

Minutes of the Church Council

OCTOBER 25, 2011

The St. Pauli Church Council held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at St. Pauli Church. Members present: Faye Auchenpaugh, Arlo Rude, Wahna Smith, Jodie Torkelson and Pastor Carl Hansen. The meeting was called to order by Council President Smith at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Carl Hansen opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary's Report

Torkelson distributed the Minutes of the August 23, September 7, September 20 and October 2 meetings. After they were read, Auchenpaugh made a motion to approve the Minutes. Rude seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Auchenpaugh presented the Treasurer's report for September 2011. Expenditures were \$2,337.17 and Income was \$3,811.00. The checking account balance as of September 30th was \$9,291.84. The savings account balance was \$20,334.95 and total assets were \$77,863.49.

Discussion was held on our Edward Jones account and the purchase of Capital Income Builder Funds. The total account value now in the Capital Income Builder Fund is \$29,072.47.

Auchenpaugh reported on the comparisons between Church Mutual and State Farm insurance companies for water damage coverage and following discussion it was decided to continue with Church Mutual.

Rude made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Torkelson seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Hansen presented a written report to the Council on his availability for worship services through the end of the year and his willingness to continue beyond that date.

Discussion was held on the plans for Thanksgiving and Christmas services. It was decided that we would continue to have Thanksgiving Eve services in conjunction with the churches in town. Pastor

Hansen will find out which church is holding the service this year and that information will be available in the newsletter.

Because Christmas Day falls on a Sunday this year and we normally have a Christmas Eve service, discussion was held on whether there should or should not be a Christmas Day service. Because there is a congregational meeting scheduled for October 30th, this will be brought to the congregation for a decision.

Discussion was also held on arranging pulpit supply for those Sundays when Pastor Hansen was not preaching. Auchenpaugh volunteered to try to arrange pulpit supply.

Old Business

Congregational meeting - The upcoming congregational meeting agenda was discussed and finalized. The agenda will be to discuss the Task Force's report on the future of our church and get guidance from the members on how they would like to proceed. We will also resolve whether or not to have Christmas Day services.

Rude said he would contact Pastor Steve Peterson with the Synod to see if he has any additional ideas that should be presented to the members at the congregational meeting.

Confirmation - Rude stated that he gave three separate curricula to Gary Iverson to review and discuss with Pastor Hansen to determine which would be the best one to use for this year's confirmation student.

New Business

The council received an offer from Joan Nelson to donate plants for the church planters. This will be referred to WELCA since the planters have been their project.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Respectfully submitted
Jodie Torkelson, Church Council Secretary

Minutes of the Church Council

NOVEMBER 17, 2011

(not yet approved)

The St. Pauli Church Council held its monthly meeting on Thursday, November 17, 2011 at St. Pauli Church. Members present: Faye Auchenpaugh, Arlo Rude, Wahna Smith, Pat Swanson, Jodie Torkelson and Pastor Carl Hansen. Meeting was called to order by Council President Smith at 7:00 pm.

Pastor Carl Hansen opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary's Report: Torkelson distributed the Minutes of the October 25th meeting. After they were read, Rude made a motion to approve. Auchenpaugh seconded, and the motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Auchenpaugh presented the Treasurer's report for October 2011. Expenditures were \$3,156.79 and Income was \$3,712.00. The checking account balance as of October 31st was \$9,847.05 and the savings account balance was \$20,341.86. Total assets were \$79,950.89.

Torkelson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's report. Rude seconded; motion carried.

Pastor's Report: In Pastor Hansen's written report to the Council he stated that "Worship at St. Pauli is a joy...and we should check the shingles to see if they are all still attached or have been blown away as we make a joyful noise to the Lord."

Pastor Hansen also asked the council for input on church traditions for the Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons so that he could continue to honor our past. The Council provided him with our past practices and traditions on those services.

Discussion was held on placing a table or missal stand in the front of the altar so Pastor Hansen can face the congregation during the service. Rude said he would see what could be found that would work.

As the host of the Thanksgiving service, Zion Church asked for volunteers from St. Pauli to participate in the service. Smith and Pastor Hansen both volunteered to assist.

Pastor Hansen was asked by the Ministerial Association to participate in the rotating schedule of leading worship at the nursing homes and in the one-minute devotional on KTRF. The council encouraged Pastor Hansen to do so if it worked with his schedule and agreed to add the time necessary for preparation and participation to his monthly stipend.

