

St Paul Lutheran Church

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Epistle

April 2023

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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

Thank You!

To all our wonderful volunteers, we thank you!
Without your talents and time church life would lose
its luster. We are grateful!

Bless you!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Pastor's Page & Local Benevolence

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

We live a life of transitions. Some are celebrated and some come with heavy hearts. The Church year is like that. As I write we are in the season of Lent, a time to reflect on our frailty and consider what separates us from love of God and love of our neighbor, our sin. We enter Holy Week soon. The emotion swings as we experience the great paradoxes in our lives as we journey with Jesus: joy, life, sorrow and death And then comes the 'just one more surprise.' John Ylvasaker in his song 'Borning Cry" most profoundly brings the reality of the transition of life to us. Some of us experience all of those mentioned in the song, but all of the baptized experience life, death and resurrection. I invite you to enter into this holy journey each time we worship and all the days in between. And I entire you to journey this coming Holy Week as we worship on four days, each with its own story, a story, a story which becomes one story, a story for all of us.

In Christ,

Pastor Frank

Local Benevolence Update

Spring Cleaning/Hygiene Drive

In April, we have opportunity to provide some hygiene items for our 5 Door County food pantries, such as:

- Toothbrushes and toothpaste
- Bar Soap
- Hand Soap (pump)
- Shampoo (conditioner not needed)
- Shaving cream and razors
- Deodorant - men and women
- Laundry Detergent (small bottles/boxes)

They are also in need of the following food items:

- Rice in 1 pound packages
- Rice Mixes and Helpers to extend hamburger, chicken, and tuna
- Instant Hot Cereals (for students to make before and after school)

Please leave your donations in the boxes provided in the entryway during the month of April.

If you wish to donate money, please mark your envelope or check with FOOD PANTRY.

THANKS for your generosity!



April Church Calendar

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

01

02

9am Worship
In-sanctuary &
Parking Lot
Sunday of the
Passion

03

1:15pm Kidknits
Gathering at
Church

05

6pm Maundy
Thursday
Worship

06

8:30am Men's
Bible Study
Zoom or In-
person
12pm Good
Friday Worship
6pm Tenebrae
Worship

07

08

09

9am Worship
In-sanctuary &
Parking Lot
Easter Sunday

10

10am Worship &
Music Zoom
Meetings

11

5:30pm
Executive
Committee
Zoom Meeting

12

13

8:30am Men's
Bible Study
Zoom or In-
person

14

15

16

9am Worship
In-sanctuary &
Parking Lot

17

1pm Christian
Women's Book
Club at Kress
Center

18

1:30pm Church
Council Zoom
Meeting

19

20

8:30am Men's
Bible Study
Zoom or In-
person

21

22

23

9am Worship
In-sanctuary &
Parking Lot

24

25

26

27

8:30am Men's
Bible Study
Zoom or In-
person

28

29

30

9am Worship
In-sanctuary &
Parking Lot

Church Council Meeting Highlights

Highlights of the March Council Meeting

Council talked through the transition now that Mary Sawyer, the St. Paul Administrative Assistant, will be leaving March 31st to take employment in her chosen field at the Bailey's Harbor Library. The position is posted and interviews will begin shortly. We are grateful for Mary's service and her willingness to help during the transition period.

Council discussed the orderly hand-off of passwords, documents, and such matters as the long-awaited Starlink application.

A \$5000 check given to Scandia Village in 2018 was never used as intended and will be returned to our Endowment Fund to be used for a worthy cause.

Council is investigating the benefits and process to incorporate St. Paul as a non-profit religious LLC. If this moves forward, the matter would come to the congregation for a vote at the October, 2023 Annual meeting and go into effect January 1, 2024.

On the recommendation of the Local Benevolence Ministry, Council approved allocating \$1500 each to Crossways Camping Ministry, Northern Door Child Care Center, Door CANcer, and Door Community Child Care and Development Center.

The Forward Planning/Transition Task Force is nearly fully staffed and will begin the work shortly, with a goal of having a report and recommendations for the congregation prior to the Annual Meeting in October.

In Property matters, the cemetery will be surveyed this spring when weather allows. Dan's Mowing and More will be looking into leveling and seeding the Prayer Garden area to make it more safely accessible. In late April, there will be a "paint party" for those able to help paint the church basement. Many hands make light work and all that.

