



Connections

September and October 2017

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Profile Questions

What's the hold up?

Why aren't we looking for a new pastor yet? There are usually some in the congregation who are asking these questions. After all, if you have a vacancy, you fill it, right? That is what they do where you work.

Why should this be any different?

But it is.

It is normal for some in a congregation to be anxious when the Pastor leaves, for whatever reason. The office of Pastor is not just an administrative one. It is not just a ceremonial position, either. The Pastor is, in many ways, a member of the family. The Pastor is with you and your family through some of the most emotionally significant times in our lives. The Pastor is the one who is with us at weddings and baptisms. The Pastor is the one who is with us through illness, and death.

It is the experience of the Church that when a Pastor has served a congregation for more than 12 years, it is a good and helpful idea for them to spend some time before looking for a new pastor. If the process goes too quickly, there will be a conflict between those who want someone just like the last Pastor, and those who want someone completely different. By taking a little extra time, there is the chance for members to look around, and begin to assess where the congregation has been in their ministry, and where they would like to go into the future.

The process is beginning. We will be installing the Call Committee at our Picnic Service on September 10. Then they can begin the process. There is a 13 page Ministry Site Profile they have to fill out. It will ask who you are, where you have been, and where you want to go as a congregation. This will take some time, and will take input from all of you as you consider the future of St. John's.

So my recommendation to you is: Have patience, take your time. Give the Holy Spirit some time to lead you to one who can serve you well.

Pastor Rich Collier
Pastor Rich Collier

We, the people of St. John's Lutheran Church, welcome everyone regardless of gender expression, sexual orientation, race, ability, languages spoken, ethnicity or economic status.

We value each person's uniqueness and diversity.



See the Call Committee Request
on page 11

St. John's Lutheran Church, 322 E. Washington Ave.

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Pastor: Rich Collier (608) 256-2337

Fax: (608) 256-9590

e-mail: revcollier@stjohnsmadison.org

Web site: www.stjohnsmadison.org

Congregational President: Tom Rivers Council Chair: Marc Williamson

Council Secretary: Victor Forberger Treasurer: Alice Gould

Director of Community Ministry: Jill Ness jilln@stjohnsmadison.org

Director of Music: Kristie Halverson [Kristie Halverson, kristieh@stjohnsmadison.org](mailto:Kristie.Halverson@stjohnsmadison.org)

Parish Bookkeeper: Debra Cook [Deb Cook, debc1@stjohnsmadison.org](mailto:Deb.Cook@stjohnsmadison.org)

Parish Secretary: Dick Gundlach [Dick Gundlach, dickg@stjohnsmadison.org](mailto:Dick.Gundlach@stjohnsmadison.org)

Emergency Fund Director: Hasan Mohr Custodian: Berhanu Edao

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

Brunch follows the service at 10:45 a.m.

Godly Play and Confirmation, Adult Forum at 10:45 a.m. (fall thru spring)

Women's Bible Study



The Women's Bible Study is the first Thursday of the month at the Prairie Rose Café at Oakwood East

Reminders

-----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

-----Articles for the next month-*Connections* are due by noon on the third Friday of the current month.

Memorials

Dean Meier

Dennis and Suzanne DiPiazza

Julie Gullickson

Friends of Dean Meier

August Council Minutes

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH - COUNCIL MEETING - AUGUST 15, 2017

ATTENDANCE: Marc Williamson (Chair), Alice Gould (Treasurer), Tom Rivers (Congregational President), Barb Meyer (fill in Secretary), Jim Johnson, Teena Wagner, Teresa Wagner, and Pastor Rich Collier (Interim).

DEVOTIONS: Alice Gould. Jim Johnson agreed to do the devotions for September.

MINUTES FROM JULY MEETING: Approved

Guest, Kristie Halverson provided information on training she attended called the active shooter program. She shared information on what one should do in these situations and talked about an alert program when a shooter is projected to be in a community. Marty Micke or the City of Madison to be contacted to see if there is such an alert program in Madison.

Kristie also noted that the Worship Committee will be meeting next week.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH JULY 2017:

Total YTD Actual income:	\$184,981
Budgeted YTD:	\$198,676
2016 YTD:	\$200,697
Total YTD Actual Expenses:	\$201,193
Budgeted YTD:	\$215,786
2016 YTD:	\$204,805

Offerings through July total \$146,906 compared to \$128,712 for the same period in 2016 and the budget of \$150,658. The big difference between 2017 income and 2016 is that we have only transferred \$20,000 from reserves compared to \$55,000 through July of 2016. The amount in Restricted Contributions is the remainder of the foundation grant for Pastor Ken's retirement party. Facility Usage is about \$1,000 less than budget and last year. The council approved suspending rent payments from LIRS (\$455/month) for 4 months. LIRS rent payments should begin again in August.

