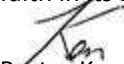


Connections

April 2016

In This Issue	From the Pastor
1 From the Pastor	<p>There are those years when things slow down at church after Easter, but this is not one of those years. Quite a bit is happening this spring. First, Adult Forum time is full. On April 3, Pastor Beth will have a Summary of Phase One of the Community Minister project. On the 10th, Margit Gundlach will share a Chernobyl Remembrance for the upcoming 30th anniversary. On the 17th, Erik Jelinek from the synod will be preaching and will visit with us about the synod partnership on Community Ministry. The last Sunday in April is set aside for congregational reflection and/or decision on strategy for community ministry.</p>
2 Reminders, Memorials March Council Minutes	<p>On May 1 and 8, Jill Ness will lead discussions on the videos from the recent Why Christian? conference. Many of the themes of this conference say a great deal about our community ministry strategies. May 15th is a Gardening Day for everyone. And we conclude the Forums on May 22 with Bonnie Block leading us through Wisconsin Council of Churches Poverty Initiative. All of these are important topics.</p>
3 1st Qtr. Congregational Meeting Minutes	<p>And in the meantime, the community ministry project continues to take shape. The congregational council reviewed the emerging strategy for the community project, and the <u>discussion draft of the community ministry</u> is now posted on the website. The grant writing process for the ELCA partnership grant has begun.</p>
4—5 April Calendar	<p>The Off the Square Club Shower Project received enough donations during the Easter season to move to the development of the contracts with Vogel Construction and LSS for the construction to take place this summer. A Letter of Agreement with LSS to proceed with construction is in the development stage for approval at the April Council meeting.</p>
6 April Birthdays April Worship Assistants	<p>In the landscaping area, the contract with Ryan signs is in the final stages of development for approval. A contract with AMA builders for the railing repair is also in the final stages. The congregational council has asked the landscaping committee to refine and negotiate contracts based on bids with Barnes for tree removal, wall repair, and site preparation at various places on the grounds and Ageless Concrete to pour new concrete for the front patio and an area on Hancock Street. The negotiated contracts, which would be reviewed by the executive committee and signed by them. Individually the contracts range from \$1,600 to \$18,000. Together they would total between \$32,000 and \$40,000, and do not include lighting revisions or plantings.</p>
<p>REFLECTION The Lord is gracious And full of compassion, Slow to anger and Abounding in steadfast love. Lord, you are good to all. And your compassion Is over all your works. (Psalm 145:8-9)</p>	<p>Finally, after a Lenten, Holy Week and Easter season, often things slow down in worship. But not this year. The worship team is assembling the presentations on the clothing of the sanctuary. The 160th anniversary plans for the Oakwood concerts on May 22 are in full swing. And we will soon be dedicating the glassware commissioned for the 160th anniversary project (probably on Pentecost.)</p> <p>All in all, it is an important time for us in worship, learning, caring for our building, reaching out to the community, and improving the facilities for the day shelter. We need your engagement, your prayers, and your support in these days. When you think about it, it seems that Easter is energizing us for new possibilities and new life as a community of faith in its 160th year.</p>
	<p> Pastor Ken</p>

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Congregational President: Tom Rivers Council Chair: Marc Williamson

Council Secretary: Victor Forberger Treasurer: Alice Gould

Parish Secretary: Dick Gundlach Parish Bookkeeper: Debra Cook

Director of Music: Kristie Halverson Emergency Fund Director: Hasan Mohr

Custodian: Berhanu Edao

Worship with Holy Communion is at 9:30 a.m.

Children's Sunday Learning Place and Confirmation, Adult Forum (fall thru spring)
and Brunch follow the service at 10:45am.



Women's Circle



The Women's Circle is now meeting regularly on the **FIRST THURSDAY** of each month at

9am at the **Prairie Rose Dining Room at Oakwood East, Prairie Ridge**. The next meeting is April 7th.

Reminders

-----The second Friday is the Oakwood East service at 11 a.m.

-----The third Sunday of each month we collect food items for area food pantries.