St. Paul's new membership software will make it possible for the office to produce a picture directory in-house. The directory will be available through an app or as a hard copy. Production of the directory will be pursued once there is a new administrative assistant with time to become familiar with the software.

Council-approved minutes of the March meeting will appear in the May Epistle. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns. As always, Council opened with prayer. This month's devotion was a call for hope based on faith, and we closed with prayer for all in need, as well as gratitude for your ministry among us.

Cathy Mestek, Congregation President

Worship & Music Meeting Highlights

Worship & Music Ministry Highlights

March 7, 2023

The team planned for Holy Week and Easter worship. On Palm Sunday, the 9am worship will feature "Cry of the Whole Congregation," a dramatic reading of the Passion narrative. We appreciate those who have stepped forward to lead this special worship service. Worship will be held on Maundy Thursday at 6pm, Good Friday at noon and 6pm, and Easter Sunday at 9am. Easter lilies for the chancel may be purchased by signing up in the narthex.

The ministry made some contingency plans should there be a gap between the time Mary Sawyer leaves her office position on March 31st and the new administrative assistant settles in. Team members will help as needed to recruit worship assistants and fill in as possible on other tasks. Thank you in advance to all parishioners who will step forward to help as needed, because we know you always do.

In April, the W & M team will discuss the possibility of shifting midweek Lenten worship services to an earlier time of day in 2024, such as a noon Lenten lunch followed by a 1pm worship service. Your thoughts and suggestions regarding this and other worship matters are always appreciated.

The team expressed gratitude for those who led worship when Pastor was laid low by Covid. The service our lay leaders provided was very well-received. We discussed the importance of having a plan in place for this very situation. A goal would be to have a folder of information at the ready for such emergency situations.

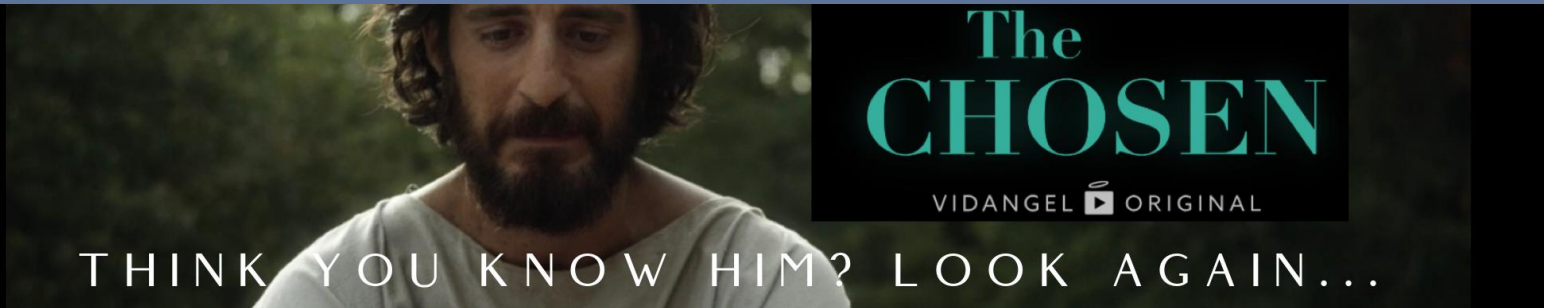
In a related matter, the group discussed the need for a funeral planning folder, especially now that many funerals are conducted without the services of a funeral director. Pastor will seek out someone willing to be the St. Paul "in-house" funeral director, to make the calls and help with organizing so that families in need can put first things first.

The Worship & Music Ministry team tries not to single out any individual for attention, when we know so many work behind the scenes, if not right out in the open, at St. Paul. However, we are making an exception today in that we'd like to offer a special thank you to Doreen Holt. Especially during these winter months, Doreen provides musical leadership for our congregation week in and out, Sundays, special services, the whole bit. Doreen will tell you she's not much for sitting around at meetings, but she's one who sees a need and takes care of it, well beyond her keyboard skills. So, thank you, Doreen, for the blessing you are to St. Paul and beyond.

The Worship & Music Ministry begins and ends every meeting with prayers for those in need, prayers for guidance and prayers of thanks. If you would like to join this ministry team, we meet next by Zoom on Tuesday, April 11, 10am. We'd love to have you with us!