Expenses for Guest Musician/Pastor are \$2,250 YTD compared to last year at \$1,400 and the budget of \$750. In July, Salaries and Benefits are \$7,000 less than last year and \$11,000 less than budget for Pastor Ken's retirement.

Building Equipment Repairs includes work on the handicap switch on the doors and A/C and heating repairs to the sanctuary. Utilities also increased, reflecting the problems we have had getting the heating and cooling adjusted.

The balance in the building fund at the end of July is \$61,550 of which \$45,000 is designated for landscaping, outside signage and other building repairs. Plantings were in by the end of July. The outside electrical work is completed. We are looking at a light pole which may be straightened as part of this work. The Oak Bank loan balance is \$48,031. \$3,300 of our monthly loan payment of \$3,500 is going to debt reduction. At this rate our monthly payments will bring the loan balance to about \$31,500 by years end.

REPORTS AND UPDATES:

Outreach and Building Fund – Nothing to report

Minutes continued on p. 3

Minutes cont'd from p. 2

Personnel – An update on Berhanu. Berhanu will be on a Leave of Absence due to an unfortunate situation that occurred recently.

Finance – There will be a proposed budget meeting on September 26 at 5:30 pm.

Building Maintenance – Alice brought up a proposal from Ryan signs for an update to our exterior sign depicting a RIC symbol. The In Kind donation would be valued around \$641. Tom Rivers made a motion we go ahead with this , second by Teresa Wagner and the motion was approved. Barb brought up the parking area out back, the yellow lines should really be repainted. We should see if someone in the church could do that work. Barb will contact Dick Severson to check on this further.

Other: Theresa and Randy Halverson had a fire at their home and now reside at a hotel. Discussion about what we can do. Alice will check with Marcia Williamson and they will determine what their needs are. It may be brought up at a future announcement at church.

Senior Care Team - Their next meeting is set for October 14 at Oakwood East.

Community Ministry – Sunday, September 17 help will be needed to staff the Willy Street Fair booth. On Sunday, August 20 there will be a Pride Parade in Madison. Assistance will be needed at the church to help create signs for this event.

Alice commented on our gathering space being used now for city meetings mostly dealing with the Hancock Street construction next year. Another meeting will be held next week and Jill will monitor this event.

OUTSTANDING AND NEW BUSINESS: nothing

PASTORAL REFLECTION: Pastor Rich said he will be working primarily Sunday through Thursdays.

PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting is September 19.

LIFE TOGETHER—News and Events

-----**The St. John's Foundation has, once again, agreed to match donations to the Building Fund between now and December 31st. up to a cumulative total of \$15,000.**

-----**Rally Sunday was September 17th.** Youth Forum, Confirmation instruction and Adult Forums resumed along with the choir's weekly rehearsal at 8:15am. The first weekly **bell choir** rehearsal started Monday, September 18th at 6:30pm.

-----**Adult Forums have been scheduled beginning in September.**

9-17— Call Process Overview and Ministry Profile Development - Call Committee, presenter

9-24—**The Adult Forum on September 24** will be a Reception and overview of the Mosaic Art Gallery Exhibition. **Kristie and Julia Weaver** will be presenters.

10-1—Selected reading and discussion of **Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex and Salvation** by Alice Connor - **Stephanie Schauer**, presenter

10-8—Selected reading and discussion of **Fierce: Amy Nowak**, presenter

10/15—Selected reading and discussion of **Fierce: Miriam Mueller-Owens**, presenter

10/22—Selected reading and discussion of **Fierce: Bonnie Block**, presenter

10-29—Selected reading and discussion of **Fierce: Miriam or the group**, presenter