-----The third Sunday of each month we provide the evening meal for the homeless men's shelter at 7pm

Memorials

No memorials were received in last month

Council Minutes—March 2016

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING 15 MARCH 2016

ATTENDANCE: Marc Williamson (council president), Alice Gould (treasurer), Victor Forberger (secretary), Barbara Meyer, Elisabet Pietz, Matt Rolfsmeyer, and Pastor Ken Smith.

DEVOTIONS: Marc

MINUTES FROM FEBRUARY MEETING: Approved.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH FEBRUARY 2016

Total YTD Actual income:	\$51,588
Budgeted YTD:	\$72,383
2015 YTD:	\$56,705
Total YTD Actual Expenses:	\$63,476
Budgeted YTD:	\$63,621
2015 YTD:	\$65,403

Offerings through February total \$30,184 compared to \$22,300 for the same period in 2015. Actual income includes \$20,000 transferred from the reserve fund compared to \$30,000 transferred in 2015. We received notice that we will receive \$21,500 in United Way funds. Tom Rivers will follow up with United Way about when to expect these funds.

The balance in Restricted Contributions includes funds received in 2015 from the synod and our foundation slated for the community minister project in 2016 along with monies for the Anniversary celebration and Pastor Ken's Sabbatical.

Building equipment & repairs includes plumbing repairs (replacing a first floor toilet) and resolving issues with the fire alarm phone lines.

The balance in the building fund at the end of February is \$83,109: \$49,500 (\$500 went to Barnes for a design proposal) is designated for landscaping and outside signage leaving \$33,609 available for loan payments. The Oak Bank loan balance is \$175,506 at the end of February.

REPORTS AND UPDATES:

Outreach: Nothing new to report.

Worship: Easter worship plans now in place.

Personnel: Nothing new to report.

Finance: See below.

Building Fund: See above.

Building Maintenance: See below for updates on the landscaping proposal.

Senior Care: Meeting soon.

Anniversary: Nothing new to report.

Minutes—continued top of p.3

Minutes—continued from p.2

PASTORAL REFLECTION

Pastor Ken described how discussions for continuing the community ministry initiative have started but that no definitive proposals have yet to emerge.

NEW AND OUTSTANDING BUSINESS:

Future Financial Planning

After motion, second, and discussion, the council approved a resolution to adopt the financial plan presented to the congregation at the quarterly meeting.

- **Building maintenance and care:** ~\$10,500 set aside for debt retirement, ~\$3,100 for immediate principal payment, and ~\$50,000 for building maintenance and improvements. For future bequests, earmark 5% of those general bequests for building maintenance and care.

- **Outreach: 10% of general bequests** -- i.e., ~\$34,000 of current monies -- provided for outreach efforts and which will be spent over the course of the next three to four years. As with building maintenance and care, this same percentage could be used for future bequests. Note as well that these funds would be in addition to funds currently set aside in the budget for outreach efforts.

- **Reserves for operating expenses:** maintain six months of operating expenses that are held in reserve to cover operating expenses. At present, this amount would be ~\$180,000.

- **Mission initiative:** ~\$100,000 set aside for a special project of some kind that is yet to be determined. The goal here is essentially to spend this money on some project rather than use the funds for debt retirement, and so expand the mission of St. John's rather than just maintain it.

Copier

A new copier/printer device is needed. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to take out a new lease. This lease will be almost \$100 less per month -- \$325 rather than \$415/month under the current lease -- largely because the number of pages being printed or copied each month has declined.

The \$20,000 Limit on Council Spending

Members at the quarterly meeting asked about raising the \$20,000 limit on council spending initiatives.

Section C12.05(c) of the church's constitution provides: "The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to \$20,000 for items not included in the budget."

This provision has been in the constitution for several decades now. When adjusted for inflation, the purchasing power of \$20,000 has certainly declined. But, this amount represents around 18% of St. John's annual budget, and the council feels that any decision to spend that much of the annual budget should be brought to the congregation. Accordingly, the council believes that there be no changes in this figure at this time.

