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Thank You!

To all our amazing St Paul Lutheran Volunteers, we thank you! We would be lost without the gifts of time, service, and creativity our volunteers share.

You are appreciated!

Congregation Council:

Pastor Frank Kauzlarich: 920-217-0204

Cathy Mestek: 262-470-9754

Congregation President & Worship & Music Co-Chair

Pam Davis: 920-559-9806

Congregation Secretary

Greg Ehlke: 920-868-1092

Congregation Treasurer

Jeff Kuchenbecker: 608-770-0755

Congregation Vice President & Worship & Music Co-Chair

Peder Nelson: 920-854-0136

Property, Maintenance, & Cemetery Chair

Karen Peterson: 920-868-2928

Local Benevolence Chair

Renee Schwaller: 920-868-9608

Fellowship Ministry Chair

Steve Stringer: 815-670-5754 Property, Maintenance, & Cemetery

Mary Sawyer: 920-868-2826

Administrative Assistant

Office Hours:

Mon 10am – 1pm * Weds 11am – 5pm * Fri 11am – 5pm



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Pastor's Page

Dear Sisters and Brother in Christ.

Many of us have heard the news that Good Samaritan Scandia Village is for sale. This has major implications for seniors and all of us who live in northern Door County. When at capacity, 'Scand' has nearly 20% of the residents of Sister Bay! As many of you know, Scand has and continues to offer many levels of care for seniors, although the Care Center is no longer taking new residents.

I was introduced to Scand through my wife's grandmother, Florence Wilterding. She was the first resident in the then new apartment wing. I remember her apartment filled was with chairs. Nearly every chair was moved from her former home. We joked that she would never fall, but instead simply land in a chair. The care was outstanding and the facility was new and wonderful.

Since arriving in Door County, I have been joined by our musicians in offering devotions and Sunday worship with the residents. This has been and continues to be a joy. I served for a brief time on the Advisory Committee for Scand and I price artwork at Bargains Unlimited which supports the mission of Scand.

For many years, staffing has been a challenge for Scand due to the living locations of staff and prospective staff. Yes, a major issue has been housing! Does that sound familiar? It isn't only an issue for those seeking to find summer help. The issue of paying a competitive wage for those who have specialized skills is a challenge. Also, wage competition is a major challenge for sustainability.

Scand was birthed because of local need and led by local people. Without this local ownership in all ways by the greater community we have seen what happens. Scand has lost wonderful staff members, faithful servants who gave until they had no more to give. I give thanks for their ministry and pray they are healthy in all ways. Many are working in various ways to bring about a solution for Scand which will be one of health and healing for those who are residents, staff, and the larger community. The ministry of Scand and other providers who care for seniors is essential for a healthy community. I ask for your prayers for those who have been and are Scand staff, for the residents, and for someone to come forward to purchase this place and ministry with more than money, with a heart and desire to do ministry for the sake of all in this time and place.

Peace, Pastor Frank Kauzlarich

February Church Calendar

SUN	MON		TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				01	02	03	04
				1:30pm Bible Study	8:45am – 10:15am Women's Spiritual Growth Group	8:30am Men's Bible Study	
05		06	07	08	09	10	11
9am Worship Sanctuary & Parking Lot			12pm Kidknits Lunch at White Gull Inn	1:30pm Bible Study	8:45am – 10:15am Women's Spiritual Growth Group 10am Worship & Music Zoom Meeting	8:30am Men's Bible Study	
12		13	14	15	16	17	18
9am Worship Sanctuary & Parking Lot				1:30pm Bible Study 5:30pm Church Council Meeting	8:45am – 10:15am Women's Spiritual Growth Group	8:30am Men's Bible Study	
19		20	21	22	23	24	25
9am Worship Sanctuary & Parking Lot				1:30pm Bible Study 6pm Worship Ash Wednesday Sanctuary & Parking Lot		8:30am Men's Bible Study Office Closed	
26		27	28				
9am Worship Sanctuary &	Office Clo	sed					

Office Hours:

