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#### 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!

### 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



## Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work, Our hands,



#### Dear Friends in Christ,

In September of 2021, we (Anne, Treiva and I) signed contracts with a landscaper to have some work done. The scope of the project was to get rid of mulch, have grass planted and other sundry items. We were first on the list for the Spring of 2022, a spot had been reserved in the landscaper's calendar. That Spring it rained, and rained and rained, and the project was delayed until fall because our spot was now gone. Then fall came and guess what happened? It rained! Finally this spring, our project happened.

While we waited, we had time to think, to experience, to discern, to reevaluate. As we are getting older, why did we want to plant so much grass to mow? So we scaled down the project. We made other changes as well, and the project is different from what we originally envisioned, and that is a good thing.

During the waiting and project when I was not working, I spent a good amount of time sitting on the front porch, yes, even in the winter. It has become a sanctuary of sorts for me, I thought. I experienced the wind and sun and rain and snow and hot and cold, the birds singing, the snakes slithering, the racoon and babies, the mama deer feeding her baby, and the wild turkey who almost ran me down from behind when I was watering.

Waiting can be an adventure. And it can be dangerous. It can provide time and place to spend with the Lord in the midst of the chaos of the world. It can provide time to discern what God would have you do and be. And the 'project' of your life you envisioned may change, and that is a good thing. The Spirit is always stirring.

But waiting can be a dangerous time, a time of anxiety when we focus on self rather than the larger picture. When things are not going as we planned, we face an insidious danger of wishing to control events and those around us, sometimes those most close to us. Control is rarely healthy and often detrimental to all.

So now I mow more grass than I did last year, even with the lack of rain, but less grass than I had envisioned a few years ago. Thanks be to God! And waiting has been edifying, It has built me up and, I pray, equipped me to be more faithful, I believe.

If you drive by our place these days and I'm not out in the community, you may very likely find me sitting on the front porch in an adirondack chair. Anne may be joining me, sitting in our new rocker. I might even buy another rocker so we can both rock, and dream, and chat, and discern and experience and celebrate, not that we need to control events or others, but that we are free to be, in Christ. Waiting is a good thing, in Christ.

Peace,

Pastor Frank



A letter shared by Susan Sturm:

Dear Friends,

We enjoyed meeting you last Sunday after church and seeing your enthusiasm for the **Bridges Program**. Thank you for signing up to serve! With over 500 students potentially coming to Door County, God has some great things in store for this year. We still have needs in the following areas (the most critical being American Connection):

- Transportation (drivers to events and/or Game night)- <u>Bridges Volunteer Driver Application</u> (Judith Erickson: 920-421-4980)
- Event Set-up/Take-down- Dennis Jewell: text Dennis at 785-393-0463 or email at idjewell78@gmail.com
- Welcome and Registration- Brenda Pfohl: <u>brenda.pfohl@gmail.com</u>
- American Connection Friends- <u>American Connection Friends Application</u> (Sandy McCluggage: <u>sjmccluggage@yahoo.com</u>)
- Providing Homemade snacks/baked goods for Game Night- Jean Hill: <a href="mailto:jeanjhill@yahoo.com">jeanjhill@yahoo.com</a>

Please click the link to sign up or contact the coordinator to learn more about how to be involved. To learn more about Bridges, visit <a href="https://dcbridges.org/">https://dcbridges.org/</a>\_Thank you so much! We look forward to serving Him together!

Brenda Pfohl

#### SUNSHINE RESOURCES OF DOOR COUNTY

Let's get acquainted with this deserving neighbor and recognize how they benefit many of our local communities! The mission of this group is "To enrich lives, to nurture and inspire the human spirit with care, compassion, partnership and integrity." I toured their facility recently and was truly impressed with their extensive business footprint and also their kind and experienced staff. As a quick overview, various programs offered onsite are:

- **-Day Services** for clients to promote learning and socialization.
- -The Sunflower Cottage Program provides a safe and consistent respite option for families and caregivers.
- **-Employment Services** assists individuals on their employment journey.
- -Auxiliary Business Offerings include printing and mailing services. They also provide confidential shredding.