Cathy Mestek, Co-Chair

Church Life



Experience “The Chosen” Series

Coming, Spring 2023, we will begin a new group educational study utilizing the groundbreaking TV series “The Chosen.” Everyone is welcome, especially friends and neighbors on Monday evenings beginning May 1st at 5:30pm – 7:00pm. Each session will have a simple supper, watch an episode, discussion, and fun. Plan to keep your Monday evenings available in May and June. Contact Jeff Kuchenbecker at jlkuchenbecker27@gmail.com

“Take it from a critic and a Christian with an aversion to Christian entertainment: The show is good.”
– Chris DeVille, The Atlantic

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, we are always grateful for any contributions you make of these gifts of care and concern. For additional information, contact Debbie Jones at 651-328-1261 or debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com.

Worship in Holy Week

Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday

April 2, 9am

We use this liturgy, written by the late Walt Wangerin. We move from the gates of Jerusalem which Jesus entered triumphantly to the Cross. Members of the congregation read the words of those who were integral in this divine drama and the congregation speaks the words of the crowd. We sing hymns which tell the story and come to the Table to receive the sacrament. We depart in silence.

Maundy Thursday

April 6, 6pm

We continue the liturgy begun on Ash Wednesday when we received the long-awaited Absolution following the Great Confession. We hear Jesus' commandment to "love one another" and hear of him washing his disciples' feet. We hear his words. "Do this in remembrance of me" and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Good Friday

April 7, Noon

The Seven Words of Christ from the Cross

We hear and sing the story of Jesus' suffering and death.

6pm, Service of Tenebrae

We move from light to darkness as we hear and sing the story of the suffering and death of Jesus.

The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Sunday

April 9, 9am

We proclaim, "Christ is Risen!" We hear the Word and share in the Meal, singing hymns of praise on this most holy day of the church year.



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 a 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

Spring Session

The Women's Spiritual Growth Group will be taking a break for the month of April. We are considering a spring session beginning Thursday, May 18 and ending no later than June 29. We are considering meeting face-to-face at St. Paul on Thursday mornings from 8:45-10:00 AM. To date, we have not selected a particular study/book.

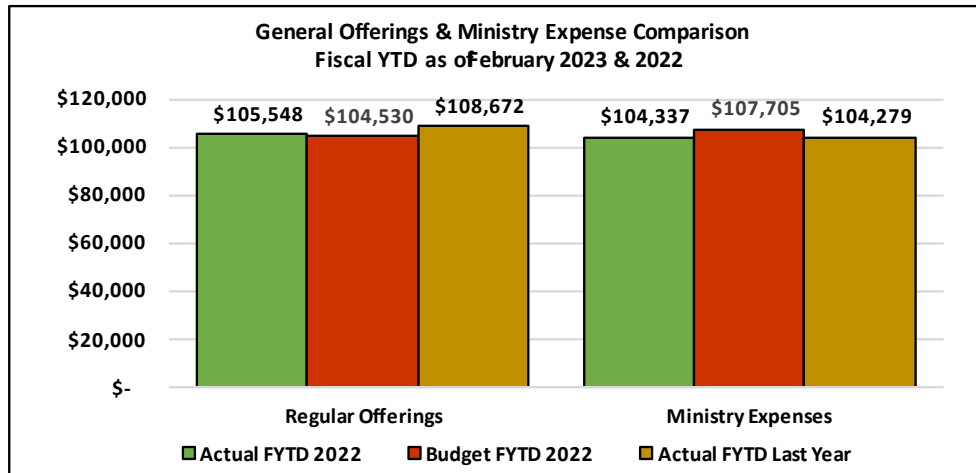
If you are interested in learning more about our discussions, please contact Debbie Jones. All are welcome.

Christian Women's Book Club

The first meeting in a new year of interesting reading and good conversation will be Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 1 pm at the Kress Center in Egg Harbor. Kathy Olson will be our host and you can reach her at 920-868-3723 to let her know you are coming. We welcome all women of St. Paul and you can get a copy of our 2023 reading list if you contact Dolores Hermann at 920-559-6261 or dolores.e.hermann@gmail.com.

