



ST PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4167 JUDDVILLE RD

FISH CREEK WI 54212

920-868-2826

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Church Council:

Frank Kauzlarich: (920) 217-0204

Pastor

Betty Eisenhauer: (920) 493-0631

President, Chair of Communications

Cathy Mestek: (262) 470-9754

Chair of Worship & Music

Greg Ehlike: (920) 868-1092

Treasurer

Bob Kufrin: (920) 737-2523

Secretary, Chair of Technology

Karen Peterson: (920) 868-2928

Vice President, Chair of Local Benevolence

Jeff Kuchenbecker: (608) 770-0755

Chair of Evangelism

Peder Nelson: (920) 854-0136

Chair of Property, Maintenance, & Cemetery

Epistle

FEBRUARY 2022

Dear Children of God,

What does it mean to be a 'Disciple?'

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

If we believe this, we best know what a disciple is!

MARKS OF A DISCIPLE:

Disciples follow. We follow our Lord Jesus Christ! We follow no other. Our words and actions reflect the one we follow.

Disciples worship. We worship one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Disciples live in community and invite others to live in community with Christ.

Disciples serve, and serve sacrificially, following the example of Jesus.

Disciples strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

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These are but some marks of a disciple. Does this describe you, does it describe St. Paul Lutheran Church?

During its last meeting, your Church Council had a conversation concerning where the Spirit is leading us in these times. This is a process; we are never finished until we are all with the Lord eternally. Until that day, we have ministry to do in the name of Jesus. I invite you to discern how you are a disciple and how you might grow in this Call. I invite you into this Holy Conversation with other members of this community of faith, as we discern what God wishes us to do and be. Your visions, everything is on the table. We don't need to form a committee to make something happen. Be open to the Spirit, to something new, to growing as a disciple and inviting others into this relationship with Christ.

Your Church Council is ready to hear from you. Their names are listed on the cover page of the Epistle each month. And God is waiting to hear from all of us.

Peace,
Pastor Frank

**ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
VOLUNTEER SIDEWALK SHOVELING
SCHEDULE**

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING PLEASE EMAIL CLARENCE SCHERER AT CMSCHERER42@GMAIL.COM THE WEEK YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO SHOVEL THE SIDEWALKS AT CHURCH. THANK YOU

SUN JAN 30 THRU SAT FEB 5
DAVE DECOCK

SUN FEB 6 THRU SAT FEB 12

SUN FEB 13 THRU SAT FEB 19
RENEE SCHWALLER & WYATT BEAUDOT

SUN FEB 20 THRU SAT FEB 26

SUN FEB 27 THRU SAT MAR 5

SUN MAR 6 THRU SAT MAR 12

SUN MAR 13 THRU SAT MAR 19

SUN MAR 20 THRU SAT MAR 26

SUN MAR 27 THRU SAT APR 3

SUN APR 4 THRU SAT APR 10

SUN APR 11 THRU SAT APR 17

PLEASE NOTE YOU ARE SIGNING UP FOR THE ENTIRE WEEK, SUN THRU SAT.



St. Paul is blessed with an abundance of talented musicians who share their gifts during worship, and further blessed to be surrounded by musicians in our community. While we are grateful for all those who have come forward, we also suspect that there are others who have yet to be given the opportunity to share musical talents as a part of worship.

In many congregations, it is customary to have a person who coordinates the efforts of various musicians, to “grease the skids,” so to speak, for musicians coming forward to serve. St. Paul has had a more piecemeal approach, which has worked to a degree, but a more coordinated effort would be ideal.

Therefore, St. Paul is seeking an individual to serve as Music Ministry Coordinator. The person in this position would schedule musicians, including pianists, song leaders, and those providing special music and also coordinate choir appearances when that again becomes a reality.

As a part of this ministry, the coordinator would also seek out those with talent, whether within our membership or in the greater community, and then encourage and equip these musicians to use their gifts to enhance worship. Any plans would be communicated to the church office in order to make worship planning as seamless as possible.

If you feel led to serve as a Music Ministry Coordinator, please speak with Pastor Frank for more information. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and for being open to the Holy Spirit’s call.



LOCAL BENEVOLENCE

Greetings! St. Paul's has supported the STRIDE Program for a number of years but it's still unfamiliar to some of us. STRIDE stands for Strengthening Trust and Resilience, Instilling Independence, and Discovering Empowerment. This program is dedicated to bringing access to quality mental health treatment to Door County youth, an area that was previously lacking.