Landscaping

With the warmer weather, Matt finally has had some luck with contractors returning with bids for various aspects of this project. In the last few days, bids for signage, railing, replacement and installation of patios have emerged. These bids include: \$6,000 for Barnes to do some prep work with plants and patios, \$1,650 for AMA Builders to remove and install a new backside railing, \$18,000 for Ryan Signs to redo completely the signage in St. John's, and \$6,000 for Ageless Concrete to pour new patios at the front and Hancock Street entrances.

Given the warm weather, action on these proposals is now needed so that this work can be scheduled soon and not pushed back into late summer. Accordingly, council members made, seconded, and passed an enabling resolution for the Landscape Committee to negotiate contracts for the above work.

Work on repairing the slope of the back patio, new plantings, and possible electrical repairs related to outdoor lighting still need bids and will have to be coordinated with the work above.

PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

First Quarter 2016 Meeting Minutes

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL QUARTERLY MEETING 13 MARCH 2016

Congregation president Tom Rivers called the meeting to order.

Alice Gould presented some end-of-the-year budget numbers along with budget info for the first two months of 2016. In 2015, St. John's was financially healthy and made marked progress on reducing debt. For the first two months of the year, St. John's has had to transfer \$20,000 from the reserve fund to cover current expenses. Last year, we transferred \$30,000 from the reserve fund.

First Quarter continued on p.7

APRIL 2016

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 9am Senior Care Team	2 8pm Men's Shelter
					9:30am New Copier	
					10am Emergency Assistance	
					12pm Alanon	
					8pm Men's Shelter	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
8:15am Celebration Singers Rehearse	10am Emergency Assistance	12pm Alanon	10am Emergency Assistance	9am Women's Group	10am Emergency Assistance	8pm Men's Shelter
9:30am Worship	12pm OA	8pm Men's Shelter	1pm Women's Mo-saic	12pm OA	11am Oakwood East Communion Service	
10:45am Brunch	5pm NA		7pm NA	6:30pm Worship Team Meeting	12pm Alanon	
10:45am Godly Play	6pm Bell Choir Rehearsal		8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter	
8pm Men's Shelter	7pm NA					
	8pm Men's Shelter					
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
8:15am Celebration Singers Rehearse	10am Emergency Assistance	12pm Alanon	9am Blanket Workshop	12pm OA	Tax Day	8pm Men's Shelter
9:30am Worship	12pm OA	8pm Men's Shelter	10am Emergency Assistance	8pm Men's Shelter	10am Emergency Assistance	
10:45am Godly Play	5pm NA		1pm Women's Mo-saic	12pm Connections Articles Due		

10:45am Brunch	6pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	7pm NA	7pm NA	8pm Men's Shelter	12pm Alanon	8pm Men's Shelter	12pm Alanon
8pm Men's Shelter	7pm NA	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter
	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter
17	18	19	20	21	22 <small>Earth Day</small>	23	
8:15am Celebration Singers Rehearse	10am Emergency Assistance	12pm Alanon	10am Emergency Assistance	12pm OA	10am Emergency Assistance	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter
9am Food Collection for local food pantries	12pm OA	7pm Council	1pm Women's Mo-saic	8pm Men's Shelter	12pm Alanon		
9:30am Worship	5pm NA	8pm Men's Shelter	7pm NA		8pm Men's Shelter		
10:45am Brunch	6pm Bell Choir Rehearsal		8pm Men's Shelter				
10:45am Godly Play	7pm NA						
5pm Serve Evening Meal at Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter						
8pm Men's Shelter							
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
8:15am Celebration Singers Rehearse	10am Emergency Assistance	12pm Alanon	Administrative Professionals Day	12pm OA	10am Emergency Assistance	Synod Assembly to May 1 ▶	
9:30am Worship	12pm OA	8pm Men's Shelter	9am Blanket Workshop	8pm Men's Shelter	12pm Alanon	8pm Men's Shelter	
10:45am Godly Play	5pm NA		10am Emergency Assistance		8pm Men's Shelter		
10:45am Brunch	6pm Bell Choir Rehearsal		1pm Women's Mo-saic				
8pm Men's Shelter	7pm NA		7pm NA				
	8pm Men's Shelter		8pm Men's Shelter				

