

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church
Minutes of the Annual Meeting of the Congregation
January 29, 2012**

Opening of the Meeting

- Out Going President Dan Tripp called the meeting to order at _12:05pm_ and Pastor Harms led the opening prayer.
- Welcome to new Council members Ben Holochwost - Communication, Returning member Rick Truesch - Property, and Tom Marini – Music, still in need of a member in the Lay Ministry position and President
- Special thanks and recognition to outgoing Council members Carol Komer – Lay Ministry, Eric Harms – Communications; Dan Tripp – President, and Barb Marini - Music
- Special thanks to WELCA and their wonderful fund raising efforts. Even in the face of adversity with the flooding, they had a very successful rummage sale.
- Thanks to the Music committee and staff, Anne Brege, Eric Miller and Linda Bauer for continuing to make music a key element to our worship service with the variety of music provided. Invitation to all to join the choir
- Thanks also go to Mary Mobley in her continuing effort as Sunday School Chair.
- Last but not least a hearty thank you to Doug Jenzen and Jim Brege and family for preparing the wonderful luncheon for our meeting.
- And a SPECIAL thanks to Pastor Harms and his 20 years of Ministry here at St Paul.
- Minutes from the January 31, 2011 Annual meeting were approved as presented. ***Motion to Approve: Gretchen Archinal, Seconded by: Rick Grenzke, All in favor.***

Pastor Harms' Report

- Special thanks given to Church Council, Church Staff and the many volunteers who offer their time and services to the St. Paul Congregation.
- The Long Range Planning Task Force was constituted and met to establish recommendations for ministry and vision for our congregation over the next several years.
- The Men's Morning Bible Study which meets on the first Thursday of the month finished studying Acts of the Apostles and is currently studying Paul's letter to the Romans.
- Other Bible Study opportunities at St. Paul include:
 - The Tuesday Morning Text study group
 - Listening for God (women's study group)
 - Naomi Circle (women's study group)
 - Faith and Ale (which meets the first Sunday of the month)
 - Sunday Morning Adult Forums which has been studying “The Greatest Story – Jesus”
- Sunday school has been using the material SPARK for lessons each Sunday.
- Cross-generational study opportunities are also taking place.
- Many groups utilize our building facility through out the week.
 - With the Neighborhood Club being rebuilt activities that include computer classes and 3 Bridge groups meet here.
 - Four AA groups
 - Gamblers Anonymous,
 - Garden Club
 - Red Barons
 - WATCH (Breast cancer support group)

- Lifeline Screening
 - GPS Athletic Boosters
 - Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops
- Music continues to be a strong component at St. Paul.
 - October 23, 2011 brought the return of the Scottish Bagpipe service and luncheon.
 - Continuation of the Jazz Service
 - We are blessed with wonderful musicians (choir members, instrumentalist and hand bell ringers)
 - Eric Miller is now the Director of Music. Linda Bauer who had been serving in that position has decided to cut back on her duties to spend more time with family. She continues to direct the hand-bell choir and play the organ. Anne Brege conducts the children's choir and one group is a combination of bells and choir - "Sing and Ring".
 - Vacation Bible School was a joint venture between St. Paul and Salem Memorial and held in the evenings instead of during the day. Our partnering ministry continues with Salem Memorial and Christ Lutheran Iroquois Avenue. Our food collections for Crossroads are housed at Salem Memorial.
 - Dr. Michael Burkhardt established an east-side program (Hearts, Hands and Voices) for youth in grades two through seven to help train young people in music and worship. We had a tremendous response to this first year program and look forward to hosting again in August of 2012.
 - Youth and Family ministry remains a strong focus with our milestone ministries which focus on our Christian growth from youth through adulthood marking special times along the journey. Milestones include the following:
 - First Bibles
 - First Holy Communion
 - Blessing of the backpacks
 - Stepping into Sunday school
 - Stepping into the Future (graduating seniors quilt service)
 - Celebration of our elders
 - Several Senior High youth and Michelle Ketepa made a mission trip to West Virginia. In 2012, nine youth and 2 adults will travel to New Orleans for the National Lutheran Youth Gathering. Other youth have been trained and commissioned as Peer Ministers.
 - Building usage was disrupted due to flooding that occurred in May and on September 10, 2011. Thanks to the many people from the congregation who stepped in and responded to help with the mess. A successful Rummage Sale was still held by WELCA and we continue to work with insurance and the necessary renovations so the facilities will be even better than before the flooding – a special thanks to Gretchen Archinal for her tireless efforts at taking the lead in getting us back on track.
 - Bette McCrandall who had been serving the Lutheran Church in Liberia has retired. Our new missionary support through the ELCA is the missionary team of Pastor Fred and Gloria Strickert. The Strickerts serve the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in East Jerusalem. We continue to partner with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Lands and the Mbulu Diocese of Tanzania. Presently, Pastor Samer Azar and family are visiting our parish from our partner church in Amman, Jordan, The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd.
 - Many thanks to you, the congregation, for your service to the important ministries that involve our people in spreading the gospel.

