



**Congregation Council Minutes  
September 11, 2017**

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APPROVED

**Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church**

Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2017

**Council Members in Attendance:** Emily Andresen, Marshall Erling, Karen Grams, Art Gurtel, Andy Hogle, Scott Lester, Pastor James McEachran, Steve Serex, Ann Thorpe, Jon Thorpe, Vanessa Wilkie

**Members Excused:** Joni Barrott, Stein Dolan, Ben Johnson

**Staff Members in Attendance:** Sherry Grindeland, Susan Hegedus, Will Simpson

**Staff Members Excused:** Emily Harrow

**Guests:** none

**Worship:**

Pastor McEachran led worship with devotional words on Acts 19:21-22.

**Call to Order/Introductory Words:**

The regular meeting of the Congregation Council of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church was called to order at 7:23 pm by President Scott Lester.

**Review/Approval of Meeting Minutes:**

Minutes from the August 14, 2017 meeting were reviewed. Karen Grams **moved to approve the minutes as submitted**. Art Gurtel seconded. Corrections made. Minutes were unanimously **approved as corrected**.

**Pastoral Care Update:**

Pastor McEachran reported on people in the congregation who have received pastoral care. He is grateful for the support of Health and Wholeness Ministry.

**Senior Pastor's Update: Pastor McEachran reported**

- Pastor McEachran and Pastor Wes Telyea of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Issaquah will collaborate to lead worship at Timber Ridge (a retirement community in Issaquah) on September 26.



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- Pastor commended the Walk to Wittenberg program, noting that the potluck celebration on September 10 was wonderful.
- Pastor reported that the use of parking spaces designated for Sound Transit has been less than anticipated.
- Pastor shared that worship is the high point of our life in Christ and our life together. He receives 6-8 worship service summaries from Affirmation of Baptism students each week, and also receives a few worship summaries from adults.
- Pastor reported that the Staff Meeting Packet is now being sent to Council members each week as another tool to help Council stay informed of church activities. It contains Pastor's schedule and building use information.
- Pastor met with the new Bellevue College President, Dr. Jerry Weber.

### Staff Updates:

- Director of Music Ministries Will Simpson reported
  - Plans are in place for music this fall.
  - The "trumpet stop" pipes of the organ are being repaired. Will noted that the "trumpet stop" is played almost every Sunday and this repair will improve the sound quality.
  - Will invited the Council to attend the concert given by the National Lutheran Choir on September 29. He noted that the offering received at the concert will go to Imagine Housing and Compass Housing Alliance, and will be matched up to \$20,000 by guidebook author and travel TV host Rick Steves.
- Fellowship Coordinator Sherry Grindeland reported
  - Sherry reflected on summer activities, especially on the two summer mid-week worship services.
  - Thirty people attended the All-Church Retreat: 13 youth and 17 adults. Three worship services were held at the Retreat.
  - Enough people have signed up to form two small fellowship groups. They will begin meeting in October.
  - The Older Wiser Lutheran Saints (O.W.L.S.) program on September 19 will be a "hands-on" program with participants assembling 91 welcome bags for residents moving into Athene, a new Imagine Housing property for seniors. The congregation is invited to donate money toward the cost of the supplies.
  - The baby shower for Emily Harrow on September 9 was well attended, with much joy in the room.



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- Communications Specialist Susan Hegedus reported
  - Susan is working with the building remodel team to create a webpage with information about the potential building remodel, and also to create a timeline display for the "Pathways Hub" in Room 212.

### Congregations for the Homeless Meal Help:

Pastor McEachran encouraged Council members to sign up to prepare and serve a meal to the men currently living in the shelter hosted by Congregation for the Homeless. Staff may join to help. Pastor noted that the men served are very appreciative of the meals.