April



04/01	Cory Miller Gaben Donovan	04/12	Rodney Homburg Barbara Bentz Chris Gencheff Thomas Siewert Malina Schneider Marissa Schneider	04/19	Christopher Sprague Kevin Knuteson Danielle Greenlee Samuel Rapacz
04/02	Clarence Goldbin Joe Pelletier	04/13	Lois Anacker Brooke Hauge	04/20	Donald Blom Barbara Jull Linda Puls Jeff Peters Keegan Trapino
04/03	Jada Anderson	04/14	William Borchardt Kelly Nornberg Andrew Steinhauer	04/21	Susan Heidenreich David Knudtson Dawn Knudtson Bradley Borchers
04/04	Elisabet Pietz	04/15	Sheldon Herrington Delia Lang Sondra Abraham	04/23	Steve Eddy
04/05	Nicole Bowden		Gerald Fitzgerald Robert Scott	04/26	Marty Micke
04/06	Linda Bradley Timothy Braund		Kyle Dopkins	04/27	Sue Rosenbaum Liz Payne
04/07	Dean Meier Zackery Riddle	04/16	Mark Rolfsmeyer Carrie Pettey	04/28	Carol Katz Gary Steinhauer
04/08	Gordie Herrington Lindsay Nelson	04/17	Arthur Garske Brian Pease Michael Stebnitz Leanne Tessmann	04/28	Meg Bowden Lillian Brimmer
04/09	Carol Ann Griffin	04/18	Joy Urban-Piette Tamara Hamilton	04/29	Winnie Severson Linnea Hubrick
04/10	Teresa Halvorsen Jennifer Fahey Lee Holt Jacob Femrite		Kayla Miller	04/30	Keith Tripp Larry Taff Lori Holt Rene Dopkins
04/11	Linda Scott	04/19	Keith Dary		
04/11	Erin Mount				

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	3-Apr-2016	10-Apr-2016	17-Apr-2016	24-Apr-2016	1-May-2016
Greeters	Ronda Collins	Pat Biba	Merle and Dee Zimmerman	Lindsay and Marcus Nelson	Charlene Caucutt
Acolytes	Esther Wolobah	Annika Mueller-Owens	Anja Forberger	Truman Rafferty	Annika Mueller-Owens
Assisting Minister	Dick Severson	Charlene Caucutt	Shari Stephenson	Dave Vogel	Gary Stebnitz
Lector	Karl Gutknecht	Ken Groehler	Margit Gundlach	Miriam Mueller-Owens	Rob Mueller-Owens
Communion Assistants	Tena and Theresa Wagner	Pat Biba ad Elaine Mittlestadt	Tammy and Kole Knickmeier	Barb Meyer and Dee Zimmerman	Bob and Bonnie Block
Ushers	Team #1 - Dick Paulson	Team # 2 - Marcia and Marc Williamson	Team # 3 - Jim Johnson	Team # 6 - Lindsay and Marcus Nelson	Team #1 - Dick Paulson
Altar	Team #3 - Garmai and Esther Wolobah	Team #3 - Garmai and Esther Wolobah	Team #3 - Garmai and Esther Wolobah	Team #3 - Garmai and Esther Wolobah	Team #5 - Teena and Teresa Wagner
Welcome Center	Pat Biba	Ronda Collins	Charlene Caucutt	Carol Rivers	Ronda Collins
Brunch	Marcia and Marc Williamson	Phyllis and Marty Micke	Carol and Tom Rivers	Barb Jull and Matt Rolfsmeyer	???
Adult Forum	Pastor Beth: Summary of Phase One of the Community Minister project (Pulpit exchange this day)	Remembering Chernobyl—Margit Gundlach discussion on the 30th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster	Erik Jelinek from the synod will be preaching and will visit with us about the synod partnership	Congregational reflection and/or decision on strategy for community ministry	Why Christian? with Jill Ness

Individual, Committee and Group News

LIFE TOGETHER

-----**All are welcome** to receive the bread and wine. Since gluten wafers dipped in wine will be make it difficult to keep the wine gluten free, individual cups of wine are available with the gluten free wafers at the head of the left aisle. If you need to avoid gluten, please take both a wafer and a small cup, and then come forward with the elements to receive the words of the communion bread and wine.