Sunshine Resources provides **transportation** to the individuals they serve. This allows for greater participation and better access to the community-at-large. All revenues stay in Door County are designated to further their own programs.

Last month our Church Council approved a \$1,000 donation at the request of the Benevolence Committee. It was recommended that the money be directed to either a landscaping project intended to make the property's exterior a more pleasant place for all to enjoy *OR* address the ongoing need to maintain and replace busses in their fleet. Costs in that area have literally more than doubled in the past 2 years. Please keep in mind this important member of our Door County community. Remember them with your continued support of donations, both monetary and gently used articles to their <u>ReSale Store</u>, and especially, *keep them in your prayers!* You'll find them at: Sunshine Resources, 55 West Yew St., Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235, <u>www.sunshineresources.org</u>

Thank you, Susan Sturm Benevolence Comm.



#### CALENDAR / SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday Worship Services: 8:00am & 9:30am

KIDNITS -TUESDAY, JULY 11. 1:15 P.M. in the Conference Room

Calling all knitters and crocheters, join us for conversation as we minister to those who need through what God creates through us. All are welcome!

#### CHURCH COUNCIL - WEDNESDAY, JULY 19 6;30 P.M. in the Basement

Our leadership gathers to do the work you called them to do as they lead and give guidance to our ministry. You are always welcome to attend.

#### **LOCAL BENEVOLENCE TEAM** - TUESDAY, JULY 25. 2 P.M.

Those charged with leading this ministry in funding and supporting local ministries, gather for conversation, discernment and to make decisions on behalf of the congregation as we enter into partnerships.

#### **CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND NEW LIFE ... EMMETT SHEMANEK** - SATURDAY, JULY 29 11 A.M.

We gather for worship as we give thanks for Emmett's life and new life in Christ.

#### SUNDAY, AUGUST 6 - SECOND ANNUAL WORSHIP/CRUISE ON THE NORA DOR. DEPARTING SISTER BAY 2 P.M.

Again this year, worship will be led by our Praise Team. Unlike, last year we WILL leave the dock as the weather will be perfect for our cruise, we pray. Even as we were dock bound last year, we worshipped with joy and thanks to God and had a fun time singing and praising the Lord.

You do need to reserve a spot on the boat by signing up in the Narthex or by calling the Church office, 868-2826 and leaving the names of those attending and a contact phone number. GUESTS ARE WELCOME!

There is no fee for the cruise, however, you will want to tip the crew for this is their livelihood, and an offering will be received in support of our RAMP UP initiative.

THERE WILL BE WORSHIP SUNDAY MORNING AT 8 AND 9:30 A.M. AND THE AFTERNOON WORSHIP WILL BE TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN THE MORNING WORSHIP.

#### PEACE PRAISE BAND RETURNS - TUESDAY, AUGUST 8 6 P.M. OUTDOORS

The St. Paul Worship & Music Ministry is happy to announce that our own Jan Meier and her Ripon friends, Al the guitar man, and Christina, vocalist extraordinaire, are returning to St. Paul for an August outdoor concert. Join us for an evening of both contemporary and traditional praise music. Al is a musician who plays with a variety of bands of assorted musical genres. Christina is a music teacher by profession, currently teaching in Ripon. Together, Al and Christina lead worship in various Ripon congregations. Jan has devoted herself to music of all types. All three are dedicated to sharing their faith through song and praise. The concert will last about an hour and will go on, rain or shine. Bring lawn chairs, blankets, whatever you need to make yourselves at home while we share God's love through music. If you don't have a chair to bring, we will have plenty available. Just come and bring friends and family along as we gather to hear the Word, hear the Band and join in singing praises to God!