The STRIDE program is in its third year and works by bringing professional mental health providers to our 5 school districts. On-line services have been added as have group programs. Unfortunately, school counselors are reporting extremely high rates of anxiety among students. Good mental health is a priority issue for any age group!

Here are a few stats on the STRIDE program:



-Last year 49 students received one on one counseling. Additional hours are being added this year.

-The Mighty Teen Club was started. This is a virtual art journaling club that helps students manage stress. Last year 112 youth took part in this group.

-Over 1400 mental wellness kits were assembled and distributed to all elementary students in our 5 school districts.

The STRIDE providers communicate with school staff and administration, as well as students and their parents, to improve awareness and the importance of good mental health for our youth.

Thank you for your generosity,

Karen Peterson - Chair of St. Paul Lutheran's Local Benevolence

FOOD PANTRY

St Paul has been very generous with food donations. The donations from January were brought to Lakeshore Cap in Sturgeon Bay. They were very grateful for the donation. The food pantries have told me they are having an upswing in need since the Holidays. We will be supporting: Stella Maris, Fish Creek, Door of Life, Sister Bay and Shepherd of the Bay, Ellison Bay in February. Some requests are: canned meat/fish, juice, coffee, facial tissue, toilet paper, personal care items (men and women), soup, cereal, oatmeal, tortillas, pasta sauce. All donations are welcome. They tell me they have enough pasta and mac & cheese at this time.

Thank you.

Mary Anne & Clarence Scherer





A THANK YOU TO KIDNITS FROM WORLD VISION

It's such a little thing when you stop to think about it...a child's blanket, a baby's hat, a scarf, or a pair of mittens. How can that one item really make a difference? But, when many hands make just one thing, they add up to boxes of preciously needed items for kids. Are they appreciated? We think so. Each time a box of handmade articles is sent to World Vision, we receive a letter of thanks such as the one below.

Hello Friends,

Thank you for the beautiful handmade items you have made for children in our country and around the world. We received your wonderful gift and appreciate all the love and effort that went into making it.

Through 2021, we have shipped your handmade items to Armenia, Lesotho, Malawi, Somalia, Swaziland, Zambia, and storehouses in Dallas, Chicago, and Hartford.

We are currently in need of sweaters, scarves, hats, gloves/mittens and school-aged children's blankets. Blankets measuring 36 by 42 inches can be knit, crochet or fleece.

Thank you for supporting the World Vision knitting for children program!

The Kidnits ministry welcomes anyone who knits, crochets, or ties fleece. During this pandemic winter, we have been making things from our homes and then dropping them off at church. Get in touch with Treiva Wilterding or Betty Eisenhauer if you'd like to know how you can participate or help Kidnits. World Vision is a Christian humanitarian organization dedicated to working with children, families, and their communities worldwide by tackling the causes of poverty and injustice.

Betty Eisenhauer—Kidnits

PRAYER SHAWLS

Thank you to those of you who have stepped forward and shared your gifts of knitting or crocheting for our Prayer Shawl ministry. Even though our need for replenishment has been diminished, this is a good time of the year to put those knitting and crocheting skills to work creating one of these gifts of comfort and love. If you have any questions or need the pattern, contact Debbie Jones at 651-328-1261, debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com.

Thank you, too, to all who have shared a prayer shawl with another. If you are aware of someone in need of one, you may pick one up at the table on Sunday before or after worship.

Debbie Jones—Prayer Shawls



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY:

Our Bible study devotees meet weekly in two different settings; one via Zoom and the other in-person. We read the same Bible passages and begin discussion with the same thought-provoking questions. The in-person session will meet on Friday's at Julie's Restaurant in Fish Creek at 8:30am. The Zoom Session will meet on Friday's at 8:30am.

If you are interested in joining either session or have questions, call us.

Gary Jones

Zoom Session—651-271-9094

John Hermann

In-Person Session—920-743-1675

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY: THEMES IN THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

MONDAYS AT 6:30pm
THROUGH FEBRUARY 14th.

We continue our study of the Gospel of Luke. All are invited to participate in one or more meetings. The Zoom invitation is emailed weekly from the church office.

Please contact Pastor Frank if you have any questions about participating: 920-868-2826.