-----**The Call Committee is offering a number of ways for you to express your views** regarding our congregation and it's mission and the leadership qualities we seek of a candidate we would like to call to be our pastor. There will be two opportunities for your input and discussion coming in October. The sessions will be different so you can attend one or both as you wish with plenty of time to bring up your own concerns. **Saturday, October 14 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. in the Gathering Space; Tuesday, October 24 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in the Gathering Space.** For those of you who prefer to submit a written response we have a series of four questions. One question will be handed out each Sunday for the first four Sundays in October. You can write out your response that day or take it home to ponder. We will also put all four questions in the October Connections (see page 11) so that you can write your responses and return them anytime during the month. Feel free to talk to any of us on the committee at any time. **Members of the committee are: Tim Asplund, Bonnie Block, Ronda Collins, Miriam Mueller-Owens, Winnie Severson, Dave Vogel. Alternates are Ken Groehler and Tom Hilger.**

-----**Everyone is invited to a CONCERT to raise funds for the Backyard Mosaic Women's Project on October 1ST at 3 pm at St. John's**— BMWP is a weekly support group for women leaving the Dane County Jail which meets right here at St. John's and is led by **Julia Weaver and Marcia Yapp**. The Concert features the **Madison Raging Grannies** singing for peace, a sustainable environment, and social justice and three of **St John's instrumental musical groups**. Mosaics created by BMWP participants and the Raging Grannies new book/CD "Listen to Your Grandmothers" will be on sale. Refreshments will also be served and the gallery in our gathering space will have a display of mosaic artwork. (If you have questions, can help, or would like to contribute cookies or bars please contact **Bonnie Block** at 608-256-5088 or blbb24@att.net) Most of all bring family and friends for an afternoon of "healing and hope." A \$20 contribution is suggested.

-----**The Lutheran World Relief Boxcar Loading** is scheduled for **Saturday, October 7 - Time: 7:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** (note time change this year...only until 11:00 am) at the Wisconsin Southern Railroad Yard - 1890 E. Johnson Street - Madison

LIFE TOGETHER continued on p. 10

September



09/01 Mavis Ebbe
 Russ Micke
 09/02 Ed Patrisio
 Gretchen Easterbrook
 Jeff Stroede
 09/03 Lisa Paulson
 09/04 Elizabeth Lemanski
 09/05 Sharyn Juneau
 Keith Sorenson
 09/06 Vivienne Smith
 Pat Polensky
 Nichole Nelson
 Stephanie Nelson
 Bryce Laschum
 09/07 Paul Vogel
 Marcia Krebs

Garmai Wolobah
 Chad Gunnelson
 09/08 Nancy Dopkins
 09/09 Tyler Femrite
 09/10 Judi Bois
 Cynthia Johnson
 09/11 Don Wachter
 Tom Germann
 09/13 Richard Christensen
 09/14 Joshua Goglio
 Steven Herbel
 Trinity Rector
 09/15 Edward Burke
 Kendra Bruno
 09/16 Sue Baraga
 Bruce Burnside
 Shannon Eddy
 Chandler Rolfsmeyer
 09/18 Myrtle Eberhardt
 Lavonne Borchardt
 Lonnie Hayne

09/18 Chad Schwenk
 Caden Collins
 09/21 Marlys Mittelstadt
 09/22 Kristi Trapino
 09/23 Marcella Sayles
 Kathy Osborne
 Michelle Bradley
 09/24 Bonnie Block
 James Schwenn
 Dan Halvorsen
 Micah Asplund
 09/25 Samuel Lemanski
 Paige Hauge
 Jonah Norsetter
 09/26 Nadine Kuester
 09/27 Timothy Block
 09/28 Judith Nolde
 09/29 Margit Gundlach
 Amie Booth
 09/30 Bruce Sayles

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	3-Sep-2017	10-Sep-2017	17-Sep-2017	24-Sep-2017	1-Oct-2017
Greeters	Pat Biba	Lindsay and Marcus Nelson	Ronda Collins	Charlene Caucutt	Lindsay and Marcus Nelson
Acolytes	Anja Forberger	Annika Mueller-Owens	Kelsey Wagner	Truman Rafferty	Annika Mueller-Owens
Assisting Minister	Dave Vogel	Erna Stephenson	Gary Stebnitz	Karl Gutknecht	Shari Stephenson
Lector	Miriam Mueller-Owens	Rob Mueller-Owens	Ronda Collins	Shari Stephenson	Miriam Mueller-Owens
Communion Assistants	Karl Gutknecht and Marty Micke	Dick and Winnie Severson	Tammy and Kole Knickmeyer	Tom and Carol Rivers	Barb Meyer and Dick Gundlach
Ushers	Team #1 - Dick Paulson	Team # 2 - Marcia and Marc William-son	Team # 3 - Jim John-son	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 #2 - Carole Buch-steinier and Elaine Mittel-steadt
Welcome Center	Elaine Mittelsteadt	Marcia Williamson	Charlene Caucutt	Ronda Collins	Elaine Mittelsteadt
Brunch	Barb Jull and Matt Rolfsmeyer	Worship in the Park - Picnic Potluck	Bonnie and Bob Block	Winnie and Dick Severson	
Adult Forum	None Scheduled	None Scheduled	Call Process Over-view and Ministry Profile Development - Call Committee, presenter	Reception and over-view of the Mosaic Art Gallery Exhibi-tion. Kristie and Julia Weaver will be pre-senters.	Selected reading and discus-sion of <i>Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex and Salvation</i> by Alice Connor - Stephanie Schauer, presenter