Pastor Collier's Report

- First a special thanks to the Joyce and Karen Ficht and the WELCA board for approving the purchase of the new microphone and podium being used for the first time today, with funds requested from the Rummage Sale proceeds.
- Many valuable ministries are taking place at St. Paul and a reading from the book "Words for the Journey – Faith" - "What is Faith" was shared.
- Thank you to God for empowering me to serve Him through this congregation during 2011 – it has been a blessing.
- Many outside groups utilize our building for meetings and gatherings. These are viewed as a viable extension of the ministry of the congregation.
 - From time to time, members of these groups come to Pastor Harms and me for pastoral care.
 - A member of the Saturday Morning AA group alerted us of the flooding in September, which is an indication of that they consider themselves a part of our congregation.
 - The Early Bird AA group has invited Pastor Harms and me to some of their events.
 - Gamblers Anonymous, Alcoholic Anonymous, Breast Cancer Support are just a few of the many outside groups that utilize our facility.
 - Members of these groups have even become member of the congregation.
- Adult Forum events continue to be developed. "The Greatest Story – Jesus" is being studied currently. This book is a guide in studying the earthly life of Jesus. The study has been well received by members. A special thanks to Linda Bauer and Jennifer Callewaert for taking time to lead the Adult Forum from time to time.
- Work with the Evangelism Committee continues with the leadership of Todd Callewaert, council chair. An updated version of the "visitor packet" has been put together to give to guest at worship. A coffee mug with the church's name on it is included. Please remember all members of St. Paul are evangelists for Christ and we encourage you to spot visitors in worship and do your best to make them feel welcome.
- Thank you for a great 2011 and I look forward to another wonderful year serving among you in God's vineyard. And we follow God's lead and turn our challenges to opportunities and opportunities into personal growth.

President's Report – Dan Tripp

- I want to thank the congregation for your support and prayers in making the past 3 years as Council President enjoyable.
- First thing I had to do was preside over a special congregational meeting due to a negative budget.
- I had goals I wanted to accomplish while Council President. One of the goals was to reverse the shrinking attendance which I was unable to do, but for every negative there is a positive. Shrinking attendance is still an issue but there is an increase of new families at St. Paul.
- Another goal was from a budgetary perspective.
- In 2009 the Endowment Fund was below its Historic Value, now it is above its Historic Value.
- We have had many obstacles which I consider opportunities. Faced a lot of adversity in the past couple of years, the low economy, and friends and congregation members moving for jobs.
- Flooding impacted many in the congregation – groups, the congregation, had to completely reorganize the Sunday school program, but on the day of the flooding, 50plus people showed up to help with the clean-up. It shows the love people have for this place. The floods gave us an opportunity to renovate the basement to make it an even better place for the congregation and groups to meet.

- Due to the foresight of the Council and congregation many years ago a Boiler Fund (Capital Campaign 10-12 years ago) was in place which helped us in replacing the old boilers that were damaged in the flooding with a new energy efficient boiler.
- Special recognition goes to Gretchen Archinal for her tireless effort and great negotiating skills with the insurance agency and the restoration company. Abraham has nothing on Gretchen. She managed to get insurance and restoration companies together with the amount quickly.
- My challenge to the congregation in the coming year – changes are inevitable, some good and some bad – changes will require time and talents. My challenge is that you as members step up to the challenges and changes that are to come, volunteer and step up because you love it here at St. Paul.