**SING YOUR PRAISE TO THE LORD! JOIN THE CHOIR -** Choir will practice at 6:30PM on Thursdays in July including July 13, 20, & 27. We are taking July 6 off due to the holiday week. Choir singing dates in July TBD. *Shawn Mathys* 

# RAMPUP

# June 1 – July 31<sup>st</sup> WE'RE RAMPING UP

Let's help Door County's Habitat for Humanity purchase a ramp. These in demand items cost \$10,000 but will be reused by our community for many years.

Supported by: Ephraim Moravian Church; Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church; St. Paul Lutheran Church

Habitat's Ramp Up Door County installs and leases emergency or temporary aluminum ramps to keep residents with a physical and financial need in their homes longer.

Ramp Up Door County has aluminum ramps available for fast installation by Habitat, especially for those residents surprised by an operation or the onset of a mobility issue. The ramp is leased from Door County Habitat for \$80 per month. When no longer needed, the ramps would cycle back to Habitat for another person.

Ramp Up Door County lease lowers the overall cost to the homeowner and enables more Door County residents in need to be able to safely access and stay in their homes. People who could not afford a contractor-constructed ramp now have a lower-cost solution to stay safely in their homes throughout an illness or rehabilitation period. Ask how you can donate!

Karen Peterson

**COMING... SOMETIME**,,, **OUTDOOR WORSHIP AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL**, Day & Time TBD *STAY TUNED* **SECOND ANNUAL GOLF OUTING, MAXWELTON BRAES** - *TENTATIVELY* SUNDAY, AUGUST 13. 1P.M. **FELLOWSHIP TIME ON SUNDAYS** PLEASE SIGN UP ON BULLETIN BOARD IN NARTHEX TO HOST A SUNDAY.



As always, Council began the meeting with prayer. The focus remains not on the nuts and bolts, but on the mission, the meat of the matter. Greg Ehlke opened with a moving devotion focused on having a grateful heart.

Local Benevolence - Since the last meeting, the Council unanimously approved by electronic means the distribution of \$1,500 to the ADRC Bailey's Harbor Meals on Wheels program and \$200 to the First Baptist Ecumenical Vacation Bible School. In addition, at this meeting, on the recommendation of the Local Benevolence Ministry, Council approved \$500 for the Bridges ministry and \$500 for Altrusa's Back to School Fair, which supports 900 local children.

Ramp-Up Project - The Ramp Up fund raising project, jointly conducted with Ephraim Moravian and Shepherd of the Bay is getting underway. The goal is for St. Paul to raise at least \$10,000 to fund one ramp to help those with mobility issues enter their homes. A large portion of these funds are already in place.

Property - The lower level painting work is nearly complete and greatly appreciated. On short notice, a group of almost a dozen members came to work on the grounds last week, also very much appreciated. The Property Ministry continues to investigate upgraded lighting for the sanctuary, with a goal to have a proposal ready to put before the congregation at the Annual Meeting in October. Starlink internet service was installed by Quantum in late

May. This coming week, a rep from the company will come to advise how best to livestream worship services and the like. We are grateful to have enhanced capabilities now.

Summer fellowship events discussed include a golf outing tentatively scheduled for August 13, worship on the boat on August 6, Peace Praise Band concerts 6pm June 27 and August 8, and an ice cream social after worship one Sunday in July.

The Administrative Assistant position remains open and qualified candidates are being (eagerly) sought. Council greatly appreciates those who are filling in doing the bulletin and newsletter, as well as the extra administrative work Pastor is doing in the interim.

Council heard that the final dinner, show and discussion for season one of "The Chosen" is next week. Those who participated have enjoyed the food, the episodes, and the discussions. The biggest reward has been the fellowship. The study leaders are considering doing this again for season two, likely to begin on September 11. All are welcome.

