

Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church
5801 Minnetonka Blvd.
St. Louis Park, Minn. 55416

**Spirit of Christ Community Lutheran Church
Church Council Minutes for May 12, 2011**

Attendance: Kevin Roetzer, Nicole Goerges, Karla Larson, Carolee Cohen, Bruce Wuollet, Anne Kraft, Pastor Wes Syverson, Dave Latvala, Rod Gulbro, Sara Blood, Kristina Fruge

I. Devotions

Council President Anne Kraft called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Pastor Wes Syverson opened with a prayer. Worship & Music Team Led Rod Gulbro led in Devotions.

II. Approval of Agenda

Motion: to approve the May 12, 2011 agenda.

Vote: Approved. M/S/C

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Motion: to approve the minutes for the April 14, 2011 council meeting.

Vote: Approved. M/S/C

IV. Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Dave Latvala said Emmaus Road (tenants of the Ascension property) are now ahead on their rental payments. He noted that \$600 was paid to the Minneapolis Area Synod and that utilities have gone up slightly. April's general fund balance was \$3,654.27.

V. Pastor's Report

Pastor Syverson reported that a lot of volunteers have signed up for the Community Day, a day of volunteer service in St. Louis Park, on May 21 and noted that many are not members of Spirit of Christ (SOC).

Member Steve Solmonson will do the sermon on June 5 while Syverson is on vacation and that it will be a lay service.

Members attending the youth mission trip to Chicago June 20-26 will help lead a vacation Bible school at St. Peter's, the church they will be visiting.

Syverson also is considering a peer ministry training for youth during a weekend this summer up in Duluth consisting of both youth and adults. One of the key takeaways would be to develop leadership skills among the youth.

Secretary Sara Blood reported that she, Pastor Syverson and Kraft agreed to discontinue the Practicing Prayer blog as it was becoming increasingly difficult to find participants. Blood made the suggestion they could hold similar conversations on SOC's Facebook page.

VI. Ministry Team Reports

a. Fellowship

Fellowship Team Lead Nicole Goerges said she is working on the details for the Redeemer Jump Crew hip hop concert in August. She was asked by Children, Youth & Family Team Lead Nancy Malone to apply for Parktacular and said that Malone and Nikki Christensen will coordinate if SOC secures a spot in the parade June 18.

She and former Fellowship Team Lead Joanne Stone have visited several shut-ins. Goerges remarked that the visits have been an amazing experience.

She also noted that the police are warning recent widows and widowers to be wary of visitors to their homes who are asking for money for gas. Several incidences in St. Louis Park have been reported and it is a con.

b. Worship & Music

Gulbro said the organization of the sheet music library is largely complete, and that two members have volunteered to catalog the music on a spreadsheet.

He also did further research on upgrading SOC's sound system, securing a revised quote from EMI that included the items suggested by the council at April's meeting, such as number of microphones. The revised quote came in at \$5,457.46. He also secured a second quote from AVE in Maple Grove, which came in at \$14,703.50. Based on his conversations with both companies, Gulbro said he would be comfortable with moving ahead with EMI.

Pastor Syverson remarked that some members of the church with hearing difficulties have said the sound system has to be improved or they may need to find a new church.

Motion: to accept EMI's proposal of \$5,457.46 to install and upgrade SOC's sound system.

Discussion: Member-at-Large Bruce Wuollet asked how long it will take for installation to be complete. Gulbro confirmed it could be done as early as end of June and that he would personally oversee the installation.

Vote: Approved. M/S/C

c. Children, Youth & Families

Vice President Carolee Cohen reported the group has met twice to for a pilot to use the Listening Project tool Mission Outreach Coordinator Kristina Fruge developed as part of

the EOCM grant. Cohen remarked that process has been very interesting and that they plan to meet one more time.