Worship and Picnic in the Park



Photos by Richard Wagner

OCTOBER 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 8:15am Choir Rehearses	2 10am Emergency Assistance	3 12pm Alanon	4 10am Emergency Assistance	5 9:30am Women's Group	6 10am Emergency Assistance	7 7am Lutheran World Relief Boxcar Loading
9:30am Worship	11am OTSC Book Club	8pm Men's Shelter	11am OTSC Book Group	12pm OA	12pm Alanon	3pm Game Night
10:45am Brunch	12pm OA		1pm Women's Mosaic	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter
10:45am Youth Forum	6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal		8pm Men's Shelter			
10:45am Adult Forum	8pm Men's Shelter					
3pm Backyard Womens Mosaic Project						
8pm Men's Shelter						
8 8:15am Choir Rehearses	9 Columbus Day Pr. Rich attending Bishop's Convocation	10 10:30am Staff Meeting	11 9am Blanket Workshop	12 Finance Committee Final Budget Recommendations due to Bookkeeper	13 10am Emergency Assistance	14 10am Call Committee Discussion Session — Gathering Space
9:30am Worship	Columbus Day	10:30am Staff Meeting	10am Emergency Assistance	12pm OA	11am Oakwood Communication Service	8pm Men's Shelter
10:45am Adult Forum	10am Emergency Assistance	12pm Alanon	11am OTSC Book Group	8pm Men's Shelter	12pm Alanon	
10:45am Youth Forum	11am OTSC Book Club	6:30pm Safe Space Restorative Circle	1pm Women's Mosaic		8pm Men's Shelter	
10:45am Brunch	12pm OA	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter			
8pm Men's Shelter	6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal					
	8pm Men's Shelter					
15 8:15am Choir Rehearses	16 10am Emergency Assistance	17 12pm Alanon	18 10am Emergency Assistance	19 Annual Meeting Report Preparation	20 to Nov 1	21 to Nov 1
9am Food Collection for local food pantries	11am OTSC Book Club	2pm Pr. Rich at Synod Interim Mtg.	11am OTSC Book Group	9:30am Synod Clergy Meeting	10am Emergency Assistance	8pm Men's Shelter

9:30am Worship	12pm OA	7pm Council Adopts Budget	1pm Women's Mosaic	12pm OA	12pm Connections Articles Due	
10:45am Youth Forum	6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter	8pm Men's Shelter	12pm Alanon	
10:45am Brunch	8pm Men's Shelter				8pm Men's Shelter	
10:45am Confirmation Mentoring						
10:45am Adult Forum						
5pm Serve Evening Meal at Men's Shelter						
8pm Men's Shelter						
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Annual Meeting Report Preparation	Preparation to Nov 1 ▶					
8:15am Choir Rehearses	10am Emergency Assistance	10:30am Staff Meeting	9am Blanket Workshop	12pm OA	10am Emergency Assistance	8pm Men's Shelter
9:30am Worship	11am OTSC Book Club	12pm Alanon	10am Emergency Assistance	8pm Men's Shelter	12pm Alanon	
10:45am Adult Forum	12pm OA	7pm Call Committee Discussion Session Gathering Space	11am OTSC Book Group		8pm Men's Shelter	
10:45am Youth Forum	6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal	8pm Men's Shelter	1pm Women's Mosaic			
10:45am Brunch	8pm Men's Shelter		8pm Men's Shelter			
8pm Men's Shelter						
29	30	31	31	Notes:		
Annual Meeting Report Preparation	Preparation to Nov 1 ▶		Halloween			
Reformation Sunday	10am Emergency Assistance	Halloween				
8:15am Choir Rehearses	11am OTSC Book Club	12pm Alanon				
9:30am Worship	12pm OA	8pm Men's Shelter				
10:45am Brunch	6:30pm Bell Choir Rehearsal					
10:45am Youth Forum	8pm Men's Shelter					
10:45am Adult Forum						
8pm Men's Shelter						