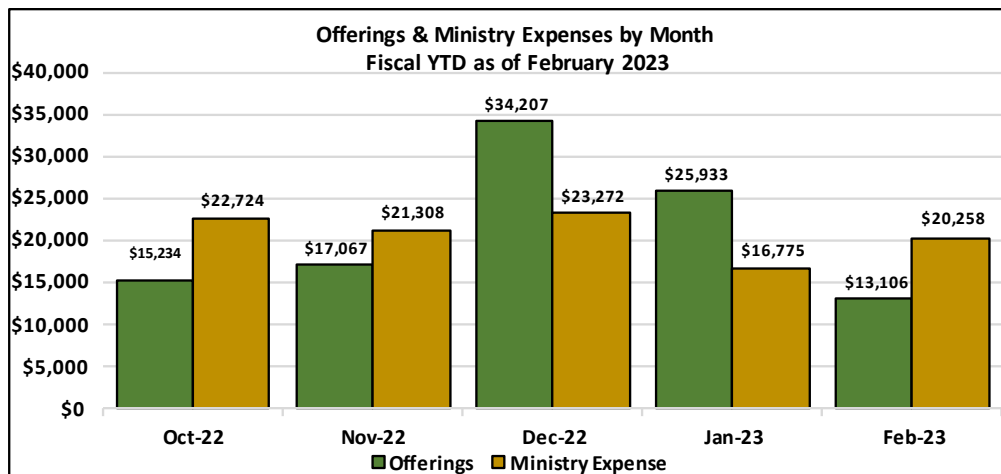
Our first book selection is "Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder" by Caroline Fraser. Anyone who grew up reading "Little House on the Prairie" will surely be fascinated by this tell-all biography of Laura Ingalls Wilder. Caroline Fraser draws upon never-before-published historical resources to create a lush study of the author's life — not in the gently narrated manner of the Little House series, but in raw and startling truths about her upbringing, marriage, and volatile relationship with her daughter (and alleged ghostwriter) Rose Wilder Lane.

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 five months of the fiscal year were \$3,124 lower than in the prior year (\$105,548 vs. \$108,672), in part reflecting \$4,115 of lower Offerings received in February versus the comparable prior year month
- General Offerings exceeded Ministry Expenses by \$1,211 (i.e., \$105,548 - \$104,337 = \$1,211), aided in part by a \$10,000 bequest received in January

1



- General Offerings in February totaled \$13,106 as shown above, which was the lowest monthly Offerings total received in the first five months of this fiscal year
- Ministry Expenses were higher in February than in January principally due to higher Worship & Music Expenses (up \$0.9K), Supplies Expense (up \$0.8K), heating costs and Benevolence outlays (each up by \$0.4K) and Fellowship Expenses (up \$0.2K)

2

Council Meeting Minutes

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
January 18, 2023

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, Greg Elke, Pam Davis, Renee Schwaller, Steve Stringer, (all attending remotely via Zoom).
Excused/Absent: Karen Peterson and Peder Nelson

Meeting Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Mestek at 5:40 P.M.

Devotions:

Renee Schwaller provided the devotions centering on gratitude.

Agenda Approval:

The previously circulated agenda was reviewed and accepted. Motion made by Pam Davis and seconded by Steve Stringer.

Minutes:

The previously circulated minutes from the December 15th meeting was asked to be corrected, by having a line removed in the treasurers report, asked by Greg Elke. A motion was made to approve by Jeff Kuchenbecker and seconded by Renee Schwaller.

Record of Electronic Business Approval:

Cathy reported that the Church Council on December 23, 2022, upon the recommendation of the Church Treasurer, adopted resolutions. (i) authorizing the opening of a retail brokerage account with Thrivent Financial, (ii) designation Authorized Signers for new brokerage account, and (iii) authorizing a disbursement of up to \$1,000. to initially fund the brokerage account. This was unanimously approved electronically on 12/24/2023. Greg noted that the U.S. Treasury Notes current yield for a two-year note was approximately 4.08% as of 1/18/2023. He further recommended that the Church Treasurer, or another bank account Authorized Signer, as advised by the Treasurer, be authorized to transfer up the \$20,000. from the Nicolet National Bank to the church's brokerage account at Thrivent Financial; and be it further resolved that the Treasurer is hereby directed to report upon any and all actions taken pursuant to the preceding resolutions at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting following the taking of such actions. Upon motion, made by the Treasurer and seconded by Steve Stringer, it was unanimously approved and the motion was passed.

Community of Faith:

Jeff Kuchenbäcker along with Kathleen Shemanek, will be starting a study based on the TV series, The Chosen, which can be viewed on You Tube or Amazon Prime, among other venues. He hopes to start this study sometime in April.