Election of Council President

- Introduction of Council President nominee Dave Upmeyer, floor opened to other nominees

Motion to close nominations: Marie Zeller, John Lupe 2nd, all approve, Vote by a show of hands. **All in favor** of electing Dave Upmeyer as Church Council President. No opposes.

Vice President's Report

- The Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) had another tremendous year filled with many accomplishments. Their report will follow.
- As Nominating Committee Chairperson along with Pat Sierant, Jennifer Callewaert and Randy Rogers as committee members. Each member worked effortlessly to obtain candidates for each open position on Council. The following members were elected:
 - Property: Rick Treusch is returning
 - Communications: Ben Holochwost
 - Music: Tom Marini
- Positions to still be filled on Council are President and Lay Care Giving Ministries. We continue to reach out to prospective members of the Congregation. Serving on Church Council is a serious commitment, but is rewarding and a wonderful way to serve St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church. Year 2012 will be no different and the Nominating Committee will again be reaching out to members to fill the open positions. We will be voting on candidates for the positions of: Administration, Secretary, Evangelism, Stewardship, and Youth and Family. If you are interested in running for one of these Church Council positions and would like additional information, please contact me.
- Thanks go to the outgoing Church Council members: Dan Tripp (President), Erik Harms (Communications), Barb Marini (Music) and Carol Komer (Lay Care Giving Ministries). Please take time to thank them for their dedicated service and devoted commitment to the mission of St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church and making it a wonderful place of worship and fellowship.

Minister of Faith Formation Report – Michelle Basner-Ketepa

- Milestone Ministry at St. Paul continues to bless the lives of our families.
 - 3 students took communion for the first time.
 - 3 students received their first Bibles.
 - 10 young people made Affirmation of Baptism.
 - 6 individuals were honored as we Celebrated our Elders
 - Our middle school students and their parents participated in a milestone program on

bullying

- 10 students graduated from High School.
- New students were welcomed into Sunday school in the fall.
- Backpacks were blessed for students in the congregation in the fall.
- 4 students were commissioned as Peer Ministers after completing leadership training.
- Veterans Day milestone was postponed until 2012.
- A new milestone, “My Body, God's Gift” will be added in 2012 for students in grades 4-6 and their parents. This milestone is intended to be offered every 2-3 years.
- Milestone ministries have helped to form partnerships with other churches.
 - Grosse Pointe Congregational Church has invited our high school students to participate in the new driver's workshop in early 2012.
 - Milestone “My Body, God's Gift” is being promoted in their congregations.
 - Conversation with other Lutheran congregation is taking place regarding conducting First Communion instruction together, building community between our congregations.
- Five youth are participating in Peer Ministry Training through May 2013. The Peer Ministers commissioned in the spring of 2011 are serving the church in a variety of ways:
 - One serves on the SE MI Synod Lutheran Youth Organization Board.
 - One is serving as a small group leader in Catechism classes.
 - One has served on church committees and uses skills to lead during Luther League events.
- Luther league continues to hold activities twice a month for students under the direction and leadership of Becka Jenzen. Meetings are informal times for students to just hangout together.
- The youth continue to serve Thanksgiving dinner at Park Place of Harper Woods.
- Three youth from St. Paul, along with 15 other from around Michigan and 6 adults, traveled to West Virginia in July for a mission trip planned by Lutheran Camps.
- Fund-raising efforts began in the fall of 2011 for the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans, LA. Nine youth plan to make the trip along with Pastor Harms and Becka Jenzen. Funds will continue to be raised through the spring of 2012. Group building activities, bible study and discussions on culture and conditions in New Orleans will begin in January. Parents are involved in the fund-raising efforts as well. While in New Orleans students will:
 - participate in a day of service projects
 - learning events
 - And mass gathering worship
 - Many study sessions
 - meet other Lutheran youth from across the US.
- Catechism classes continue on Monday nights with a dedicated team of group leaders: David Ketepa, Jeanne Blohm, Pam Jankiewicz, Kaki Newell and Josh Jankiewicz. Students are learning Bible stories and life application in the study of the Old Testament.
- Faith and Ale and the Men's Bible Study Breakfast continue to meet and involve adults in study and discussion.
- Other noteworthy events of 2011:
 - 11 people participated in “Home Plate Detroit” and ecumenical event at Comerica Park where athletes shared their personal faith stories.
 - We partnered with Salem Memorial to provide a VBS program.
 - We welcomed a group from Pennsylvania during their mission trip to serve in Detroit and a group of youth from our partner synod in Jordan and the Holy Land.
- In 2012 I hope to continue to build on our existing programs and encourage our young people to use their gifts in leadership.