Council celebrated growing worship attendance as well as the return of the choir and the increased music of many forms to enhance worship. Pastor reported that visitors have commented on the welcoming nature of the congregation, though we agreed it's always something to keep working on. The meeting concluded with the Lord's Prayer, prayers for those in need, and prayers of gratitude for all of you who make up the body of Christ at St. Paul.



#### **MUSICIANS FOR JULY**

July 2 Jacob Beranek July 23 Praise Team

July 9 Doreen Holt July 30 Jacob Beranek

July 16 Doreen Holt

#### **USHERS FOR JULY**

July 2 - 8am - Indoors - Outdoors - Judi Eckholm & Reed Saunders

9:30am Indoors - Jana Raines Outdoors -

July 9 - 8am - Indoors - Jerry Lecy Outdoors - Judi Eckholm & Reed Saunders

9:30am Indoors - Outdoors -

July 16 - 8am Indoors - Jerry Lecy Outdoors - Al Peterson

9:30am Indoors - Outdoors -

July 23 - 8am - Indoors - Dave DeCock Outdoors - Al Peterson

9:30am - Indoors - Outdoors -

July 30 - 8am - Indoors - Outdoors - Andrea Esau

9:30am - Indoors - Outdoors -

#### **ASSISTING MINISTERS FOR JULY**

July 2 - 8am - Pam Davis 9:30am - Debbie Jones

July 9 - 8am - Jane DeCock 9:30am - Dennis Kaldor

July 16 - 8am - Pam Davis 9:30am - Cathy Mestek

9:30am - John Hermann



#### "The Chosen" Series - Study Group

This group completed Season One on Monday, June 26. Thank you to Jeff Kuchenbecker for leading this engaging discussion and to all who provided dinner and attended. Discussion to possibly continue with Season Two in Sept.

#### 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 <a href="mailto:debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com">debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com</a>.

#### Women's Spiritual Growth Group - FALL SESSION

During July and August, the Women's Spiritual Growth Group will be taking a break. We will begin our fall session on **Thursday, September 28 and continue through Thursday, November 2** meeting face-to-face in the lower level of St. Paul Lutheran church from **8:45-10:00 AM**. The proposed study builds on what we have been discussing during the spring regarding the Holy Spirit and is called "You Are Never Alone" by Max Lucado (created in 2020). It is a 6 week study using the miracles in John's Gospel to highlight that Jesus is right here with us and cares about every aspect of our lives. We will "realize we are stronger than we think because God is nearer than we know."

Week 1: God is with you in the ordinary

Week 2: God is with you when you are stuck

Week 3: God is with you in the storm

Week 4: God is with you in the dark

Week 5: God is with you in the valley

Week 6: God is with you when you need grace

In addition to the study guide, there is a book for those of you who would like to go deeper. Since we are meeting face-to-face, we will also view the accompanying DVD at the beginning of each session.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Debbie Jones at 651-328-1261 or <a href="mailto:debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com">debbie.jones.pmp@gmail.com</a>. Please let Debbie know by **Sunday, July 16** if you would like her to include you in

the group order for the study guide (approx \$6). It will be available for pickup and payment in August. All are welcome!

#### **Food Pantry**

The government has cut funding for people in need. It is important we support our food pantries.

The food pantries are very grateful for our donations. We have received thank you's from the place we have delivered. Check the bulletin board in the basement. Thank you

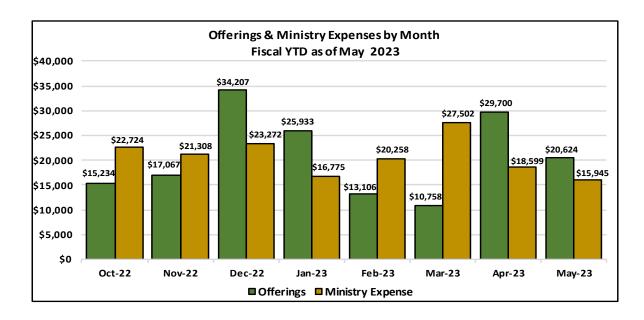
Mary Anne and Clarence Scherer





- 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 eight months of the fiscal year were \$4,582 lower than in the prior year (\$166,629 vs. \$171,211), in part reflecting lower Offerings received in May (down \$7.4K versus the comparable prior year month)
- General Offerings were greater than Ministry Expenses by \$247 (i.e., \$166,629 - \$166,382 = \$247)