Financial Report:

The financial summary for December, 2022, previously distributed by e-mail review and presented by Greg Ehlke, highlighted that Total Offerings for the month approximated \$34.5K of which Regular Offerings (which excludes designated contributions) approximated \$34.K which was about \$13.1 K higher than budgeted on a constant monthly basis. Ministry Expenses approximated \$23.3K, which is about \$1.2K lower than the prior year.

Fiscal year to date Regular Offerings for the first two months approximated \$66.5K which was \$1.7K lower than in the prior year period. The fiscal year to date Ordinary Net Loss was \$0.7K, which was about \$6.8K 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 noted that the ELCA Foundation reported that the ELCA Endowment funds posted a negative 11.97% return for the first eleven months of 2022 and that included a 5.29% gain in November.

The Financial report was approved by the council pursuant to a motion made by Pam Davis and seconded by Renee Schwaller.

Fellowship Report:

Renee Schwaller is planning to revise our fellowship and refreshment time following our morning service. When St. Paul returns to two services, the fellowship time will be in between the two. She will begin this on Sunday the 29th of January. She will have a sign-up sheet available for anyone that would like to help on future Sundays. An announcement will be made during the service and it will also be mentioned in the next Epistle.

Renee would also like to arrange for the Lenten Soup Suppers on the Wed. evenings during Lent. It would not be on the first service which is Ash Wednesday, Feb. 22nd.

Renee also mentioned that she would very much like to see us return to Sharing of the Peace. Some might not be ready for that yet, and one certainly does not have to shake hands or touch. That will be initiated starting on January 22nd.

Technology and Communication:

Renee Schwaller discussed the possibility of updating our website to include the verbiage "All are Welcome". Pastor Frank said that it used to read as such. There was some discussion but no final decision was made.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Frank reported on doing quite a lot of visiting of parishioners.

He told of a recent baptism of Kennedy Marie Thomas.

Pastor will be moving his Bible Study to Wed. evenings via Zoom, beginning on 1/24/23 at 6:30 P.M.

Pastor also mentioned that the closed circuit TV is now functioning, although a bit touchy!

Old Business:

Finalize Ministry Liaisons:

Cathy noted that Council member liaisons to various Ministry activities have been finalized consistent with Council member's stated interests and perceived skills. These included Renee Schwaller as the liaison for Fellowship and Pam Davis will be on the Local Benevolent Committee.

Urgent Need Policy Revision:

Jeff reported that since the last Council meeting the Executive Committee had discussed possible revisions to the annual threshold limits for support of members and non-members in need of assistance. The current annual limits, per the Urgent Need Policy, is \$500.00 for members and \$250.00 for non-members. After discussion there was a motion made by Jeff to revise the policy and seconded by Pam, however there was no vote taken. The language to finalize the motion will be addressed at the next Council meeting.

Electronic Business Procedure:

Jeff led a discussion about the utilization of the electronic approval process for actions required between Council meetings. Such actions are permissible per the congregation's

approved Constitution. Jeff reported that we have been doing it incorrectly. An electronic approval must have an unanimous vote for it to pass.

New Business:

Thrivent Brokerage Account Deposit:

Greg referred to the proposed resolutions he distributed to Council members by e-mail prior to the meeting to (i) authorize the transfer of up to \$20,000. from the Nicolet National Bank account to the new brokerage account at Thrivent Financial, (ii) purchase up to \$20,000 of U.S. Treasury Notes having a maturity of approximately two years, and (iii) directing that any actions taken in this regard be reported upon at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. The purchase of the U.S. Treasury Notes was anticipated to generate approximately \$800 of additional income annually for the next two years and sufficient availability of cash to meet anticipated expenses during this two-year period was expected. Upon a motion made by Greg and seconded by Steve Stringer, the motions was unanimously approved.

Celebrating Jacob Beranek's Premiere, March 27:

Cathy reported that Jacob Beranek, and three others, recently received a prestigious musical composition competition award from the Juilliard School in New York City where Jacob is pursuing his post-graduate masters degree. The award entitles Jacob to have his classical musical composition performed in new York City on Monday, March 27th. Cathy has talked to the Kress Center regarding renting the upper room for viewing the Premiere by members and friends. The charge would be \$50.00/hour. All are asked to save the date for this unique opportunity to celebrate Jacob's achievement.

