



The Messenger

March 2023



Remember to set your clocks ahead before you go to bed on Saturday, March 11th!



Please plan to join us Wednesday evenings during Lent for a meal, brief message, Table Talk with the CrossTrainers, and the Holden Evening Prayer Service.

Wednesday Lenten Service Schedule:

- 6:00-7:00 pm -- Supper (served by various groups)
- 7:00-7:40 pm -- Message and Table Talk
- 7:40 - 8:00 pm -- Holden Evening Prayer



April Congregational Election Meeting

The April Election Meeting will be held on April 23, 2023 immediately following the worship service.



The Baby Quilt Ministry will meet at 7:00 pm on Thursday, March 16. Anyone is welcome to join!

Family Fare Receipts

Spartan Nash, the parent company of Family Fare, has discontinued the receipt program that benefitted several local organizations. Receipts will no longer be collected at church.

A special "Thank You!" to everyone who generously donated their receipts for the past three years in support of the Cannon Valley Senior Center.

Thank You



Youth Choir

The Youth Choir will be singing during the Worship Service on the following Sundays:

Sunday, March 5th
"Jesus Loves Me"

Sunday, April 2nd
Palm Sunday
"We Have a King"



Book Chatter

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 30th, at 7:00 pm, at the home of Roxanne Sauter.

They will be discussing The Girl with the Lauding Voice by Abi Dare.



Spring Garden Lutheran Church Congregation Annual Meeting Minutes – 1/29/2023

The meeting was called to order by President Scott Safe at 10:56 am in the church sanctuary.

A quorum was established with a total of 47 voting members present.

The opening prayer was given by Pastor Tim.

Secretary's Report: President Scott asked for any corrections or additions to the Secretary's report. A motion was made by Dennis Sjoquist, seconded by Stephanie McLain and carried to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2022 congregational meeting.

Financial Reports:

Audit Committee: Tim Anderson reported that the Audit Committee found all of the accounts to be correct.

Financial Secretary: Pam Davis reported that for 2022, the General Fund received \$211,453.97 in pledges and \$349,028.89 in total receipts. The Improvement Fund had a beginning balance of \$103,807.89 and an ending balance of \$157,321.97.

Treasurer: Rob Lorentz reported that for 2022, the checkbook beginning balance was \$55,810.30 and the ending balance was \$50,902.42.

A motion was made by Glen Lundell, seconded by Darryl McLain and carried to approve the 2022 Financial Reports.

Mission Endowment Fund Committee Report: Paul Olson gave the Mission Endowment Committees' report. He noted that despite 2022 being a tough economic year, their funds earned about \$9,000 and they distributed over \$8,000. Over \$52,000 was brought in for 2022 through contributions, and a total of almost \$96,000 has been distributed to date. A motion was made by Larry Olson, seconded by Tim Anderson and carried to approve the Mission Endowment Fund Committee's report.

Committee's Reports: President Scott encouraged everyone to read the Committee Reports.

Pastors' Report: Pastor Tim encouraged everyone to read his report. He noted that his first call as an Interim Pastor was at St. Ansgar's prior to his being called to Spring Garden to serve as our Interim Pastor. He has deeply appreciated the last five months that he has served here as our Pastor. He is impressed with the leadership, the staff, and the warm welcome from the members of Spring Garden. He relayed that he thought that Spring Garden is a congregation that is full of life. He feels that that is not true of all congregations in the ELCA. Therefore, he sees a great future for Spring Garden. Pastor Tim thanked us for the privilege to serve here as our Pastor, and to also help us follow a transition process resulting a newly called pastor for Spring Garden by next fall.

Adoption of 2023 Budget: Rob presented the proposed budget for 2023. He noted that were increases in budgeted Good Earth Village Membership and Benevolent expenses because there has been no change in those budgeted expenses for many years. He also noted that because we are in a transition year between pastors, some anticipated expenses in the budget were based only on our best estimate. A motion was made John Olson, seconded by Nina Pagel and carried to approve the 2023 proposed budget of \$264,595.45.

