



Prince of Peace Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

October 15, 2024, 7:00 pm via Zoom

Present: Pastor Chad Brekke, Mike Isenberg, Nate Boucher, Rachel Henderson, Patti VanLiew, Ann Maczuga, Cathy Krogstad, Pam Eliason

Absent: None

Call to Order: Mike called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm

Opening Devotion: Rachel led us in devotions/prayer.

Adoption of the Agenda: Rachel made a motion to adopt the agenda. Pam seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Approval of Previous Minutes: Rachel made a motion to approve minutes from the September 17, 2024 council meeting. Pam seconded the motion. Motion carries.

EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORTS:

President and Vice President's Report - none

Treasurer's Report:

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church Treasurer's Report September Financial Statements

MONTH	Actual Sep-24	Budget Sep-24	Budget	Actual Sep-23	Prior Year
			Favorable/ (Unfavorable)		Favorable/ (Unfavorable)
General/Building Fund:					
Offerings/Receipts	57,894	36,429	21,465	55,101	2,793
Expenses	(58,440)	(63,868)	5,428	(63,040)	4,600
Net Gain/(Loss)	(\$546)	(\$27,439)	\$26,893	(\$7,938)	\$7,392
YEAR TO DATE					
General/Building Fund:					
Offerings/Receipts	442,153	559,802	(117,650)	662,273	(220,120)
Expenses	(526,802)	(531,783)	4,980	(585,631)	58,829
Net Gain/(Loss)	(\$84,650)	\$28,020	(\$112,669)	\$76,641	(\$161,291)

Notable September Activity:

- **For the month of September**, receipts were lower than expenses. BY ONLY \$546!
 - Offering was lower than budget by \$20,141. The general/building fund activity for the month was a gain of \$39,322. This is unfavorable to the budget.
 - We set the "budget" amount based on giving amounts in 2023. Monthly giving and expenses vary during different seasons in the church, so we calculate a monthly variance from a 3-year average. We expect higher giving during months with holidays and church celebrations-so the budget (expected amount of offering) is different each month, as are the expenses due to variance of billing and increase use of resources during different months and seasons.
 - Other income (building use, grants, interest, etc) has been higher than budgeted
 - This is helping us make up for some of the difference from the significant decrease in offering.
 - Expenses are favorable to budget and favorable to prior year for the month.
 - We are spending less than we expected or budgeted!
- **For September year to date**, receipts are lower than expenses, resulting in a YTD loss of \$84,650.
- We have seen a good response with several families increasing their online regular giving and one time gifts coming in for our Faithfully Forward campaign.
 - This goal of \$30,000 is to cover new heating units for the sanctuary and rooms behind the offices as well as repairs of other units. In addition, there are some building and roof repairs that are needed in the very near future as well as a few more trees to be taken down in the parking lot.
- Cash balances available at the end of September were \$35,814, with an additional \$35,000 in investment accounts.

Submitted by Rachel Henderson, Treasurer

Pastoral Report-

Pastor Chad's Report October 2024

To say that it has been a busy, full, consequential early Fall season here at PoP would be more than a small understatement! In addition to all of the usual ministry and outreach taking place in and through Prince of Peace, pastor Natalia preached for a final time on October 6. We sent her off with the same blessing that will be used to close my own farewell service coming up on November 3. *Your ministry among us has embodied a spirit of faith, learning, compassion, joy, love, and hope*, we said during that service, and we sure meant it! We look forward to an informal celebration gathering for Natalia on October 23rd at 6 PM.

As my own final Sunday on November 3rd approaches, there is much to plan for and celebrate leading up to that day. We have a wonderful group of youth prepared to share their faith and celebrate confirmation on October 27. There are some logistics we are tending to regarding cleaning out office space, canceling cell phone, email and other items related to communications and supplies.

We also look forward to welcoming newly installed Bishop Jen Nagel to participate in the service on November 3rd. That service will be followed (I am told) by a time of reception, celebration, and farewell in the Welcome Center.

I am also working with our staff to do some advance worship planning to be ready for the weeks following my own retirement to help with the transition for the new interim pastor.

I want to thank the exec team and the council for giving so much time and energy to this period of profound transition with two long term pastors moving on and bringing in a new interim pastor, all while positioning the congregation to begin the call process while keeping the congregation engaged in a positive manner. This is big league stuff and you are all handling it with grace and excellence.

And this does not surprise me in the least!

Always your partner in ministry,

Pastor Chad

Ministry Team Reports:

Care Team Report –

October 2024

Area of Ministry: Care Team

From: Cathy Krogstad

Quilters: Jo reports that the Quilters group has been busy putting together quilts to be donated to various organizations, as well as quilts for the upcoming Quilt sales in December.

Library: Sally reports that some of the Library Team will be attending the Fall meeting of the Twin Cities Area Church Library Association on this coming Saturday, October 12th. The main speaker will be discussing Book Banning and what is happening right now in some places. Also, what can one do if a book in one's library is challenged will be discussed. We have not had this happen at POP that I recall, but it is possible. It is good to have a plan in place in case of a challenge. As some of you may have noticed, there is a new display of resources on the table in the hallway and in the library for fall reading. Come and see what may be there for you to enjoy and check out. Please encourage others to come and browse too.

Mental Health Connect: Rachel reports that MHC ambassadors are excited to hit the ground running with the new year. We had a table setup at the Fall Kickoff which provided great conversation as well as visibility and awareness of our goals — decreasing the stigma around mental health.