October



		10/10	Kristine O'Neill	10/22	Linda Kaemmer
		10/11	Dick Paulson	10/23	Delores Zimmerman
			Barbara Bouslough		Katherine Knudtson
			Tim Homburg		Rachel Hyslop
		10/12	Rowan Bradley		Pearce Buckner
10/01	Donald Jacobson	10/13	Sabra Halvorsen		Cristian Ramirez
	Jeremy Adler		Randall Borchers	10/24	Brent Dober
10/02	Marcia Buss	10/14	Robert Block		Josie Ramirez
10/03	Julia Schneider		Robert Blankenhagen		Maxwell Sprague
10/04	Nicholas Gundlach		Amber Frank	10/26	Jeffery Schwenn
10/05	Rhonda Schwenn	10/15	William Braith	10/27	Karissa Madaus
	Sarah Miller		Randall Buss	10/28	Timothy Schumacher
	Brianna Zitlow		Kyle Booth		Beverly Ferguson
10/06	Winnie Emery	10/16	Carol Rivers		Teena Wagner
	Fritz Steinhauer		Carol Wiessinger		Teresa Wagner
10/07	Anna Dreger		Kaitlin Hanson		Leah Gencheff
	Melanie Ohnstad	10/17	Zach Showers		Elias Wachter
10/08	Don Johnson	10/18	Pam Shellberg		Tyler Laschum
	James Mortenson	10/19	Ryan Wiedel	10/29	Dani Poppe
	Rebekah Westlund		Kayla Hanson	10/30	Matt Kinas
	Franklin Wilson	10/20	Barbara Strand		Eric Paulson
	Alysha Femrite		Lisa McConkey		Gabrielle Aranda
10/09	Chai Thao	10/21	Ronda Collins	10/31	Matthew Gundlach
	Manfred Reinhardt		Amy Schroeder		Brianna Halvorsen
	T.J. Sorum		Riley Tessman		Sarina Halvorsen

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS	1-Oct-2017	8-Oct-2017	15-Oct-2017	22-Oct-2017	29-Oct-2017
Greeters	Lindsay and Marcus Nelson	Ronda Collins	Elaine Mittelsteadt	Dee and Merle Zimmerman	Pat Biba
Acolytes	Annika Mueller-Owens	Anja Forberger	Kelsey Wagner	Micah Asplund	Caden Collins
Assisting Minister	Shari Stephenson	Bob Block	Bonnie Block	Charlene Caucutt	Craig Collins
Lector	Miriam Mueller-Owens	Don Cleven	Esther Wolobah	Ken Groehler	Barbie Pietz
Communion Assistants	Barb Meyer and Dick Gundlach	Tena and Theresa Wagner	Tom and Carol Rivers	Gary Stebnitz and Karl Gutknecht	Tena and Teresa Wagner
Ushers	Team #1 - Dick Paulson	Team #2 - Marcia and Marc Williamson	Team #3 - Jim Johnson	Team #4 - Asplund/Pietz Family	Team #5 - Teresa and Randy Halvorsen
Altar	Team #2 - Carole Buchsteiner and Elaine Mittelsteadt	Team #2 - Carole Buchsteiner and Elaine Mittelsteadt	Team #2 - Carole Buchsteiner and Elaine Mittelsteadt	Team #2 - Carole Buchsteiner and Elaine Mittelsteadt	Team #2 - Carole Buchsteiner and Elaine Mittelsteadt
Welcome Center	Elaine Mittelsteadt	Pat Biba	Charlene Caucutt	Carol Rivers	Ronda Collins
Brunch	Marcia and Marc Williamson	Amy Nowak and Tom Hilger	Garmai Wolobah	Carole Buchsteiner	Lindsay and Marcus Nelson
Adult Forum	Selected reading and discussion of <i>Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex and Salvation</i> by Alice Connor - Stephanie Schauer, presenter	Selected reading and discussion of <i>Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex and Salvation</i> by Alice Connor - Amy Nowak, presenter	Selected reading and discussion of <i>Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex and Salvation</i> by Alice Connor - Miriam Mueller-Owens, presenter	Selected reading and discussion of <i>Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex and Salvation</i> by Alice Connor - Bonnie Block, presenter	Selected reading and discussion of <i>Fierce: Women of the Bible and Their Stories of Violence, Mercy, Bravery, Wisdom, Sex and Salvation</i> by Alice Connor - Miriam or whole group, presenter

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH — COUNCIL MEETING — 19 SEPT 2017

ATTENDANCE: Marc Williamson (chair), Alice Gould (treasurer), Victor Forberger (secretary), Jim Johnson, Teena Wagner, Teresa Wagner, and Pastor Rich Collier.