Old Business

1. There was no old business.

New Business

1. **Transition Team Update:** Mark Sjoquist reported that the Transition Team is continuing with the weekly congregational surveys which will help them develop a Ministry Site Profile.
2. **Discussion on a Call Committee:** President Scott encouraged anyone that may be interested in serving on the Call Committee to let him or another council member know. He mentioned that the council plans on electing a Call Committee at their next meeting.
3. **Revised Gift Policy:** Stan Lundell spoke about revisions to the Gift Policy. He mentioned that the most significant revision addresses whether or not a donor's gift will remain anonymous.
4. **Election of delegates/voting representatives:**
 - Nominees for the SE MN Synod Assembly (May 6th – Mankato)
 - Don and Dorothy Anderson
 - Nominees for the Cannon River Conference Assembly (February 12th – Trinity Lutheran, Wanamingo)
 - Jim and Jeanne Daniels
 - Nominees for the Good Earth Village Annual Meeting (March 5th – GEV)
 - Becky Haugen and Megan Nerison
 - Nominees for CCIC representatives
 - Jan Olson and Pauline Nerison

Darryl McLain made a motion to elect all of the listed nominees. Tim Anderson seconded the motion and it carried.

5. President Scott announced the resignation of Vice President Don Anderson. For the time being, Don feels that he needs to devote much of his time to his family.

Notice of positions up for election at the April Congregational Meeting: President Scott announced that the following council positions are up for election this year: a Vice President, a Faith Formation Board member, and a Missions Board member. Two Mission Endowment Fund Committee members are also up for election and also a member to serve on the Nominating Committee with the Executive Committee.

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Adoption of Resolutions: President Scott read the resolutions as listed in the annual report. A motion was made by Paul Olson, seconded by Pauline Nerison and carried to accept the resolutions of the congregation for 2022.

Adjournment of Meeting: A motion was made by Larry Olson, seconded by Pauline Nerison and carried to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 11:34 am.

Stan Lundell, Council Secretary

Subject to Congregational

Approval

Note; Refer to the 2022 Annual Report for more detailed information regarding all of the reports, the 2023 budget, and the resolutions.

Spring Garden Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes February 2, 2023

In Attendance: Scott Safe, Stan Lundell, Heidi Anderson, Ruthie Sjoblom, Becky Haugen, Christy Collins, Randy Benson, Pastor Tim, Financial Secretary–Pam Davis, and Treasurer–Rob Lorentz

Call to Order: President Scott Safe called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm in the church social hall. An opening prayer was given by Pastor Tim.

Based on Acts 15:28, Pastor Tim presented the council with questions regarding our vision for Spring Garden.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Randy, seconded by Ruthie and carried to approve the minutes of the January 5th and the January 15th council meetings.

Financial Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports: Pam's report showed a total of \$ 12,417.00 in pledges for the month of January. Rob's report showed that the checkbook balance as of January 31st was \$51,485.32. A motion was made by Becky, seconded by Heidi and carried to approve the financial reports.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Tim mentioned that the mid-week Lenten services will be "Round Robin" with five area congregations participating.

Action Items:

1) **Transition Team's Recommendations for the Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles:** Mark Sjoquist, Transition Team Chair, presented a Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles that the Transition Team created utilizing information collected from the January 7th Mission and Guiding Principles Retreat.

A motion was made by Randy, seconded by Ruthie and carried to approve, as presented, the following Transition Period Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles.

Transition Period Purpose Statement

To respectfully build and strengthen our church family while allowing the Holy Spirit to guide us to a new pastor who will equip and empower Spring Garden for the future to spread the Good News of Christ in our community and the world.

Guiding Principles

Listen: Listen to the Holy Spirit and the people of our congregation to guide us through the process

Steadfastness: Be confident in our faith and future

Patience: Take time to identify what is important

Outreach: Be welcoming to all and reach out beyond our church

Vision: To acknowledge the past but look to the future, understanding that all things change

2) **Council Resignation:** Scott Safe announced that Don Anderson resigned as Vice President due to personal issues. He unfortunately feels that he needs to devote much of his time to other things for the time being. A motion was made by Randy, seconded by Ruthie and carried to regrettably accept Don's resignation.

Scott suggested Bjorn Olson as a possible candidate to fill the position. A motion was made by Becky, seconded by Stan and carried to appoint Bjorn Olson as Vice President to serve the remainder of Don's term.

3) **Election of a Call Committee:** The council received several excellent nominees that were willing to serve on the Call Committee. There were also two Transition team members that were interested in serving on the Call Committee. Our constitution requires a Call Committee of six voting members. The synod recommended that the Call Committee include additional members that serve as alternates, and also at least one member from the Transition Team. After the council considered their recommendations, the council decided that four alternate members would be appropriate.

A motion was made by Ruthie, seconded by Becky and carried to elect Transition Team members Mark Sjoquist and Jay Olson as two of the alternate members of the Call Committee.

The election of the Call Committee's six voting members and the remaining two alternates was done by paper ballot. The following members were elected to serve on the Call Committee: **Gideon Anderson, Val Haggstrom, Becky Haugen, Megan Nerison, Josh Olson, and Lowell Peterson were elected as the six voting members. Rachel Benson,**

2/2/2023 Council Meeting Minutes continued...