Review and Approval of the 2011 General Fund Budget – Gretchen Archinal, Harry Thomalla and Mike Zeller (see attached Annual Report and Budget)

Harry Thomalla:

- Net Assets reviewed (page 1 of Financial Report) Difference of \$140,568 in 12/2011 to \$61,714 at the end of 12/2012.
- Endowment funds received aided in keeping the budget out of the negative. Discussion will be held later regarding the transference of \$18,000. to balance this years budget.
- Why the big difference: Review of 2011 Source and Application of Funds (page 1).
- Endowment Fund is a separate fund from the General Fund.
- Review of the Distribution of Assets: Vision of Growth fund will continue to drop due to the ending of the program. Boiler fund will most likely be eliminated once all the funds are used

Rick Grenzke:

- In '09 we had a loss of \$1600 which was the first year we didn't take funds from the Endowment fund.
- In '09 we took a percentage off of each line item as far as we could. With the exception of utilities.
- Changes were in '09-'10 to allow withdraw of funds to balance the budget from the Endowment Fund.
- Review of Article Rick Grenzke points out that according to Church Constitution St Paul Endowment Fund Agreement; Article III; Administrative Authority section 3.6 which states: "Disbursements from the Fund in excess of that provided in Section 3.4 may be made in the even of an extraordinary need, upon recommendation of Council and with the approval of the Congregation by two-thirds majority vote (except as may otherwise be provided in the Constitution)." Is requesting approval of the \$18,000.00 from the Endowment Fund considered "extraordinary need"? Using the Fund to balance the budget is not "extraordinary need"
- Discussed the need to go back and present a balanced budget.

H. Thomalla:

- Reason for the presenting of the negative budget presentation is that there are things in the report from the Transition Committee will affect the budget in the long range. (Report to be presented later.)

Gretchen Archinal: Summary Statement of General Fund Activity

- Pledges: last year at this time there were 113 families that have pledged, this year only 96 families. But on a good note those who did have increased their pledging.
- Realistically the only numbers that can change the negative budget is the income numbers/the pledge numbers.
- Discussion held regarding the 13% Benevolence – that is an amount that can not change. Involves the Vision of Growth Fund which is coming to an end and cannot change this year.
- General Fund Expenses reviewed: salary and fringe benefits up due to the need to have coverage during Michelle's maternity leave, Utilities and Insurance slightly up; office expenses, maintenance, major maintenance relatively the same; all other programs up due to the Youth Gathering and we have historically paid for the chaperons to go.

- Discussion and questions of clarification were held regarding the number of pledges versus the number of no pledge numbers and where the no pledge number estimate comes from.
- Marie Zeller point of clarification on direction the conversation is going regarding the approval of a budget. The 2013 budget will feel the affect of the recommendations of the Transition Committee.
- Question asked about the financial return that may occur with the more efficient boiler will bring. To difficult to tell at this point because we are on the budget plan. Improved room by room thermostats will help.
- Discussion on Notes to Financial Statement: Note 1 – Vision of Growth in Ministry and what those funds have paid for (page 3). By end of year there will be \$11,644 to carry over into the next year.
- Note 2 – All other Restricted Accounts: Majority stayed the same. Includes the Basement restoration amount
- Note 3 – review of Special Projects and Endowment Fund Bequest
- Special thanks to Harry Thomalla for his tireless efforts at spear heading the Columbarium project and Memorial Scatter Garden. Many compliments have been received regarding the beautification that has been added to the church because of it.
- Page 8: detail budget, congregation asked to review – cuts have been made to all line items.
- Page 11: General Fund Pledge Data: dropped from 155 in 2004 to 94 in 2012; Membership data: Dropped from 897 in 2003 to 797 in 2011; positive is the inactive number dropped from 76 inactive in 2010 to only 29 inactive in 2011.
- Page 12: Report of the Floods of 2011 and Status of Restoration: Reviewed calendar of completion. Again many thanks to those who dropped what they were doing when the call went out and came to help out on the day of the flood. This has been a disaster that has turned into a blessing. Sandroek Hall is started (Phase I), tile is asbestos tile and requires special handling. Hoping to be back into that space by Ash Wednesday. This has been roughly a \$400,000 blessing. Summary of expected costs and revenues for basement restoration discussed (page 13)
- Began conversation about the need to pass a deficit budget. Rick Grenzke
- Motion to Defer R. Grenzke: 2nd