St. Pauli's agreement with Pastor Hansen is through December 31st. He notified the Council of his availability to lead worship services on January 15, 22 and 29, 2012. The Council gratefully accepted his offer to preach those Sundays and will work on pulpit supply for January 1st and 9th.

Old Business: There was no old business.

New Business

Nominating Committee – Torkelson will review the Minutes from last year's annual meeting to confirm which Church Council positions are up at the end of the year. Without confirming, it appears that the Treasurer position held by Faye Auchenpaugh and the Council Member position held by Arlo Rude are both up at the end of the year. A request for volunteers to serve on the council will be in the upcoming church bulletins and newsletters. Hopefully this will result in people stepping forward to assist in managing our church affairs.

Annual Meeting – Because we are no longer alternating church service times with Calvary, our annual meeting does not have to wait until February. Rude made a motion to hold the annual meeting the last Sunday in January, the 29th. Torkelson seconded, and the motion carried.

Christmas Service – Auchenpaugh will inventory the candle holders and candles to ensure there are enough for the service. Rude volunteered to transport the tree that Ron and Virginia Anderson pick out. WELCA volunteers will decorate this year.

Discussions with Zion, Redeemer and Trinity - Torkelson shared the letter that will be sent to Zion, Redeemer and Trinity requesting a meeting to discuss a future parish or pastoral leadership arrangement. Rude volunteered to hand deliver the letters to the church council presidents.

Sunday School – Torkelson reported that there has been some discussion about holding Sunday School every other Sunday to better accommodate the families of our children. This will be discussed further and any changes would not take place until January.

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. The meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jodie Torkelson, Church Council Secretary

St. Pauli News in Detail



Christmas Services



December 24
4:30 pm Bell Ringing
5:00 pm Christmas Eve Services

December 25
10:30 Christmas Day Services

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Greeting and Ushering

Dec. 4 David Lee
Dec. 11 Bruce Mathson
Dec. 18 Clayton Mathson
Dec. 25 Dennis Nelson

Sunday Service:

- Light altar candles before service and put out flames after church.
- Act as Greeters and hand out bulletins.
- Usher for offering and communion.
- Tidy up pews after church to make it ready for the next Sunday's services.

Altar Preparation: Virginia Anderson

Sunday School Program

You will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.

Luke 2:12



Sunday, December 18
10:30 am
(during regular worship service time)

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December Milestones



Birthdays

Dec. 5 Roxanne Rondorf

Needed: Birthdays of our children and men, plus anniversaries of our couples.

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St. Pauli Handbook

Jan Strandlie is working on our 2012 handbook. If you wouldn't mind having your email address included, please send it to janstrandlie@mncable.net before Dec. 25.

What is a Lectionary?

A lectionary is a list of scripture readings assigned to be read on a particular day. This tradition has roots in Jewish worship of long ago and was continued by the early Christians. Not all Christians use the same lectionary, but many Lutheran, Catholic, Presbyterian, Methodist and other Christian churches around the world use the Revised Common Lectionary, which is what the ELCA uses and what we use. It is deeply moving to know that the readings we hear each Sunday are the same ones being used throughout North America.

Each year either the Gospel of Matthew, Mark, or Luke is read primarily, with the Gospel of John interspersed throughout all three years. Consequently, if a person worshipped every Sunday for three years, he or she would be able to hear the majority of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The two lessons and psalm for each Sunday are chosen for their relationship to the Gospel.

The *Revised Common Lectionary* (RCL) provides a three-year plan (labeled Years A, B, C) starting with the season of Advent, four weeks before Christmas Day. For each Sunday and festival, four readings

are suggested and include a Gospel reading, an Old Testament reading, a reading from the Psalms, and a New Testament reading.

The RCL is a work of *The Consultation on Common Texts*, an ecumenical consultation of liturgical scholars and denominational representatives from the United States and Canada who produce liturgical texts for use in common by North American Christian Churches. Each year of the RCL centers on one of the synoptic Gospels (Year A – Matthew, Year B – Mark, Year C – Luke). John is read in each year in the major seasons of Christmas, Lent and Easter.

For much of the year, the Old Testament lesson is closely related to the Gospel reading. However, from the first Sunday after Trinity Sunday to the end of the church year, two provisions have been made: a continuation of the complimentary readings or a semi-continuous pattern of Old Testament readings. We use the continuation readings.