Local Benevolence Additional Gift:

Pastor Frank reported, with gratitude, that a recent donation of \$10,000. had been received to help others in need locally from the estate of Louis Osadjan. Pam Davis said that Lou's passion was helping those in need and that he would want the Local Benevolence team to coordinate the distribution of these funds. Pastor went on to state that the Local Benevolence Ministry team now has \$25,000 to administer to assist the needs of others in our local community during this fiscal year which ends in September. The Everlasting Endowment Fund is expected to provide \$8,000. of the total amount while \$7,000 was provided by a recent donation.

Forward Planning/Transition Task Force:

Greg reported that the Executive Committee had discussed and recommends the formation of a Forward Planning/Transition Task Force to be comprised of non-Council members with good planning skills. The Task Force, with background assistance provided separately by the Pastor and Council, would (i) be comprised of approximately four members, (ii) review the major strengths and needs of the congregation coming out of the pandemic period and (iii) review the characteristics of what will be required to position St. Paul Lutheran on a level playing field with other congregations when the congregation ultimately enters a tradition stage in the future. The Task Force would be expected to report back to the Council on its findings and recommendations before the end of this fiscal year and thereafter be dissolved. Greg mentioned a few member names that he thought would be good candidates for this committee and asked the Council to think of any others they deem would be a good contributor. Greg made a motion to form this task force, seconded by Pam. Approved.

Adjournment:

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M. with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 5:30 P.M. to be held at the home of Renee Schwaller. The devotion and prayer will be led by Pam Davis.

Respectively Submitted,
Pam Davis, Secretary

St. Paul Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, February 15, 2023

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, Greg Ehlke, Peder Nelson, Karen Peterson, Steve Stringer, Renee Schwaller and Pam Davis, (all attending remotely via Zoom)

Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Mestek at 5:40 P.M.

Devotions and Prayer

The prayer and devotions were done by Pam Davis entitled Hearing God's Voice.

Agenda Approval

The previously circulated agenda was reviewed and accepted.

Minutes

The previously circulated minutes from the January 18, 2023 meeting, following a motion made by Karen and seconded by Renee, were approved.

Record of Electronic Business Approval

Cathy reported that the Executive committee had approved an Urgent Need request via email since the previous Church Council meeting on January 18, 2023.

Community of Faith

- * Cathy led a discussion about the upcoming premier of Jacob Beranek to be held at the Kress Center on March 27, 2023. She suggested advertising it in the Pulse.
- * It was brought up that there might be a need for help in delivering Food Pantry items.
- * The Souper Bowl, organized by Sher Rock was very successful. The results will be published in the next Epistle.

Financial Report

- * The financial summary for January 2023, previously distributed by email for review and presented by Greg Ehlke, highlighted that Total Offerings for the month approximated \$26.2K which was about \$5.6K higher than the prior year month and included a bequest of \$10.0K. Ministry Expenses approximated \$16.8K, which is about \$1.5K lower than the prior year month. Year to date Regular Offerings were about \$92.4K which was about \$3.9K higher than in January 2022. Ministry expenses were \$84.1K in the first four months of the fiscal year which was \$3.6K higher than the prior year period. The fiscal year-to-date

Ordinary Net Income was \$8.6K or \$0.4K higher than the prior year.

- * Undesignated cash funds available would cover about six months of Ministry Expenses without any reliance on additional Offerings being received.
- * Greg noted that the ELCA Foundation reported that the ELCA Endowment funds posted a negative (13.88%) return for calendar year 2022 versus a 2021 calendar year gain of 12.14%.
- * The Financial report was approved by the council pursuant to a motion made by Pastor Frank and seconded by Renee.
- * A copy of the January 2023 Financial Summary, along with the financial statements and schedules provided to the Council, was ordered to be filed with the records of the meeting.

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Thrivent Brokerage Account Transaction

Greg referred to proposed resolutions he distributed to council members by email prior to the meeting to (i) authorize the transfer of up to \$30,000. from the Nicolet National Bank account to the new brokerage account at Thrivent Financial, (ii) purchase up to \$30,000 of U.S. Treasury bills having a maturity of approximately six months, and (iii) directing that any actions taken in this regard be reported upon at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting. The current rate of the 6 month Treasury bill is 4.99%. The purchase of the U.S. Treasury Notes is anticipated to generate almost \$750. of income over the six-month period and sufficient availability of cash to meet anticipated expenses during this half-year period was expected. Upon a motion made by Karen and seconded by Peder, the resolutions were adopted.