WOMEN'S SPIRITUAL GROWTH GROUP:

The Women's Spiritual Growth Group began its winter session on Thursday, January 6. We are discussing *Traveling Light, Releasing the Burdens You Were Never Intended to Bear*, by Max Lucado which is based on the promise of Psalm 23. This book explores 18 different burdens that have the potential of weighing us down and introduces us to new perspectives on "letting go and letting God."

Our winter session meets on Thursdays from 8:45am - 10:30 via Zoom from until March 3. You may join in whenever you are able since each week is self-contained. If you are interested in learning more, please contact Debbie Jones at 651-328-1261 or debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com. All are welcome!



DO YOU HAVE A FINANCIAL NEED, WE HAVE AN URGENT NEED FUND

This fund is available to those who have urgent needs in areas such as payment of rent, fuel bills, food and health bills. If you have, contact Pastor Frank at 920-217-0204.

OFFERINGS

Now, more than ever, the ministry of Saint Paul Lutheran Church needs your support. Financial offerings to the ministry can be sent through the mail or electronically. Please see the update from our Treasurer Greg Ehlke in this edition of The Epistle.

Sending by mail:

Address your gift to Saint Paul Lutheran Church at:
4167 Juddville Rd. Fish Creek, WI 54212

Sending electronically:

Electronic giving can be done by clicking the blue button labeled “give online” located at the bottom of this email OR by logging onto our website, where the same button is found at the bottom left of our web page. Thank you for responding to the Lord through our shared ministry. Our website:

www.stpauljuddville.com

CHRIST IN OUR HOME AND THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

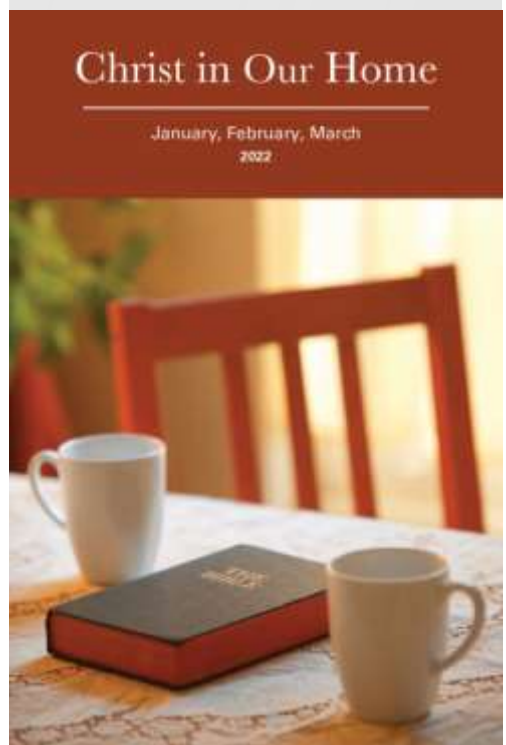
This devotional and this magazine continue to be available at worship and upon request.

PASTORAL CARE

Please let Pastor Frank know if you have need. He can be reached at all times (920) 217-0204.

CHURCH COUNCIL

We regularly meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:30PM via Zoom. If you wish to be a part of these monthly Zoom calls, please contact the Church Office in advance 920-868-2826.



CONNECTIONS

Among other things, Connections is a "shared outreach ministry" which encourages each member of St. Paul to connect with others in need. As we see needs each day in our daily living, we have opportunities to share the love and light of Christ with others.

Have you noticed the days are getting longer and the sun is higher in the sky? Even though the cold has settled in, my heart is lifted with the increased light. Then I look at the calendar and there is that big heart in the middle of the month - Valentine's Day! What a great reminder to be thankful for God's abundant blessings! What a great reminder to reach out to others and share God's light and love! What a great reminder that God might be calling each of us to be His hands and feet to someone in need. We are a reflection of God's love. Pass it on!

- Debbie Jones

*My command is this:
Love each other as I
have loved you.*

- John 15:12

TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!

We would like to thank everyone who has assisted in church life this past month. It isn't easy to stay active when the days and temperatures are short and cold. We greatly appreciate the efforts you made to keep St Paul Lutheran warm and welcoming.



INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTIFICATION

In case of inclement weather and the need to cancel worship or Church activities, notification will be placed on the Church's answering machine and may also be found on St. Paul Lutheran's website and Facebook page.

HIGHLIGHTS OF DECEMBER COUNCIL Meeting

The December Epistle mentioned that council was going to have a separate planning meeting in January when the agenda would be devoted to our mission statement as inspiration for council's goals and objectives. Specifically, if our mission statement says that *St. Paul is a welcoming family bringing Christ into people's lives by developing, nurturing and supporting disciples*, are we as a community of faith and its leaders living it out?

Pastor Frank led the conversation by asking the questions, "What does our baptism mean; how are we following the faith practices in our affirmation of baptism?" We talked about how council members make a public statement each year reaffirming our baptismal covenant. Following that, we deliberated on the words of our mission statement - asking (perhaps rhetorically) if we are welcoming and if our goals bring Christ into people's lives by developing, nurturing and supporting disciples. Attempting to answer that question only led to another question: By living out our mission, are there "marks" of our actions left on our community of faith and the world?

Using these questions as guidelines for future work and discussion, we circled back to the goals and objectives each Council member had submitted. Ultimately, Pastor asked each of us to rewrite one or two of our goals in biblical language intentionally driven by our mission: a challenging, but necessary assignment that will be the basis for our February council meeting agenda.

With thanks to the Lord, this could be the start of something big!

Blessings to All,

Betty Eisenhauer, Congregation President

FEBRUARY WORSHIP VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2022 – 9 AM

Service Date → Responsibility	Feb 6	Feb 13	Feb 20	Feb 27	
Assisting Minister	Cathy Mestek	Jane DeCock	Debbie Jones	Pat Kaldor	
Indoor Ushers	-----	-----	Jana Raines	Jerry Lecy	
Outdoor Ushers	Lainie Kufrin	Ed Eickenberg	Cathy & Charlie Mestek	MaryAnne & Clarence Scherer	
Musician	Doreen Holt	Doreen Holt	Doreen Holt	Doreen Holt	
Song Leader	Jeff Kuchenbecker	Mary Ehlke	John Hermann	Jeff Kuchenbecker	

SUSPENSION OF INDOOR WORSHIP AND OTHER INDOOR CHURCH ACTIVITIES CONTINUES THROUGH FEBRUARY 13th

Our Church Council unanimously voted to continue the suspension of indoor worship and all other indoor Church activities through Sunday, February 13, in response to the increasing number of Covid-19 cases in Door County. Many of these cases are break through cases. You are encouraged to get vaccinated and boosted, if you have not already, and to wear a mask in indoor spaces. We do this to protect our neighbors, ourselves and minister with the healthcare community. They are carrying too heavy a burden. Parking Lot worship continues at 9 am.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING - FEBRUARY 13th

On Super Bowl Sunday, along with congregations throughout the United States, we will collect money for local food pantries at the conclusion of worship. As many give focus to a game, let us give focus to those in need and minister to them.