DEVOTIONS: Jim

MINUTES FROM AUGUST MEETING: Approved, with a note under building maintenance that the \$641 figure is a cost for a new sign and not an in-kind donation (the in-kind donation is ~\$105 when changing sign panels (and, thanks for Barbara for stepping in).

FINANCIAL SUMMARY THROUGH AUGUST 2017

Total YTD Actual income:	\$216,232
Budgeted YTD:	\$228,192
2016 YTD:	\$229,526
Total YTD Actual Expenses:	\$221,897
Budgeted YTD:	\$244,185
2016 YTD:	\$230,232

Offerings through August are \$156,082 compared to \$156,740 for the same period last year. The budgeted offering amount is \$173,133. We transferred \$20,000 from our reserves to the general fund in August to meet expenses. A total of \$40,000 this year has been transferred from savings. The amount in Restricted Contributions is the remainder of the foundation grant for Pastor Ken's retirement party. Facility Usage is about \$1,000 less than budget and also \$1,000 less than last year. The council approved suspending rent payments from LIRS (\$455/month) for four months. LIRS rent payments began again in August.

Expenses for Guest Musician/Pastor are \$2,700 year to date compared to last year at \$1,750 (\$1,050 has so far been budgeted). Interim Pastor Rich Collier started with us on August 14. Through August, Salaries and Benefits are \$11,000 less than last year and \$17,000 less than budget. These two items are affected by Pastor Ken's retirement in June.

The expense in New Building Equipment is a portable A/C unit that is used on the upper front room. To date, Utilities have also increased, reflecting the problems we have had getting the heating and cooling adjusted.

The balance in the building fund at the end of August is \$56,165 of which \$43,000 is designated for landscaping, outside signage, and other building repairs. Plantings were in by the end of August, and work has begun to create a patio in the space below the upper parking lot with the pavers removed from the front. The outside electrical work is completed and the final bill will be paid in September.

The Oak Bank loan balance to \$44,690, and \$3,300 of our monthly loan payment of \$3,500 is going to debt reduction. The foundation has approved a \$15,000 grant to match donations to the building fund between September and the end of the year with the goal of paying off the loan in January 2018.

REPORTS AND UPDATES

Outreach: Has prepared a 2017 budget proposal and is leading adult forums in October.

Personnel: Bi-weekly staff meetings are occurring. The next meeting is Sept. 26th.

Community ministry: Game nights set for Sept. 21st and Oct. 7th. There have been or will be efforts/projects at the Willy Street fair, the Madison Pride parade, and various service endeavors.

Finance: A budget planning meeting is set for Sept. 26th.

Worship Planning: See below for notes about the organ.

Building Fund: See above.

Maintenance (was Building Vision): Organ is due for some major maintenance, and Kristi is working with Casavant, the organ manufacturer, on getting that maintenance done. This maintenance may require a complete rebuild of the organ console, a new blower, and work on the pipes. The first step is getting a representative from Casavant to inspect the organ, and he will be here on Sept. 26th. Outside of the organ, we are still waiting on getting the bike racks re-installed. The light poles by the parking lot have been straightened, however. See above for a description of remaining landscaping work and payments.

Senior Care Team: A planning meeting is set for Oct. 4th.

Call Committee: Is installed and now meeting. The call committee needs advice from the council on how experienced a new pastor should be (i.e., more rookie or more seasoned), as the synod sets salary based on years of experience. The council and probably the congregation as well should provide the call committee with some guidance on this issue.

September Minutes cont'd from p. 9

PASTORAL REFLECTION

Pastor Rich is learning the ropes and getting a handle on the congregation and its needs.

NEW AND OUTSTANDING BUSINESS

Funds to help the Halversons recovering from the fire in their home should be going out soon.

Hurricane relief efforts: As part of the monthly Connections and as a Sunday bulletin insert, there should be a flyer describing hurricane and related relief donation opportunities available at <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response/>.