1



- General Offerings in May totaled \$20,624 as shown above, which was the fourth highest monthly Offerings total received in the first eighth months of this fiscal year
- Ministry Expenses were lower in May than in April by \$2.7K principally due to lower Benevolence outlays to benefit others (down \$1.6K), Utilities Expenses (down \$0.7K) and Support Staff Expenses (down \$0.6K)



#### COUNCIL MINUTES - Wednesday, May 17, 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

and Steve Stringer (all attending in person)

**Excused/Absent:** Pam Davis, Renee Schwaller

#### **Meeting Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Cathy Mestek at 6:31 P.M.

#### **Devotions**

Jeff Kuchenbecker provided an opening devotion, focused on Acts I and Pentecost, and the opening prayer.

#### **Agenda Approval**

The previously circulated agenda was reviewed and accepted.

#### **Minutes**

2

The previously circulated minutes from the April 15, 2023 meeting, following a motion made by Greg Ehlke and seconded by Karen Peterson, were approved.

#### **Record of Electronic Business Approval**

Cathy Mestek reported that, since the last meeting, the Council unanimously approved by electronic means the cost of the proposed grading of the grassy area leading to the Prayer Garden near the propane tank. The estimated cost was \$1,787.

#### **Community of Faith**

- Karen reported that the Local Benevolence Committee will meet next Tuesday (05/23/23) and, among other things, consider the Ramp Up project for which coordination with Shepherd of the Bay and the Ephraim Moravian Church is anticipated.
- Pastor reported he continues to make many visits to those who are home bound, hospitalized, or confined to rehabilitative or long-term care facilities. He requested prayers be offered for several members or local community residents who are battling difficult issues.

#### **Financial Report**

Given the Council was meeting in person for the first time in 38 months since the onset of the pandemic, Greg took the opportunity to provide the Council with an in-depth briefing of our endowment fund investments with the ELCA Foundation, current liquidity position, recent Offerings trends and the likely cash flow forecast through the current fiscal year-end on September 30<sup>th</sup>. The briefing was supported by an extensive handout and was intended to ensure all Council members have a solid understanding of the financial considerations that impact our Ministry program. Greg then reported on other financial-related matters including:

#### 10'23 Endowment Fund Results

• The ELCA Foundation reported that the 1Q'23 results for the Ministry Growth Fund was 5.1%. The statements for the Everlasting Endowment Fund and the Emergencies Endowment Fund totaled \$208.6K and \$55.1K, respectively, as of March 31st. No distributions have been initiated from either endowment fund to date during this fiscal year.

#### April and Fiscal Year-to-Date Results

- Greg referred to the financial summary and supporting reports distributed by email prior to the meeting. The financial summary for April 2023 highlighted Total Offerings for the month approximated \$30.2K which was about \$12.0K higher than the prior year month. Ministry Expenses approximated \$18.6K, which was about \$0.3K lower than the prior year month.
- Year-to-date Regular Offerings were about \$146.0K which was about \$9.0K lower than in April 2022. Ministry Expenses were \$150.4K in the first seven months of the fiscal year, which was \$3.8K lower than the prior year period. The fiscal year-to-date Ordinary Net Loss was \$3.5K or \$7.1K lower than the prior year.
- Undesignated cash funds available would cover about 6.5 months of Ministry Expenses without any reliance on additional Offerings being received. This includes the liquidity that could be quickly provided from approximately \$51.3K of liquid assets (cash, U.S. Treasury Notes and bills) invested with Thrivent Financial to enhance the church's interest income.