Marcia Dicke, Jay Olson – Transition Team member, and Mark Sjoquist – Transition Team member were elected as the four alternate members. Vice President Bjorn Olson will serve as an ex officio member as is required by our constitution.

- 4) **Membership Transfer Request:** A motion was made by Randy, seconded by Heidi and carried to approve transferring the membership of David Roinas from Faith Lutheran Church in Rochelle, Illinois to Spring Garden Lutheran Church.
- 5) **Mission Endowment Approved Requests:** A motion was made by Heidi, seconded by Christy and carried to approve the following disbursements that the Mission Endowment Committee approved at their January 16th meeting.
 - Luther Seminary - \$500
 - Faith Formation Board - \$2,000 to provide funds to support the Scholarship Program
 - Support for School Supplies in Cambodia - \$500 toward this effort. Chuill is in Cambodia and has initiated a fundraising campaign to provide school supplies in the town he grew up in (2 teachers for 508 students)
- 6) **Set Date for Midsommar:** June 25th was set as the date for our Midsommar celebration.
- 7) **Set Date for Council to Serve Lenten Supper:** The council will furnish and serve the meal for the March 22nd Lenten service.
- 8) **Remaining New Sign Funds:** A motion was made by Randy, seconded by Becky and carried to transfer the remaining funds, \$12,490.24, from the New Outdoor Sign Fund to the Building/Property Fund.
- 9) **Church Calendar Review:** June 25th – Midsommar Celebration

Board and Committee Reports

Worship & Music–Ruthie Sjoblom: They met on January 9th to work on scheduling lay volunteers. They are also in need of more altar care volunteers.

They also met on January 15th to do planning on upcoming worship services. Final details are being worked out for the Lenten services.

The adult choir sang under the direction of our new Music Director, David Roinas, on January 29th. The youth choir will sing on Sunday, February 5th. They will also sing a special song that includes participation from the congregation.

Faith Formation–Becky Haugen: Rotational Sunday School will be held March 9th, 16th, 23rd, and April 2nd.

Seder Meal instruction classes for the 5th graders will be held on those Sundays, and the Seder Meal will be on April 5th.

The flower sale fundraiser will soon be underway.

Senior Recognition Sunday will be held on May 7th.

Some new exciting things are being planned for Vacation Bible School this summer. More information to follow.

We will need more volunteers to chaperone the Summer Youth Works trip.

Parish Life & Outreach–Heidi Anderson: Nothing new to report.

Church Property–Randy Benson: Rachel cleaned up the memory on the PowerPoint computer to fix recent instances of it not functioning properly. Becky cleaned out our Zoom account to fix performance issues when using Zoom. Randy did several general routine maintenance projects.

Stewardship–Scott Hanson: Nothing new to report.

Missions Board–Christy Collins: They are looking for additional board members. Brenda Safe has decided resign from the Missions Board and serve on the Parish Life & Outreach Board. They have begun planning a mission trip back to Guatemala in January 2024. There are 14 people interested in going so far.

Executive Committee: They met with Rachel on January 22nd to develop a plan to review, and then recommend possible changes to the Administrative Assistant Job Description.

Because of the unfortunate resignation of Don Anderson as Vice President, they met on January 29th to discuss possible nominees to fill the remainder of his term. The next day, Scott asked Bjorn Olson, and he accepted the nomination.

Archives Committee: Nothing new to report.

Mission Endowment Fund Committee: They met on January 16th and approved the funding items listed under the action items above.

Announcements:

- Next council meeting: March 2nd @ 6:00 pm
- Closing prayer next month: Scott Safe
- Pam’s Helper: February – Becky; March – Scott Safe; April – Randy

Adjournment: The closing prayer that was given by Becky. A motion was made by Ruthie, seconded by Heidi and carried to adjourn at 8:06 pm.

Stan Lundell, Secretary

Subject to Approval

The Messenger
Spring Garden Lutheran Church
March 2023



"Building a Rural Family in Christ"



Spring Garden Lutheran Church

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Church Council Members & Staff

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Vice-President	Bjorn Olson	
Secretary	Stan Lundell	651-764-1623
Treasurer	Rob Lorentz	507-263-2384
Financial Secretary	Pam Davis	507-263-5657
Worship & Music	Ruthie Sjoblom	651-428-6171
Faith Formation	Becky Haugen	507-421-2964
Parish Life & Outreach	Heidi Anderson	612-961-1142
Church Property	Randy Benson	507-649-2503
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