Pastor's Housing Allowance

Pastor provided the Council with his recommendation for his housing for calendar year 2023. His housing allowance recommendation for 2023 was \$35,000. He noted the text of the necessary resolution were mailed to the council by the Treasurer prior to this meeting;. The Pastor's salary plus housing allowance aggregate amount will be unchanged from the amount approved at the Annual Congregation meeting in October 2022. Upon a motion made by Greg and seconded by Steve, the \$35,000 housing allowance amount for 2023 was approved The text of the resolution which was provided to the Council by email prior to this meeting was ordered to be filed with the records of this meeting.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Frank provided a report on various matters. These included:

- * He received many compliments on how well everyone did while he was unable to participate.
- * He reported that our church secretary Mary has taken a new job which requires a change in her hours at St. Paul.
- * Concerning Ash Wednesday there will not be a soup supper preceding the service.
- * The soup dinners will begin on the following Wednesday.
- * Due to an illness in the family, last Sunday's coffee and snack hostess was unable to bring refreshments for the fellowship hour.
- * Pastor also spoke of the upcoming Synod Assembly meeting to be held on May 20th

in Appleton beginning at 8:00 A.M. He has decided not to attend.

Property Report

Steve reported on various matters concerning the property and the cemetery which included:

The elevator permits had expired in 2021; we now have a new one good until 11/23.

A discussion about the prayer garden where the ground is 3 to 4 inches below the asphalt and could possibly cause someone to trip and fall. It was mentioned that Tom Prohl had talked of designing a walkway.

Cathy mentioned that she thinks the lighting in the sanctuary is poor. She will be contacting a service that will evaluate our lighting.

There was also a discussion of closing in the portico where Pastor was standing to give sermons during the pandemic. It was brought up that perhaps we don't need to have it enclosed and to do away with the plastic that is now there.

Also discussed was the fact that we are definitely in need of a cemetery survey. Steve and Peder will be in contact with Pastor Dawn of Ephraim Moravian Church in regards to a survey.

4Q'22 Endowment Fund Report

Greg reported that the Endowment Fund Committee had submitted its Endowment Fund report for 4Q'22, which Greg had provided to the Council via email prior to the meeting. The Everlasting Endowment Fund had a value of \$198.6K as of 12/31/22 while the Emergencies Fund had a value of \$52.5K. The quarterly statements showed that both funds had a gain in 4Q'22. After a motion was made by Jeff and seconded by Karen, the council approved the Endowment Fund Report.

Old Business

Forward Planning /Transition Task Force

Greg reported that he has prepared an outline of the information requirements that will be needed as inputs by the Forward Planning/Transition Task Force. He has encountered some difficulty in finalizing the membership of the Task Force which is expected to be comprised of four members and the Task Force members identified prior to the next Council meeting.

Urgent Need Policy

Jeff reported that since the last Council meeting the Council had been provided with the revised language for the Urgent Need Policy. He noted the principal change was to increase the maximum amount that may be provided to an individual in a 12 month period to \$1,000. without any distinction as to whether the individual was a st. Paul member or not. After discussion, upon motion made by Pastor and second by Pam, the Council approved the revised Urgent Need Policy.

StarLink Status Update

Greg reported that he had conferred with Bob Kufirin about the location of the original StarLink application needs to be amended and determined the Church Office should

be able to amend its original application to speed up receipt of the hardware necessary to utilize this internet service.

Membership Picture Directory

Pam reported that compiling a new Church Picture Directory would be helpful as the prior picture directory was completed in 2017 and is very outdated. Pam would contact the company that just completed the process in her church in Florida. Pastor Frank suggested that perhaps we could do it "in house", thus not subjecting the members to the sales pitch accompanying the process. Pam will talk to Gary Jones to see if he would be willing to take the photos. We would need to find a person willing to compile the directory once the pictures were all taken. This will be discussed in more detail at the March Council meeting.

Coordination of Fundraising Effort for Member's Medical Expenses

The Council discussed the merits and issues related to coordinating fundraising for a member's medical expenses. After discussion, it was decided that St. Paul should not be the coordinator of the fundraising. Karen is going to talk to Nicolet Bank about being the coordinator.

Adjournment

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M. with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting

Wednesday, March 15, 2023 at 1:30 P.M. via Zoom. Greg Ehlke will provide the opening devotion. There will be an Executive Committee Meeting on March 8, at 1:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Davis, Secretary