In our October meeting, we had a great refresher of what we can do in churches and how to increase conversations and access to mental health support. We now have a page on the POP website, and you will see more information appearing in the Sunday bulletins as well as updates and education in the ENews.

Rachel, who is a certified instructor, will be hosting a Mental Health First Aid class at Prince of Peace in early November.

Nothing to report currently from the other Care Team ministries: Care Team and Funeral Team.

~Cathy

Outreach Report-

October 2024

Area of Ministry: Outreach

From: Pam

Outreach Team:

Jeanne Hanson--CEAP

Amy Kurst—Avenues for Youth

Jodi Spoden—Park Brook & LSS Refugee Services

Terri Revell—Hearts & Hands for Jamaca

PR Chad—Tanzania

Melissa Johnson—Highway cleanup

Jodi Spoden—Park Brook & LSS Refugee Services

"We are looking for one more volunteer to be a Park Brook Reading Buddy for the 2024-2025 school year. Please spread the word and anyone interested in learning more can contact me. "

Thanks!

Jodi

Melissa Johnson—Highway cleanup

Highway cleanup signup on the kiosk.

That's all for now!

~Pam

Property Team and Sunday Morning Experience –

Month Year: October, 2024
Area of Ministry: Property and Sunday
From: Ann Maczuga

Building updates:

New computers will be installed in Pastors (for Glen) office and admin assistant office (Karina). Computers in these offices were over 14 years old and in desperate need of replacement.

Several heating units need to be replaced or repaired. Two are completely shut down to prevent dangerous gas exchange, sanctuary is running on one system since last year and we are not sure if that system can handle another winter.

The men's work group spent this month cleaning up the courtyard, which looks great, but it made us aware of some more building repairs needing to be done around the windows over in the Ed wing. Additionally, there are some places where the roof is in need of repair.

There are several other smaller issues around the building, much of the work can be done by our dedicated men's work group, but we need supplies for the jobs. All of this was taken into account when calculating the projected need of \$30,000 for the Stewardship campaign.

Rachel has spent lots of time updating and organizing records, to account for all the key fobs and alarm codes that are active so we know who has access to the building. Also updated are all of the forms for building use, making sure that we are aware of who is using space and when, so we don't run into any issues of overbooking or people not having access to the building that they had planned. Leases are all up to date for long term rentals.

No other reports submitted any information for reports

~Ann

Staff Reports:

Youth, Children's, and Family Ministry –

Katie

PRAISES from PAST Events

- All of our Ministries are off to a solid start for the 2024-2025 School Year. September was a "quiet" month as we all settled into the routine of School, Church and all other activities
- We had a great 2nd Grade Bible Class on Sunday, October 6th. We also presented Bibles to a handful of 6th Graders as well

CURRENT UPDATES

- October is BUSY in that all age groups have their own separate Seasonal Events as well as our big Trunk-or-Treat event on Saturday, October 26th.
 - Middle School Ministry was at Valleyscare on Saturday, October 12th
 - Children's Ministry was at Dehn's Pumpkin Patch on Sunday, October 13th
 - High School Ministry is schedule to go to Dead End Hayride on Saturday, October 26th
- Affirmation of Baptism will be taking place on Sunday, October 27th during Worship.
 - We held a retreat on Saturday, October 5th to work on our Affirmation of Baptism projects
 - Working on doing Faith Interviews with those getting Confirmed
 - Rehearsal and Dinner will be on Sunday, October 20th
- Trunk-or-Treat is our BIG Community Event. It will be held on Saturday, October 26th from 10-11:30 - Please help spread the word
- We will be taking Wednesday, October 16th OFF from Middle School Ministry due to MEA Weekend
- Sunday, October 13th we had an Informational Meeting for the High School Trips this Summer: We will be heading to Colorado for an Adventure Trip through Rainbow Trail AND we will be heading to Florida for a Disaster Relief Trip through Novus Way Ministries

LOOKING AHEAD

- November will continue to offer events for all age groups
 - Game Night for Middle School Ministry
 - MOA Day on November 5th for Middle School/High School Ministry (no school due to Election Day)

- Parents Night Out for Children's Ministry
- Tentative Lock-In for High School Ministry
- November will also see the change towards the Holidays as we will kick-off the CEAP Toy Drive and start working on the Christmas Program

~Katie

Media & Tech - none

Music - none

Unfinished Business:

Prince of Peace rents out available space in our building and the leases need to be updated and signed. Rachel will connect with Yummy Tummies Daycare. We will work on the Hispanic Church and other rental leases to bring them up to date.

With our promise to keep the congregation informed on our Faithfully Forward Stewardship campaign, we will have a visual poster (thermometer) showing our growth towards our goal on the Welcome Wagon.

New Business:

The African Fund Outreach comes from donations from major contributors outside of Prince of Peace and is kept in an account separate at Prince of Peace. Pastor Chad has been the overseer of these funds for over 25 years. He asked the council to consider leaving the funds at Prince of Peace until he is able to attain a non-profit which may take about a year. Pastor Chad will have no physical presence; he will just make a phone call when funds are needed to be transferred for a Tanzania trip, homes, etc.

Mike made a motion that the African Fund Outreach account can stay attached to Prince of Peace and will conclude by the end of 2025. Nate 2nd the motion. Motion Passed.

Next Meeting: November 19, 2024, at 7:00 PM, in person Prince of Peace

Adjournment: Nate made a motion to adjourn. Pam seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm