

# ST. STEPHEN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## Church Council Meeting

April 19, 2020

Class of 2020	Class of 2021	Class of 2022	Youth Reps
Chris Bernard	Ivan Black	Stephanie Jones	Alex Burnett
Tripp Brunson	Steve Fowler	Craig McFarland	Jack Hayes
Ralph Haggard	Sandy Dawkins	Brian Paeth	
Brant Taylor	Paulette Shealy	Karen Spilker	
Christy Wenzel	Mary Elizabeth Windham	Evelyn Temple	

### Executive Committee:

President	Vice-President	Secretary	Treasurer
Brant Taylor	Tripp Brunson	Karen Spilker	Mary Keisler

Pastors: The Reverend Dr. Patrick W. Riddle, The Reverend Jason Antley,

The Reverend Dr. Dennis Bolton

Staff: Shannon Burnett, Tonya Reynolds, Beth Haggard, Bailey Parker, Matthew Ganong, Matthew Noey (seminarian)

Absent: Chris Bernard (deployed), Steve Fowler, Mary Elizabeth Windham

The April Meeting of the St. Stephen's Evangelical Lutheran Church Council was held on April 19, 2020 in a teleconference format via Zoom, and was called to order at 1:05 pm by Brant Taylor.

**Devotion:** The council participated in Dwelling in the Word facilitated by Pastor Jason.

Evelyn Temple made a motion to approve March's minutes to the March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting as well as additional minutes from an emergency meeting held via Zoom on April 4, 2020 at 4:00 pm. The motion was seconded by Sandy Dawkins and approved unanimously.

**Staff Reports:** (please see attached reports)

Pastor Pat's report as submitted

Pastor Jason's report as submitted

Pastor Jason noted that DVDs are being delivered to those in the congregation who lack access to the internet. Additionally, there was discussion about the potential for curbside service of debt reduction meals. The pastors will consider this option as well as alternatives for starting on-site services again in compliance with social distancing practices, once permission for such services has been granted.

Pastor Dennis' report as submitted

Shannon Burnett's report as submitted

Shannon noted that the Arizona mission trip has been postponed to 2021. The deposit, which has already been paid, will be applied to a 2021 trip. Shannon explained that there are some Sunday School classes available online through Spark, and families may choose to access this program.

Shannon also noted that she is starting an online Bible study for the congregation which will be offered on Wednesdays beginning next week.

29 youth have signed up for Lutheridge Day Camp, and the staff will be meeting to discuss options for Vacation Bible School.

The Red Cross blood drive was held on April 15, 2020, and 42 units were collected.

The yard sale will be held on a future date to support the Arizona mission trip, and donations are being accepted.

Beth Haggard's report as submitted

Beth reported that the preschool staff has been meeting via Zoom as a staff, and with their classes. They are trying to formalize graduation plans. It is doubtful that the school will hold their summer camp. Beth reported that an anonymous donor has made a donation to go towards the costs of teacher salaries for the remainder of this school year.

Bailey Parker—No Report

Mary Keisler's report as submitted

Sandy Dawkins made a motion to approve the narthex report and Ralph Haggard seconded it. The motion was approved unanimously.

### **Committee Reports: No reports**

#### **Old Business:**

Pastor Jason gave an update on the status of the Guiding Team. Scheduling meetings has been very challenging due to social distancing.

There was a discussion about the online service attendance, and the positive response received from many congregants.

#### **New Business:**

Mary reported that the funds from the Small Business Administration loan were approved, and should be deposited in the coming week. These funds are designated to cover two months of staff salaries, interest on debt, and utilities.

The South Carolina Synod Assembly had to be postponed due to social distancing. It had been scheduled for May 14-16, 2020. The meeting has been rescheduled to July 25 from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm and will be held at St. Stephen's. Ours is apparently the only facility that can

accommodate a group of 500-600 people who are expected to attend. Volunteers will be recruited to assist as needed. The Synod will cover all costs of the gathering.

The Carpet One store next to St. Stephen's has been sold to a member of our congregation and will be converted to a retail establishment. It is not expected that there will be difficulties with overflow parking as a result of this transition.

Mary Keisler proposed adding a Summer Intern position to the staff. It was proposed that Cooper Reynolds hold the position for this summer, and it was reported that Cooper is already busy making improvements in the Church's computer programming. He has been a great help with the online videos of services, and will be available to help with promotion of engagement of the youth over the summer months, assisting with social media, assisting with teaching and Lutheridge Day Camp, and other duties as they develop. A salary of \$750 per month was proposed. If this opportunity is successful, the position may become a budget item in the future. Tripp Brunson made a motion to approve the summer intern project for this year as outlined by Mary. It was seconded by Sandy Dawkins and approved unanimously.

**Council Person of the Month: Mary Elizabeth Windham**

**Next meeting will be May 17, 2020 at 1:00 pm via Zoom.**

Respectfully submitted on April 25, 2020 by Karen Spilker