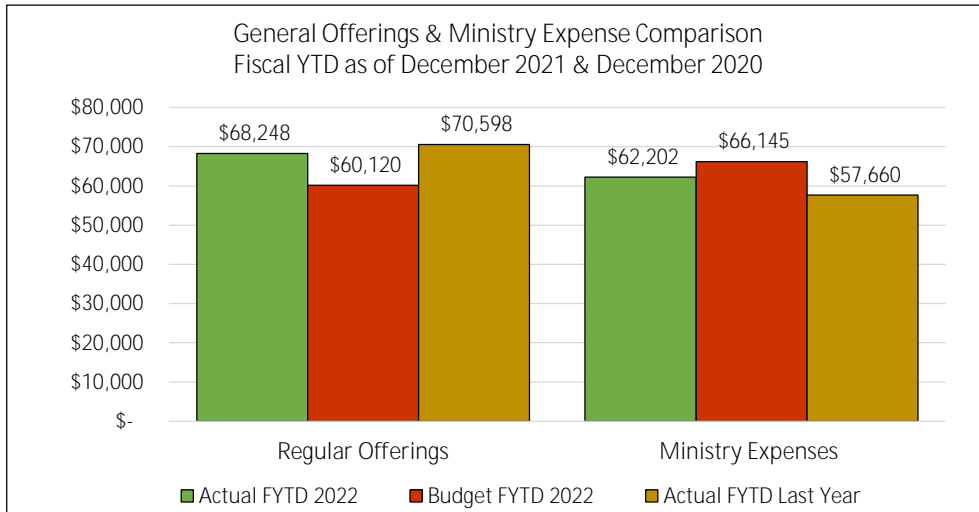


February 2022

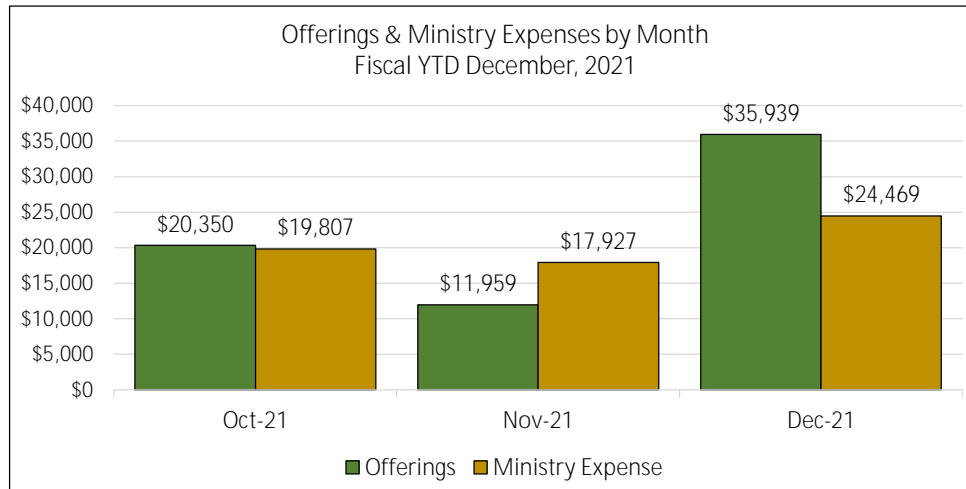


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Sat.
		1	2	3 8:45am Women's Spiritual Growth Group via Zoom	4 8:30am Men's In-Person & Zoom Bible Studies	5
6 9am Worship Parking Lot	7 6:30pm Bible Study Via Zoom	8 10am Worship & Music Meeting via Zoom	9	10 8:45am Women's Spiritual Growth Group via Zoom	11 8:30am Men's In-Person & Zoom Bible Studies	12
13 9am Worship Parking Lot Super Bowl of Caring	14 6:30pm Bible Study Via Zoom 	15	16 6:30pm Church Council Meeting via Zoom	17 8:45am Women's Spiritual Growth Group via Zoom	18 8:30am Men's In-Person & Zoom Bible Studies	19
20 9am Worship Indoor & Parking Lot	21	22	23	24 8:45am Women's Spiritual Growth Group via Zoom	25 8:30am Men's In-Person & Zoom Bible Studies	26
27 9am Worship Indoor & Parking Lot	28					

FINANCIAL UPDATE



- FYTD = Fiscal Year-to-Date. St. Paul **Lutheran's** fiscal year begins on 01-Oct.
- The 2021-22 fiscal year Ministry Expenses budget is \$250,954
- Regular Offerings in the three months of the current fiscal year were greater than budgeted by \$8,128 (\$68,248 - \$60,120) but were (\$2,350) or (3%) less than received in the Fourth Quarter of 2020
- Ministry Expenses were higher than in the prior year period by \$4,542, principally reflecting a full year payment of Insurance premiums, higher Local Benevolence expenses and increased Communications/Advertising expenses (which were \$1,649, \$3,500 and \$1,300 higher, respectively), partially offset by \$1,386 of lower Building/Maintenance expenses



- FYTD = Fiscal Year-to-Date. St. Paul **Lutheran's** fiscal year begins on 01-Oct.
- Offerings in the first three months of the 2021-22 fiscal year varied substantially (i.e., \$20,350 in October, \$11,959 in November, and \$35,939 in December, respectively)
- Ministry Expenses were less variable as \$19,807 of Ministry Expenses were incurred in October, \$17,927 in November and \$24,469 in December
- The variability of monthly Offerings highlights the need for strong ongoing liquidity management

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 15, 2021

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

Council Members Present: Betty Eisenhauer, Cathy Durkin, Peder Nelson, Karen Peterson, Greg Ehlke, Bob Kuftrin, Jeff Kuchenbecker and Pastor Frank (*all attending remotely via Zoom given COVID-19 pandemic social distancing*)

Absent/Excused: None

Others Attendees: None

Meeting Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Betty Eisenhauer at 6:30 P.M.

Devotions

Peder provided an opening devotion and a prayer.

Agenda Approval

The previously circulated agenda was reviewed and accepted by acclamation.

Minutes

The previously circulated minutes from the November 17, 2021 meeting, following a motion made by Jeff and seconded by Greg, were approved.

Record of Electronic Business Approval

Betty reported that the Council Executive Committee approved an Urgent Need request for \$500 by email since the November meeting.

