 - **Bylaw 13.0 Procedures for calling pastors and teachers, 13.1 – 13.4**
 - Committee will continue to look at these revisions, and will postpone congregation consideration to the next voter's meeting.
 - Discussion was held.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Fire suppression repair**
 - See trustees report for details on this issue.
 - Curt Deremer moved to repair the fire system in the narthex. Tim Heidorn second. Discussion held. Curt Deremer amended his motion to include direction to pay this expense from the church building fund. Carried.
- **Endowment Committee Report was presented to the voter's assembly.**
 - Lana presented the endowment balances.
 - St. Paul Lutheran Church Endowment Fund pamphlet was presented and is available for everyone to view and to share with family and friends.
 - Fund use/spending categories, receipts and distribution information was provided.
 - Unrestricted Funds definition and changes were presented.
 - Congregational Restricted Funds definition and changes were presented.
 - Donor Restricted Funds definition and changes were presented, with specific information regarding real property.
- **Approval of Endowment Fund disbursement on computers**
 - It was reported that five (5) computers at a cost of \$6,159.83 and church projectors at a cost of \$1,265.00.
 - A revised report was given of five (5) computers at a cost of \$6,267.29, which would include a laptop for the pastor.
 - Jason Richters moved to approve the requested \$3,600.00 from the Endowment account of the Maxine Fuerniss Fund toward computer purchases. Curt Deremer second. Carried
- **Designation of Memorial Board signees**
 - Motion was made to approve Jon Koski as signor of Memorial account. Lana Hoffschneider second. Carried.
- **Designation of Head Trustee as a signee at the Bank**
 - Curt Deremer moved to approve Josh Struble, Head Trustee, as signor for the church bank account. Tim Heidorn second. Carried.

Reception of New Voting Members:

- The following requested to become voting members:
 - Tricia Heine
 - Diane Lurs
 - Dominique Schmieding

Jason Richters moved to accept these new members. Justin Slawnyk second. Carried.

Mr. Bob Brauer received information and announced that Nick Muench has declined the Principal/Teacher call.

A brief announcement was made to the congregation about the Teacherage/Parsonage (house) project and the cost of repairs needed.

Curt Deremer moved to adjourn the meeting. Tim Heidorn second. Carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:09 p.m.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The next Voters Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, May 19, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. (following the church service). PLEASE be aware that a change of date may be necessary for this next scheduled Voter's Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Vicky Ziegler, Secretary