SPRING ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE

April

17 **Erik Jelinek** from the synod will be preaching and will visit with us about the synod partnership on Community Ministry.

24 Congregational reflection and/or decision on strategy for community ministry.

News continued on p. 7

First Quarter continued from p.3

Tom indicated that St. John's received sizable bequests in 2015 that have led to an increase in assets, and the council is seeking congregational input for how to handle these bequests. Alice then presented an initial plan and its four objectives on how to handle these monies.

- Building maintenance and care: \$63,600 set aside for debt retirement and for building maintenance and improvements. For future bequests, earmark 5% of those general bequests for building maintenance and care.
- Outreach: 10% of general bequests i.e., \$34,000 of current monies provided for outreach efforts and which will be spent over the course of the next three to four years. As with building maintenance and care, this same percentage could be used for future bequests. Note as well that these funds would be in addition to funds currently set aside in the budget for outreach efforts.
- Reserves for operating expenses: maintain six months of operating expenses that are held in reserve to cover operating expenses. At present, this amount would be \$180,000.
- Mission initiative: \$100,000 set aside for a special project of some kind. At present, the community outreach effort is laying the groundwork for an expanded role of St. John's in the neighborhood. These funds could be used for this expansion. But the specific scope and nature of that project has yet to be determined.

Members offered feedback about these objectives and the amounts at issue and were generally supportive. The council will take this feedback into consideration.

All other business having been considered, the meeting was adjourned.

Individual, Committee and Group News

News continued from p. 6

May

- 1 Why Christian? videos from the recent conference with Jill Ness
- 8 Why Christian? videos from the recent conference with Jill Ness
- 15 Gardening Day, Pastor Ken Gone
- 22 WCC Poverty Initiative with Bonnie

PROJECTS AND UPDATES FOR 2016

-----**Community Ministry Project:** The congregational council reviewed the emerging strategy for the community project to be considered by the congregation this spring. The discussion draft of the community ministry is now posted on the website. **Pastor Beth Schultz-Byrnes, our Community Ministry coordinator will preach and share the summary of the research on April 3.** Pastor Ken will preach at Pastor Beth's church April 3. **On April 17, Erik Jelinek from the synod will preach and in adult forum share thoughts on the synod's partnership** with us on the community minister project.

-----**The Off the Square Club Shower Project** received enough donations during the Easter season to move to the development of the contracts with Vogel Construction and LSS for the construction to take place this summer. A Letter of Agreement with LSS to proceed with construction is in the development stage for approval at the April Council meeting.

----**Landscaping Project:** The **contract with Ryan signs is in the final stages** of development for approval. A contract with **AMA builders for the railing repair is also in the final stages.** The congregational council has asked **the landscaping committee to refine and negotiate contracts based on bids with Barnes for tree removal, wall repair, and site preparation** at various places on the grounds and **Ageless Concrete to pour new concrete** for the front patio and an area on Hancock Street. The negotiated contracts, which would be reviewed by the executive committee and signed by them. Individually the contracts range from \$1,600 to \$18,000. Together they would total between \$32,000 and \$40,000, and do not include lighting revisions or plantings.

2016 160TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

-----**160th Special Concerts at Oakwood: On May 22,** Our own musical groups will be doing afternoon and evening concerts at Oakwood Prairie Ridge and Oakwood University Oaks. Details on timing will be coming.

Sermons, Reflections, and Announcements are all found in the blog section of the St. John's website.

www.stjohnsmadison.org

St. John's Lutheran Church
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