### Council Initiatives:

- **Pathways to Renewal**
  - Scott Lester reported that information about the "Pathways to Renewal" theme has been shared in the bulletin and in worship Chancel Chats. The theme brings together the initiatives that the Council committed to in early 2017.
  - **Discipleship** – Pastor McEachran reported
    - The fall mailing packet – containing *the VOICE* newsletter, a fall calendar of events, and an updated congregation directory – provides ways for people to be engaged in the life of the congregation.
    - Emily Harrow has planned for complete ministry coverage during her maternity leave.
    - Pastor encouraged Council members to be engaged in activities and in conversation with congregation members.
  - **Ministry** - Scott Lester reported on the progress of work with the Joshua Group
    - The meeting on September 7 with the Council and the Joshua Group's representative Jim Weckwerth was productive.
    - Work is underway to identify people to invite to participate in one-on-one or small group listening interviews with the Joshua Group. Scott invited Council members to suggest potential names and/or groups to be interviewed.
    - The Joshua Group representatives will be at Saint Andrew's in October to give a summary of the Mission Assessment Profile survey and to conduct listening interviews.
  - **Building**
    - Scott Lester reported Room 212 is being transformed into the "Pathways Hub" to inform and educate the congregation on: the history of building construction and use; reasons why a building remodel is being proposed; drawings and plans for the remodel; and benefits to ministry.



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- Pastor McEachran will provide the Council with a list of community groups who use the church building.
- No date has been set for a congregation vote on a building remodel.
- **Constitutional Updates:** Art Gurtel reported
  - Two committees are in the process of re-writing their Constitution descriptions.
  - The Constitution Task Force will then meet to consider proposed changes.
  - After the Constitution Task Force completes its work, revisions will be proposed to the Executive Committee, and then to the Council for consideration and vote.
- **Committee Chair Needs:** Scott Lester reported that chairpersons are needed for the Stewardship Committee and the Building and Property Committee.

### Finance/Treasurer Report: Scott Lester reported

- August had a negative cash flow. The year-to-date net balance is in line with the 2017 budgeted amounts.
- A question was noted about the "Actual" vs. "Budget" amounts in the Finance Committee's report. Accounting Assistant Russ Stark will be consulted.
- It was noted that fourth quarter is often the largest quarter for contributions.

### Committee/Council Liaison Updates:

- **Outreach and Servant Ministries:** Karen Grams and Ann Thorpe reported
  - Food collection in the "Corner of Blessing" was discussed and it was decided to change the emphasized food for collection monthly.
  - Eastside Baby Corner is in need of donations of boys' jeans and winter clothing for boys and girls.
  - Saint Andrew's is serving dinners for the men served by Congregations for the Homeless October 1-15.
  - Over \$800 has been donated for the "Spare Change for Water and Seeds" collection drive to benefit Bihar, India.
  - The Love Tree program has new chairpersons. It has been decided to only support organizations on the Eastside.
  - Drivers for Lifelong/Chicken Soup Brigade are still needed.
- **Health and Wholeness Ministry:** Vanessa Wilkie reported
  - An article on "Ministry of Caring" was in September 2017 issue of *the VOICE* newsletter, discussing connections via phone calls, texts, etc. with other members. Vanessa noted how meaningful personal connections can be.
  - Flu Shots will be available at Saint Andrew's on October 8.



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- **Discipleship Ministries:** Marshall Erling and Emily Andresen reported
  - Plans and logistic for Emily Harrow's leave of absence are almost complete. The first point of contact during Emily's leave should be Discipleship Committee Chair Joyce Kasper.
  - Janan Twito has joined the committee representing Adult Discipleship.
  - It was noted that the Council would be leading an Adult Discipleship Hour class in November.
  - Pastor McEachran encouraged the Council to visit South Hall classrooms on a Sunday morning to observe and to greet families.
- **Emergency Operations Plan:** It was reported that the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) congregation training on September 10 was attended by about 30 people with good interaction and information shared. An emergency exercise drill is planned for September 24. Facilities Manager Kurt Lutterman continues to work on building implementation of the EOP.
- **Worship and Liturgical Arts:** Andy Hogle reported that the committee will next meet on September 18.

### Work Plan Commitments of Council:

- **Talking Points Plan:** Scott Lester encouraged the Council to share questions they are receiving from the congregation.
- **Meeting with the Joshua Group on September 7:** A question posed at the meeting about what meeting participants hoped to gain from the Joshua Process. Scott Lester shared answers that were given to that question. He will distribute the answers via email to Council members.

### Other/New Business:

- Scott Lester will initiate the work of the Nominating Committee. One additional person is needed to serve on the Nominating Committee.
- Pastor McEachran noted that five people are needed to form a board for the Outreach Endowment Fund.

### Adjournment and Benediction:

Pastor McEachran closed with a benediction from Hebrews.

Meeting was adjourned by President Scott Lester at 8:46 pm.

The next regularly scheduled Council meeting is October 9, 2017 at 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Hegedus  
Council Recording Secretary