Parking Lot

Mon 10am - 1pm * Weds 11am - 5pm * Fri 11am - 5pm

Church Council Meeting Highlights

Highlights of January 18, 2023 Council Meeting

- Renee Schwaller has agreed to chair the Fellowship Ministry (thank you!) and is looking to involve St. Paul members. Fellowship Hall coffee hours after worship on Sundays will resume as well as Soup Suppers to be held prior to 6pm Wednesday Lenten worship services starting March 1st. Other ideas are in the works, so stay tuned.
- Council made plans to update the St. Paul Urgent Need Policy to better reflect current costs and to eliminate the distinction between the needs of members and non-members. A revised policy will be up for ratification at the next meeting.
- Council heard that St. Paul members, friends and the community are invited to the Kress Center Great Hall in Egg Harbor on March 27 to view a live-stream premiere of one of Jacob Beranek's compositions. Details as to how you can join us in celebrating the accomplishment of one of our own can be found on page 10 in this Epistle.
- Pastor reported, with gratitude, that a recent donation of \$10,000 has been received from the estate of a member to help those in need locally. The Local Benevolence Ministry will coordinate the distribution of these funds in keeping with the family's wishes. This generous gift brings the local benevolence funds to \$25,000 to be distributed before October, a reason for celebration indeed.
- Council approved the formation of a Forward Planning/Transition Task Force to study the strengths and needs of the congregation and to make recommendations as to what might position St. Paul well for transition in the future.
- The Church Council, via Electronic Business on December 23, 2022, adopted resolutions authorizing the opening of a retail brokerage account with Thrivent Financial, with an initial disbursement of \$1000 to fund the account. In Council action this evening, the group unanimously approved the transfer of \$20,000 from Nicolet National Bank to this account to purchase \$20,000 of US Treasury Notes in order to generate additional income.

Full Council-approved minutes of the January meeting will be published in the March Epistle. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns and we'll look for answers together. As always, Council opened and closed with prayer, and with gratitude for your ministry among us.

Cathy Mestek

Congregation President



Worship & Music Meeting Highlights

Highlights of January 10, Worship & Music Ministry Meeting

- As always, the meeting began and ended with prayer and thanksgiving. The overarching theme of these meetings is one of gratitude for our musicians, worship leaders, for all who share their gifts freely to make worship possible, and for every single person who joins us in worship.
- January 29 will be a Service of Healing, our custom on the 5th Sunday of any month.
- The Praise Team, with possibly the choir, will lead worship on February 5.
- Ash Wednesday, February 22, we will come together for 6pm worship, both in and out. Lenten 6pm worship services will follow every Wednesday through March 29.
- The group continued discussion on feasible ways to provide an accessible and safe pathway/ seating area for any future Prayer Garden services.
- It was brought to light (sorry for the pun) that the lighting in the sanctuary is not sufficient for many of our members to read easily and certainly not sufficient to lift the winter gloom of recent weeks. Any work to provide brighter, more welcoming lighting would be a project undertaken with care and in conjunction with the Property Ministry and Council. Focus on Energy Wisconsin has helped others with advice and, in some cases, financial incentives to upgrade lighting. The idea generated energy in our group, and you will likely hear more about this in the future.

The Worship & Music Ministry meets again on Thursday, February 9, 10am by Zoom. If anyone would like to join the discussion, please contact Mary in the office and she'll send you a Zoom invitation. You'll be warmly welcomed and brightly received.

February Volunteer Schedule

Song Leaders	Musicians	Pastor
D	2-5 Praise Team	Pastor Frank Kauzlarich
	2-12 Doreen	
	2-19 Doreen	
	2-26 Doreen	

Volunteers	5	Sunday	12	Sunday	19	Sunday	26	Sunday	22	Ash Wednesday
9am Assisting Minister	Jane DeCock		Jane	Jane DeCock		Pat Kaldor		Dennis Kaldor		n Debbie Jones
9am Indoor Usher	Jana F	Raines	Jerry	/ Lecy			Jerr	y Lecy	6pn	1
9am Outdoor Usher	Andre	ea Esau	Tom	& Sue Beranek					6pn	า

Please contact the church office at 920-868-2826 if you would like to be added to the volunteer contact list.

Shovel Volunteer Schedule



Shovel Volunteer Sign Up

Please sign up for shoveling the sidewalk at Church by contacting Clarence Scherer by phone or text at: 920-559-1951 or by email at: cmscherer42@gmail.com

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JAN 27 THRU FEB 2
FEB 3 THRU FEB 9 DAVE DECOCK
FEB 10 THRU FEB 16 AL PETERSON
FEB 17 THRU FEB 23
FEB 24 THRU MAR 2
MAR 3 THRU MAR 9 DAVE DECOCK
MAR 10 THRU MAR 16
MAR 17 THRU MAR 23 CHRIS COLLINS
MAR 24 THRU MAR 30 CLARENCE SCHERER
MAR 31 THRU APR 6
APR 7 THRU APR 13 DAVE DECOCK
APR 12 THRU APR 20
*Sue and Tim Tischler will fill in any Friday-Sunday as long as they're here.
Thanks Everyone!