Campus ministry appeal: Wisconsin campus ministry (not just UW-Madison) is asking for an appeal for donations. A special donation opportunity will probably take place in the fall.

Hancock street repairs: With Hancock Street repairs scheduled for the summer of 2018, St. John's may be liable for, at most, ~\$10,000 in possible sidewalk replacement. This amount will turn on how much sidewalk is actually replaced and will probably be due in 2019 if St. John's does not opt for a payment plan.

Keys and space forms: Dick Severson is beginning to survey key needs and options. To support this effort, council members who have keys should complete key tracking forms.

Defibrillator: A foundation request is being planned.

Brokerage services: Nothing to report at the moment.

PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT (next meeting on October 17th)

LIFE TOGETHER cont'd from p. 3

-----**Community Ministry—Recent events**

- The Madison Pride Parade went very well. Many millennial aged people visited our booth, some took materials about upcoming events at St. Johns. Several people stopped to express gratitude for churches being present.
- The City continues to request our space for meetings about future developments in our neighborhood – millennials who show up are frequently motivated by the issues of affordable housing, pedestrian friendly (safe) streets, and historic properties. I'm beginning to wonder if there are things that St. John's can do to support these deep-seated and community -enriching concerns.
- St. John's had a booth at Willy St. Fair on Sept 17 and a number of members took turns meeting and greeting. The theme was "Recharge at St. John's" and we offered a place to sit, have a drink of water, make a bracelet or notecard, sub-mit prayer requests and wishes for the neighborhood, and (of course) a place to recharge cell phones.

Coming Up

- Game Night—Sat, Oct 7, 3-7 PM. Table top games for all ages. Snacks provided. Games provided or bring your own.
RSVP to Jill jilln@stjohnsmadison.org or 608-515-5909
- Stay tuned for Service Projects. Likely possibilities include collaborating with LSS and refugee agencies throughout the city, hurricane relief efforts and sandwich delivery to people who have to work on Thanksgiving.

-----**Pr. Rich will be attending the Bishop's Convocation in Lake Geneva, October 9th and 10th.**

-----**From the Balcony**—In 2009, **Tom Erickson**, our Casavant pipe organ's long-time tuner, wrote a letter referencing a visit that a Casavant representative had just made regarding the organ's needs after the building remodel. Upon reading Tom Erickson's letter **David Beyer** recommended that I communicate with a Casavant representative directly. Such a representative, **Simon Couture**, already plans to come to Madison to see another organ this fall, and I am arranging for his visit. Simon plans to conduct an organ survey. The information we can gather from his recommendations will assist us in deciding how to proceed with the pipe organ's repairs. I will write more about this in the coming months. It remains my privilege to work with you on matters of music at St. John's. **Kristie Halverson**

Call Committee

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are seeking to identify what God is calling us to do and who might be the best pastor in our future. Would you please help in this task? We will be filling out a "Ministry Site Profile" which will provide prospective pastor candidates with information about us as St. John's congregation. Please help by answering the following four questions and returning them to church. If you prefer, you can answer them one at a time when they are given out at worship the first four Sundays in October.

Thank you.

Tim Asplund, Bonnie Block, Ronda Collins, Miriam Mueller-Owens, Winnie Severson, Dave Vogel. Alternates are Ken Groehler and Tom Hilger.

The Call Committee

1. Pastor-candidates like to learn about the history of congregations at which they will be interviewing. List three important events or developments from the history of our congregation. Please indicate dates when possible.
2. To help our congregational leaders and our next pastor plan for future outreach, what trends in the community should be addressed by the congregation in the next five years? *(For example: impact of population shifts, domestic violence, day care, youth services or recreation, homelessness, new construction, inflated housing prices, or decline of housing stock.)*
3. Where is God leading our congregation in the future? During the next 1-3 years, what are the top three mission priorities for the congregation that, if accomplished, hold the most promise for the development of our ministry? *(For example: outreach to increase membership; service to community; building program; adding staff or pastors; restructuring of committees or boards; stewardship or evangelism programs.)*
4. Imagine that you are describing St. John's to a visitor, or to our next pastor. Who are you as a congregation? What things are important to you? What are you and the other people in the congregation excited about?

Thanks for providing your input to the Call Committee! If you would like to provide additional information, or discuss the call process with a member of the committee, please indicate your name and contact information below.

St. John's Lutheran Church
322 E. Washington Avenue
Madison, WI 53703



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