The group also decided to change the hours of the youth day camp this summer to 9-4.

d. Mission & Social Action

Cohen reminded members that the toilet paper drive is this month. They are also working on the July food drive and that member Mark Cohen has secured 4,000 plastic bags from Cub – the most ever – which will be distributed with fliers on July 13, with pick up on July 16. Wuollet noted there has been no collecting the last few years along Cedar Lake Road. Cohen said they are working on where the drive will be held this year and will take that into consideration. Fruge also suggested that the Summer Stretch Kids could participate and that she would check into their availability on July 14 a.m. to distribute bags.

e. Other Reports

i. Women of Spirit

Women of Spirit Lead Karla Larson showed the paint color that is being considered for the church kitchen. While members agreed that they liked the paint color, it made the room look darker and concurred that the lighting also needs to be upgraded.

ii. Mission Outreach Coordinator

Fruge said she is focusing on the three main areas remaining on the EOCM grant: 1) The Listening Project. As Cohen noted, SOC is completing a three month discernment regarding the tool, which will help determine what the big “it” is for what Children, Youth & Family should be at SOC. Fruge said Wooddale and Westwood have also reviewed or are planning to review and use the tool. Fruge said one big takeaway has been the importance of relationships that are supportive, healthy and authentic between non-parent adults and youth in the churches.

Fruge said she would like to bring in an expert in the fall to speak and offer concrete tools to help the adults. She will work with Parish Coordinator Teresa Nordahl on scheduling this in the fall.

2) A new area Fruge is working on is working with the Children, Youth & Family ministry team and how she can be of assistance to them.

3) She has met with Goerges and a few other members last month about ministering to young adults. She said the big takeaway from these conversations was to designate a time for fellowship to nurture the relationships started at

SOC. They are looking at starting something monthly during the week this summer, such as a coffee meeting or dinner.

She also confirmed that she is still involved in the Suburban Host Home program, which she discussed during the May 8 worship service, but said that it will not be part of her role here at SOC.

VII. Old Business

a. Call Committee

Kraft spoke to the Minneapolis Area Synod about the call committee process. The next step will be for Pastor Syverson to file separation papers. The synod recommends to churches not to get started on the call committee process, which would include creating or updating a site profile, until after a pastor retires. The council discussed the benefits of having Syverson serve in a mentoring role as a new pastor is established, similar to what he did with former Pastor Kevin Bergeson. Member-at-Large Wuollet also suggested that two or three members of the council should meet with Syverson to discuss next steps. Blood said she would pull together a backpack of information, which may include a recent article from *The Lutheran* on pastoral calls, information from the Minneapolis Area synod website and will confirm whether Spirit of Christ, Ascension and/or First Lutheran have a site profile on file with the synod. No further action on the selection of call committee members will take place until Syverson has filed the separation papers.

b. Windows Fundraising

Kraft confirmed that the fundraising for the new windows has begun. The council discussed ways to help promote the campaign, which included a special service, a community event, social media campaigns through Facebook and GiveMN.org, determining the cost per member to “pitch in” as well as matching funds.

c. Other Old Business

None.

VIII. New Business

a. Synod Assembly Recap

Kraft attended the Minneapolis Area Synod Assembly Saturday and discussed some of the motions presented. She remarked that more than half of the synod’s \$3.4 million budget goes to mission support. See Kraft for more information regarding upcoming events and other synod-related activities.

b. Boiler Tune-Up

Kraft worked with a fellow coworker at Xcel Energy to create a list of contractors to provide estimates to service SOC’s boiler and pump(s). Kraft said the church would

qualify for rebates, and that she would oversee the servicing. She also noted that the boiler has not been serviced for several years – some of the service tags had not been updated since 1993.

Motion: to approve up to \$750 bid from Combustion Heat and Power Inc. based in St. Paul for boiler and pump servicing.

Discussion: The council agreed that the annual budget should include annual servicing of the boiler.

Vote: M/S/C

c. Other New Business

None.

IX. Next Council Meeting: Thursday, June 9, Hospitality: Nancy

X. Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sara N. Blood