Church Life



Ash Wednesday Worship February 22. 6pm

We begin the forty-day journey of Lent "remembering that we are dust and to dust we shall return." We confess our sins and wait for the absolution which takes place on Maundy Thursday. We receive the imposition of ashes, hear the Word and share in the Supper. Come, worship on this the first of six Wednesday worship offerings in Lent.



Midweek Lent Worship Series Wednesdays in March at 6pm

We gather after a soup supper (5:00pm - 5:45pm), for worship, looking at this theme through the Word, prayers, hymns and Word proclaimed and the Meal.

Responding To The Lord

Offering Envelopes are available in the narthex and from the outdoor usher. We return to God what God has first given us as we share in the ministry of the Gospel.

The Lutheran Magazine

Available in the narthex or from the outdoor usher. Be informed concerning the ministry we share as part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Christ in Our Home Devotions

Available in the narthex and from the outdoor usher. Enter into the daily discipline of reading the world, reflection and prayer.

Prayer Shawls

Thank you to all who have been distributing prayer shawls. If you are aware of someone in need of one, please pick one up from the credenza in the narthex or from the table outside on Sunday before or after worship or call the office during the week. For those of you who knit or crochet, the winter is a great time to get started on creating one of these gifts of care and concern as our supply diminishes. For additional information, contact Debbie Jones at 651-328-1261 or debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com.

Fellowship & Food Pantry

After Worship Coffee and Fellowship Time

We are going to have coffee and treats after worship on Sundays. Our first gathering was on January 22nd, after 9am worship. We hope you'll join us for community and conversation. It's time to get reacquainted!

Please sign up in the Narthex to be in charge of making coffee and bringing cookies. We welcome volunteers to bring light treats of their own making or signing up just to prepare coffee. We greatly appreciate however you choose to be of service. If you have questions, please contact Renee Schwaller at 929-868-9608.



Soup Suppers

Watch for information and signup sheets for Lenten soup suppers. We will gather in the basement Fellowship Hall to share a soup meal before Wednesday worship during Lent. Supper will be from 5:00pm - 5:45pm with worship at 6pm.

We are looking for two people to sign up for each Wednesday, with each person bringing a crockpot of soup to share. If you have questions, please call Renee Schwaller at 920-868-9608.



Food Pantry

Mary Anne and Clarence Scherer will be out of the county for a month beginning in late February thru March and for the months of July, August, and September. They have managed the food pantry for 7 years and would appreciate it if someone would step up and take over running this ministry. They would work with anyone interested in taking over to share contacts and information about where to bring food. Thank you.

Please contact Mary Anne Scherer at: decgalm@gmail.com or 920-559-01565

Treasurer's Corner & Souper Bowl

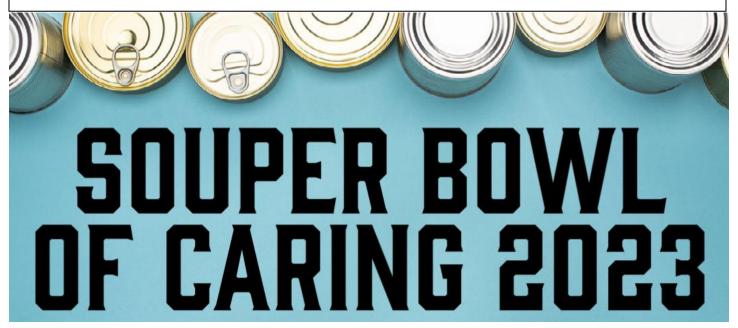
Treasurer's Corner: New Brokerage Account

In early January, following approval by the Church Council, a brokerage account was opened with Thrivent Financial. This brokerage account will provide members, should they wish to do so, with another way to make donations to support our Lord's Ministry at St. Paul Lutheran through donations of shares of stock or other securities. The brokerage account will also provide greater financial flexibility to the financial staff in managing our liquid assets.

If you have any interest in donating securities to St. Paul Lutheran, or have any questions in that regard, please contact the Church Treasurer or call the Church Office.

Annual Contribution Summaries

Annual contribution summaries for the calendar year ended December 31, 2022 are expected to be mailed shortly. If you do not receive yours by February 15th, please call the Church Office or contact the Church Treasurer.



Souper Bowl of Caring

Help contribute food to our neighbors who are hungry during the Souper Bowl of Caring campaign, coordinated by our Local Benevolence Committee...

While ANY non-perishable food item will be accepted, consider donating the following each week and leave them at the display in the entry:

Week One (Jan. 22): Canned Fruits vs. Canned Vegetables

Week Two (Jan. 29): Peanut Butter vs. Jelly

Week Three (Feb. 5): Chunky Soups vs. Macaroni & Cheese

Week Four (Feb. 12): Canned Tuna vs. Canned Chicken

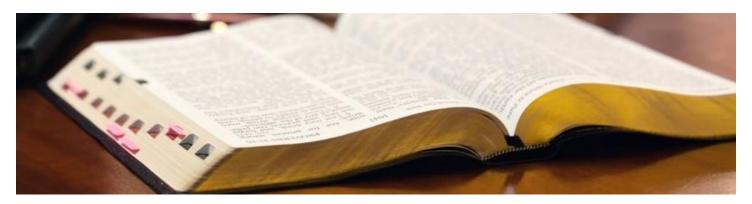
Donations will be counted each week to see which food is the champion.

Monetary donations (a good place for all that loose change that's been accumulating) will be accepted Sunday, Feb. 12.

Bible Studies

Men's Bible Study

The St. Paul Men's Bible Study group continues to meet on Friday's at 8:30 with the opportunity to meet via Zoom or in person at the Corner Café in Sturgeon Bay, while Julie's Café is closed for period this winter. For more information about the Zoom session or to receive a copy of the readings and questions, please contact Gary Jones at gary.jones09@gmail.com. To learn about the in-person meeting, please contact John Hermann at john.c.hermann@gmail.com.



Women's Spiritual Growth Group Winter Session

Our winter session has returned to meeting on Thursday mornings from 8:45-10:15 AM beginning January 5 through February 16 via ZOOM. Our study is a 7-week daily devotional book called Pilgrimage into the Last Third of Life - 7 Gateways to Spiritual Growth by Jane Marie Thibault and Richard L. Morgan. Each day introduces content related to the weekly theme followed by questions for reflection. The themes by week are: 1. Facing Aging and Dying; 2. Living with Limitation; 3. Doing Inner Work; 4. Living In and Out of Community; 5. Prayer and Contemplation; 6. Redeeming Loss and Suffering; 7. Leaving a Legacy. It is available at christianbook.com for roughly \$12.

Lent

Once again, we will be using the Lent daily devotional book (no charge) from Living Compass during Lent (2/22 through 4/9). The theme this year is "Practicing Compassion with All Your Heart, Soul, Strength, and Mind." We will meet on Thursday evenings via ZOOM from 6:15-7:00 PM beginning Thursday, March 2 for an unstructured discussion of our personal experiences, questions, challenges, deeper insights, whatever you are comfortable sharing related to the readings for the week.

If you are interested in attending either of these studies, learning more about our discussions, or receiving the Lent devotional and ZOOM links, please contact Debbie Jones.

Adult Bible Study: Letting our Light Shine and Other Themes in the Season of Epiphany

Led by Pastor Frank, this Bible Study will meet every Wednesday in February at 6:30pm on Zoom. For more information and to RSVP please call or text Pastor Frank at 920-217-0204.

Jacob Beranek, World Premiere

Concert at the Kress March 27, 6:30pm

One of the great things about living in Door County is that we're surrounded by opportunities to take in the arts in all forms. Some opportunities hit closer to home than others, and here's an example. A St. Paul member and musician, Jacob Beranek, has received a prestigious musical competition award from the Juilliard School in New York City where Jacob is pursuing post-graduate studies. This award entitles Jacob to have his classical composition, "Pilgrimatic Overture," performed by an orchestra at Alice Tully Hall in the Lincoln Center, New York City on Monday, March 27th.

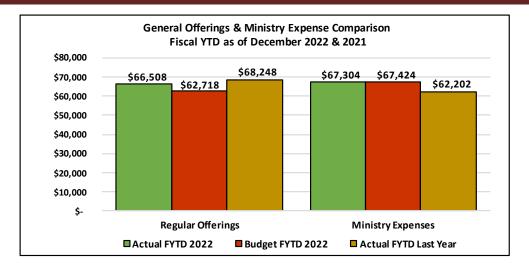
The concert is entitled, "Four World Premieres By Julliard Student Composers," and will feature Jacob's work alongside the works of three fellow students. The Julliard is livestreaming the event for those of us who can't make the trek to New York City. This is a one-time stream only; the performance will not be available to stream afterward on demand. So, here's our chance!

St. Paul has rented the Great Hall at the Kress Center in the Egg Harbor Library for the evening of March 27th so we can have our own watch party to celebrate Jacob's gifts and accomplishment. We'll gather at 6pm, share a few refreshments, and watch the 6:30pm performance together on the big screen.

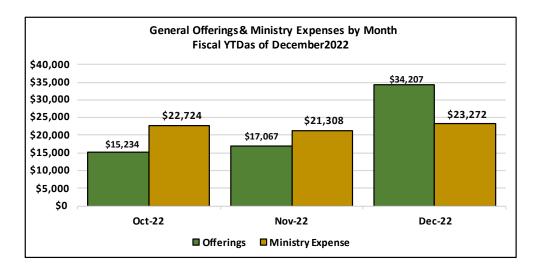
Many of us of a certain age have been a little - or a lot - mopey lately because the beloved musicians of our youth are leaving the scene one by one. We don't like it. What better way to find renewed hope than to see firsthand the young talent that will be lighting the stages for many years to come? Please mark your calendars and make plans to join us, bringing family and friends, for this unique opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to God for Jacob's gifts shared among us. Hope to see you there!



Financial Update



- FYTD = Fiscal Year-to-Date. St. Paul Lutheran's fiscal year begins on 01-Oct.
- The 2022-23 fiscal year Ministry Expenses budget is \$258,868.
- General Offerings received in the first three months of the fiscal year were \$1,740 lower than in the prior year (\$66,508 vs. \$68,248) but were \$3,790 higher than budgeted
- Ministry Expenses were greater than General Offerings by \$796 (i.e., \$66,508 - \$67,304 = \$796 shortfall)



- General Offerings, which excludes Designated Offerings such as Urgent Need and Memorial contributions, received in December (\$34,207 as shown above) were \$1,731 lower than in December 2021 but substantially higher than the amount received in each of the first two months of the current fiscal year
- Ministry Expenses were higher in December than in the prior two months principally due to higher Local Benevolencedisbursements and the timing of the quarterly Benevolencedisbursement to the Synod

Council Meeting Minutes

St. Paul Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes Thursday, December 15, 2022

Mission: St. Paul Lutheran Church is a welcoming family bringing Christ into people's lives by developing, nurturing and supporting disciples.

Council Members Present: Cathy Mestek, Pastor Frank, Jeff Kuchenbecker, Pam Davis, Greg Ehlke,
Peder Nelson, Karen Peterson, Steve Stringer and Renee Schwaller (all
attending remotely via Zoom)

Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Mestek at 6:30 P.M. CST.

Devotions

Cathy provided an opening devotion entitled "The Prodigal Son, A Mother's love story."

Agenda Approval

The previously circulated agenda was reviewed and accepted. Motion made by Karen Peterson and seconded by Greg Ehlke.

Formalization of Council Member

Cathy noted it would be appropriate to formally vote on the addition of Renee Schwaller and Pam Davis as members of the Council given that action was not presented at the most recent Annual Congregation Meeting on October 30th. Upon motion, made by Karen P. and seconded by Jeff Kuchenbecker, the Council unanimously approved Renee and Pam's election as Council members.

Minutes

The previously circulated minutes from the November 16, 2022 meeting, following a motion made by Pam D. and seconded by Karen P., were approved.

Record of Electronic Business Approval

Cathy reported that the Church Council approved Pastor Frank's request to revise his 2022 calendar year housing allowance amount by \$7,500 with a corresponding \$7,500 reduction in his salary due to changes in his housing costs incurred during this inflationary environment. Cathy also reported that the Executive Committee approved an Urgent Need request of \$100 in total to benefit a member of St. Paul Lutheran in need of assistance.

Community of Faith

Pastor Frank explained the Community of Faith is about anything we wish to share with the rest of the Council members. Karen P. spoke first with a praise that her father is home from the hospital. Greg. E. thanked all for their offered prayers and cards during his mother's illness and passing. He shared a poem called "What is Success". Peder N. spoke about his business concerns and thanked everyone for their letters and prayers. Renee S. gave praise for her daughter's college graduation and new job with HELP of Door County. Pastor Frank thanked everyone for their prayers and support during his surgery

and recovery. He gave an update on his condition and talked of recurring headaches and explained that he was not fully healed.