POINT OF ORDER: President is to call the motion; Mike Zeller called on to discuss the Endowment Fund. Discussion on Motion will resume after Mike's presentation.

Mike Zeller: Endowment Fund. (Page 6)

- Page 6: Reviewed breakdown of Assets, Church Checking, Van Guard and ELCA Pooled Trust.
- Transfers to General Fund reviewed.
- The -1.75% (Return on Investment) is for December only, not the entire year. The -0.78% (ELCA Pooled Trust Benchmark) is for the month of December only. Those were the only figures available at the time of printing.
- 4% Annual Distribution reviewed as well as the Disbursement above the 4% to offset the budget

Motion to approve the transfer of \$18,000 from the Endowment Fund, if needed, in order to

offset the negative balance in the 2012 budget: Gretchen Archinal, 2nd: John Lupo.

Floor open for discussion; points made that work needs to be done to reach out to inactive members, to find out why they are inactive, and what we can do to encourage their return to St. Paul, not just to balance the budget but because this is their house of worship and faith development. Reminder that the recommendations of the Transition Committee will not fully go into effect until 2013. Marie Zeller requested clarification: the \$18,000 is only to be allocated if needed. Gretchen Archinal confirmed which is what we have done in the past. Review of R. Grenzke's point taken early regarding this being "extraordinary need" - his point of view is to balance the budget by transferring funds is not an "extraordinary need". Feels another go around with a pledge drive is appropriate. Clarification question was asked what happens if a negative budget is not passed – another pledge and a special meeting will be called. Gretchen Archinal reviewed repercussions of passing a negative budget. Emphasized that the \$18,000 is to be available only when and if need.

Motion to end discussion on Motion to transfer \$18,000. from Endowment Fund and call the question and vote: Marie Zeller; All approve.

Motion to approve the transfer of (up to) \$18,000 from the Endowment Fund, if needed, in order to offset the negative balance in the 2012 budget: Gretchen Archinal, 2nd: John Lupo. All in favor of Motion: 39 approve; all opposed: 41. Motion does not carry.

Motion to pass a negative budget: Gretchen Archinal, Negated

R Grenzke restates his motion:

Motion to defer vote on 2012 budget until a balance budget can be presented to the congregation at a special meeting of the congregation at a later date: Rick Grenzke; 2nd (4 people 2nd at once); all approve.

Long-range Transition Planning Committee Report and Recommendation:

- Report and Recommendation was distributed to the congregation for their review. Congregation will be given time to review the report and provide input on each line item.

Motion to accept the Long-Range Transition Planning Committee Report and Recommendation as written and the members report any discrepancies or questions they have to the committee; Marie Zeller; 2nd Tom Archinal. All Approve.

- Dates of Discussion regarding the Recommendations will be at a later date after members have had an opportunity to review. If there are errors on points of fact those need to be corrected and reviewed before any acceptance of the recommendation is voted on.
- Each finding and recommendation will be reviewed individually and voted on as a line item when it is time.
- Special thanks to the Stirring Committee for their tireless work.
- Email blast will be going out tomorrow as well as in the newsletter that it is on-line; copies will be available in the church office as well.

Committee Reports

- All other committee reports are available for reading in the annual report, copies available in the church office; any questions can be directed to that committee chair.

Closing Prayer – Pastor Harms

- Meeting adjourned at: __2:00pm_____
- __Over 100__ Members in attendance
- ***Motion to Adjourn: Peg Upmeyer; Seconded by: Rick Grenzke; All Approved***

Respectfully Submitted

Lela Creighton
Secretary.

Minutes of 2012

Congregational Meeting
of
St. Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church