The Financial report was approved by the Council pursuant to a motion made by Karen and seconded by Peder. A copy of the April 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.

#### **Pastor's Report**

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

- The average weekly attendance has approximated 70 lately as more members and visitors are returning to Door County.
- An ad is being placed in the Peninsula Pulse highlighting the upcoming change to two Sunday services beginning on May 28<sup>th</sup> and that all are welcome to use the community playground.
- The Synod Assembly will be held this weekend; no member from St. Paul is scheduled to attend.
- Pastor has been in contact with Portico concerning certain anticipated changes in his healthcare coverage, including participation in a Medicare Advantage plan, expected to occur on his birthday this year.

#### **Worship and Music Report**

Cathy and Jeff reported on various matters concerning the Worship and Music Ministry. Items addressed included:

• Cathy noted that the Worship & Music Ministry will carefully track attendance trends when the two Sunday services resume at the end of this month to help assess whether two services or one will better meet our worship needs during the different seasons going forward.

- Consistent with the U.S. Government's recent announcement about end of the global pandemic period, the plastic wind barrier near the portico entrance has been removed given (i) the improved warmer weather and (ii) reduced reliance on\_parking lot worship.
- The Peace Praise Band will hold two Tuesday evening concerts on June 27<sup>th</sup> and August 8<sup>th</sup>.
- The Praise Team is expected to provide special music at the June 11<sup>th</sup> services.
- Jacob Beranek will return to serve as the musician for seven Sundays this summer.
- Jan Meier is planning to begin choir practice around June 8<sup>th</sup>. The Council welcomed the potential return of the choir at Sunday services in the foreseeable future.

#### **Property Report**

Steve and Peder reported on numerous property-related developments. These included:

- Steve summarized an enhanced sanctuary lighting proposal that had been received from Manning Lighting and circulated to members prior to the meeting. Two possible lighting solutions were discussed. A local lighting electrician will be contacted to determine estimated cost to install the lights, dimmers and wiring needed for this project. The total cost of the project could require a Congregational Meeting be held to authorize the funding for this project.
- Painting of the Fellowship Hall area has begun. Steve anticipates calling a few members to help finish this project on a timely basis.
- Steve reported he has been watering the recently regraded soil area near the Prayer Garden to help the grass seed to germinate.
- Pastor reported that the re-mulching of the playground, which was discussed at prior meetings, is expected to be performed by Dave's Tree Service by the end of the week. Greg noted there are funds in the Fred Weber Memorial account for the completion of this project which is expected to approximated \$1,800.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Cemetery Survey**

Steve advised that there has been no change in the expected date for completion of the cemetery survey.

#### **Administrative Assistant Position**

Cathy reported on efforts to fill the open administrative assistant position. She reported that a potential candidate is expected to be interviewed on Friday. All Council members were urged to continue to seek out candidates for this open position.

#### **Starlink Status/Next Steps**

Pastor reported that the congregation's application for Starlink service had been pending since February 2021 and was approved on Maundy Thursday (almost 26 months). The hardware to install the service was recently received and will be installed by Quantum on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Summer Fellowship Events**

A discussion was held concerning summer fellowship events and an opportunity for a NorDoor Worship Opportunity. The following was decided:

- Peder will contact the NorDoor captain concerning a possible summer date for a Sunday afternoon worship service on the waters of Green Bay.
- Gerry Schwaller will be consulted upon his return to Door County about other potential Fellowship events this summer. Possibilities include: a barbeque, another annual golf outing, etc.

#### **Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M. with the praying of The Lord's Prayer.

#### **Next Council Meeting**

Wednesday, June 21, 2023; 6:30 P.M. in person at the church. Greg Ehlke will provide the opening devotion.

Respectfully submitted, Greg Ehlke, Acting Secretary