REPORTS AND MINISTRY ACTION ITEMS

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Frank provided a report on various matters. Several members who had been in the hospital had been released and returned home. Nursing home and hospital visits remain challenging due to Covid-19.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Financial Report:

Greg reported that offerings for the first two months of the 2021-22 fiscal year have been weak. Regular Offerings (excluding Urgent Need and Special donations received such as World Hunger and Global Benevolences) totaled \$31,700. Regular Offering donations were \$8,300 lower than budgeted for the months of October and November, the first two months of the new fiscal year period. Ministry Expenses of \$37,700 for the two months were about \$300 higher than a year ago. The Church's liquidity position remains strong - undesignated cash balances of approximately \$117,900 would cover almost six months of Ministry Expenses without reliance on future Offerings received.

Greg reported that the Endowment Fund is up 11% for the first ten months of the calendar year. Regular Offering donations were about \$8,300 lower than budgeted for the month of October (the first month of the new fiscal year period).

Betty recommended that Mary, Doreen, Chris and Shawn would receive a Door County gift card in the amount of \$100. Motion by Jeff seconded by Greg all aye.

Greg recommended that Pastor Frank's housing allowance would remain at \$25,000 for the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The Council will consider a change next October 2022 for the following 12-month period. Motion by Bob seconded by Jeff – all aye.

Greg discussed the Fred Weber Memorial Fund account which currently has \$5,700. After discussing possible uses, the Council decided to retain the funds for the future benefit of St. Paul's youth.

Greg reported on the 3Q'21 federal tax filing which included a claim for an Employee Retention Tax Credit.

Motion by Karen seconded by Cathy to approve the financial report. All ayes.

Local Benevolences:

Karen reported on the proposed recipients of local benevolences for the first quarter of the fiscal year. The Ministry is concerned about the impact of the pandemic on the mental health of individuals of all ages. The organizations recommended are as follows:

Help of Door County -- \$1,500

Stride (children's mental health) -- \$1,500

CAP -- \$500

Motion by Jeff seconded by Greg to approve the donations as listed. All ayes.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Personnel:

Betty and Pastor Frank reported on Mary Sawyer's performance since she started and Pastor indicated that she is doing an excellent job and increased her hourly rate as agreed upon when she was hired.

Old Business:

The Council reviewed the progress made on the 2021 goals and objectives established last year as follows:

Worship & Music: Cathy indicated that due to the changes caused by the pandemic the Ministry has decided to review the role of worship and music in the Church and the goals for the next year. The Committee has decided to hold open the position of Music Coordinator until the Church can open up to normal operations.

Property, Maintenance & Cemetery: Peder reported that painting interior church areas is on hold. He will be reviewing whether the upholstered chairs have been steam cleaned. Carpets have been steam cleaned. The parking lot and striping was completed in 2021 and new gutters were installed on the portico. He indicated that the cemetery policy has been finalized and hopes to establish a Cemetery Association committee.

Technology: Bob reported that Starlink has indicated that we will likely get service in the summer of 2022. He is also working on an inventory of the technology equipment and will have a recommended replacement plan for the 2022-23 budget. The Committee will also review the age of the software and backup options.

Finance: Greg indicated that he is working on developing additional financial policies with Shawn's assistance as well as a record retention policy. He also indicated that the Church needed a capital needs plan and regular budget amount for major expenditures. He is going to coordinate development of a Memorial Fund list of potential items that may assist donors when making contributions to honor the memory of loved ones.

Pastoral Considerations: Pastor Frank discussed how seriously the COVID pandemic has impacted the Church and the local community. He is concerned the members are losing their connection to the church and even after contacting a number of members he felt challenged to improve that relationship. He asked the Council to think about how they and all the members could do more outreach to existing members.

Pastor Frank: indicated that pastoral care to members at home or in care settings continued to be his major weekly challenge especially with COVID.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

New Business:

Regarding the 2022 goals submitted by the members for this meeting, it was agreed by all that the Council would table the agenda item until the January meeting to focus specifically on this as the single agenda item so there can be in-depth reflection and meaningful discussion.

Adjournment:

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:05 P.M. with the praying of The Lord's Prayer.

Next Council Meeting:

Wednesday, January 19, 2022 at 1:00 P.M. in person at the Church (if pandemic conditions so permit on-site gatherings at that time.)

Respectfully submitted,

Robert Kufirin, Secretary