We began a new liturgical year (Year B) on November 27, 2011. Thus, we will primarily read the Gospel of Mark throughout the coming year.

Charity

Charity is, in Christian thought, the highest form of love, signifying the reciprocal love between God and man that is made manifest in unselfish love of one's fellow men. St. Paul's classical description of charity is found in I Corinthians 13. In Christian theology and ethics, charity (a translation of the Greek word *agape*, also meaning "love") is most eloquently shown in the life, teachings, and death of Jesus Christ. St. Augustine summarized much of Christian thought about charity when he wrote: "Charity is a virtue which, when our affections are perfectly ordered, unites us to God, for by it we love him." Using this definition and others from the Christian tradition, the medieval theologians, especially St. Thomas Aquinas, placed charity in the context of the other Christian virtues and specified its role as "the foundation or root" of them all.



Although the net proceeds from the Fall Supper were not as high this year, the **St. Pauli WELCA ladies** put their faith into action by continuing their annual charitable contributions at the same level as previous years. At their November meeting, they donated a total of \$1,500.00 to the following organizations:

Haiti missions	\$ 200
Northlands Rescue Mission	\$ 200
ELCA Scholarship Fund	\$ 300
ELCA Good Gifts Program	\$ 400
Salvation Army of TRF	\$ 400

Charity is the highest form of love!

A SAD DAY



Adam and Eve knew better.

They knew if they ate the fruit of the Knowledge of Good and Evil they would die. But they ate it anyway.

Adam and Eve had sinned - sin is knowing what God wants, but doing what you want instead. Adam and Eve had disobeyed God, and now they were going to learn a very hard lesson.

Even though Adam tried to blame Eve for eating the fruit, and Eve tried to blame the serpent, God knew the truth. They all had disobeyed him.

So first, God said to the serpent, "Because you lied to my children and tricked them into disobeying me, you will crawl on your belly from this day on, and you will eat dust as long as you live."

And then, because God knows what is going to happen today and every day after that, he said to the serpent (remember, the serpent was really Satan), "You will hate Eve and her children, and all the people who are ever born after them. You will be their enemy. And you will do everything you can to hurt them. You will do everything you can to keep them from knowing how much I love them. But one day a child will be born. You will bite his heel, but he will crush your head."

The child that God was talking about is Jesus, whose birth we celebrate at Christmas.

Way back at the beginning of time, God already knew that one day Satan would hurt Jesus - on the day that Jesus died on the cross. But just as sure as that, God knows of another day that is still coming - the day when Jesus will get rid of Satan forever.

Now God turned to Adam and Eve. He had to tell them what was going to happen now that sin was in the world. God said to Eve, "Because you sinned and disobeyed me, this is what is going to happen. When you have children, it will not be easy. It is going to hurt."

And he said to Adam, "Because you disobeyed me, you will have to work hard all your life for the food you eat and the things you need. Weeds and prickly things will grow along with your food, and you will sweat to make things grow. All your life you will have trouble."

Their hard life would always remind them what sin can do. And he said to both of them, "And then one day you will die, just as I said you would. I made your bodies from the dust from the ground, and one day they will become dust in the ground again."

All this happened because Adam and Eve disobeyed God. It wasn't that God was being mean or unfair. God had made a place where everything worked together perfectly. And it was wonderful. Everything was just the way God wanted it. But when Adam and Eve sinned, they chose to do something different from what God wanted. Now everything wasn't working together so perfectly. And that messes up everything. That is why sin is so terrible.

So God had to send them out of the beautiful, perfect garden he had made for them. And then, to protect that perfect place from the terrible things sin can do, God put an angel with a flaming sword on guard at its gate.

Adam and Eve began to learn that when we choose to do what we want instead of what God wants, we ruin the good things God has made for us.

But even though Adam and Eve had sinned, God still loved them.

The very moment Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sin came between God and his children.

Because we are all God's children, sin has separated us all from God. We can't live apart from God, so now God had to make a way to bring us back to him. And that is what the rest of the Bible is all about!

Next time...

"Two Brothers"



Christ our Savior is Born!

Luke 2:1-20



¹ In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ² (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³ And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴ So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵ He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷ and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in swaddling cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

⁸ And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. ⁹ An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. ¹¹ Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”

¹³ Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying,
¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.”

¹⁶ So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.