Jeff K. reported about 5 congregation members completed training on the Automated External Defibrillator (AED). He also told us there is a mobile app that will locate an AED.

Financial Report

Greg E. gave the high points of the financial report, which were previously distributed by email.

- Total Offerings for the month approximated \$18.2K of which Regular Offerings (which excludes designated contributions) approximated \$16.8K which was about \$4.1K lower than budgeted. Ministry Expenses approximated \$21.4K, which about \$3.5K higher than the prior year month.
- Fiscal year-to-date Regular Offerings for the first two months approximated \$32.2K which has virtually unchanged from the prior year period. The fiscal year-to-date Ordinary Net Loss was (\$11.8K), which was about \$6.4K worse than last year.
- Undesignated cash funds available would cover about six months of Ministry Expenses without any reliance on additional Offerings being received.
- Greg also reported that others had benefited by amending their StarLink internet provider applications to "Best Efforts" status to significantly speed up their receipt of hardware needed to use StarLink. This will be pursued by the Church and Mary Sawyer will confer with Bob Kufrin to see how this can be accomplished.

As recommended by Greg, Council also approved \$100 bonuses for Doreen, Mary, Chris and Shawn. The Financial report was approved by the Council pursuant to a motion made by Steve S. and seconded by Pam D. A copy of the November 2022 Financial Summary, along with the financial statements and schedules provided to the Council, was ordered to be filed with the records of the meeting.

Pastor's Report with Update on Membership Rolls

Pastor Frank provided a report on various matters. Pastor mentioned how Dolly Emerson, who had been hospitalized in critical condition for 40 days but is now recovering at home, had called him recently to express how much she and her husband appreciated the prayers and support. This call heartened Pastor a great deal.

Pastor told the Council how non-attending members had been tracked and about a letter sent to those households asking if they wanted to continue their membership. Eleven responses were received. Various answers were given with many withdrawing their membership, some due to a move and affiliation with a new church.

Pastor also mentioned that he would like to begin a Bible Study in January on "How are You Light". He asked for thoughts and suggestions as to the days and times to hold the study.

Approval of Local Benevolence Distributions

Karen P. reported that the Local Benevolence Ministry team recommended \$2,000 of support be provided to local charitable organizations for the first quarter of the current fiscal year. This included 1,000 for HELP of Door County and \$1,000 for the Stride Mental Health Program which supports youth needs in the local community. Upon motion by Karen and seconded by Peder, the recommended local benevolence distributions were approved.

Cemetery Report

Steve Stringer reported he is working on updating cemetery plot locations. Many plots have burials that are not identified. Peder asked about the possibility of surveying the cemetery. Nothing definite was decided on that issue.

OLD BUSINESS

Appointment of Ministry Liaisons

Since the Council membership has changed, Cathy mentioned that various Ministry liaisons should be formalized. She has been the liaison for the Worship & Music Ministry for three years and will continue with that responsibility until May. Jeff will also be a liaison to that Ministry as well. Pastor Frank will meet with Renee to determine her best avenue to serve.

Urgent Need Policy

The Council discussed whether annual threshold limits for support of members and non-members in need of assistance should be revised. The current annual limits, per the Urgent Need Policy, is up to \$500 for members and up to \$200 for non-members. Jeff is advocating non-discrimination in the amount of distribution of such funds to members or non-members. There is approximately \$7,000 available in the Urgent Need fund. The annual amount maximums have not changed since this policy was initiated in 2020. Several Council members believe the annual limits should be raised.

Electronic Business Procedure

Jeff led a discussion about utilization of the electronic approval process for actions required between Council meetings. Such actions are permissible per the congregation's approved Constitution. We need a written policy which Jeff will work on.

NEW BUSINESS

Goal Setting Process for 2023

Cathy led a discussion about the preparation of goals for 2023. It was agreed that we will wait until we have liaisons in place.

<u>Adjournmen</u>t

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:12 P.M. with the prayer by Pastor Frank and the Council joining in The Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting

Wednesday, January 18, 2023; 5:30 P.M. via Zoom. Renee Schwaller will provide the opening devotion. Respectfully submitted,

Pam Davis, Secretary