

Mountain View Lutheran Church • Church Council Meeting  
Tuesday 27 August 2019 • 6:30 p.m.  
MVLC Library

Minutes

Attendance

Present: Michael Brauhn, Jason Cornell, Sonja Dahl, Bob Linden, Mary Beth Peterson, Carol Powers, Emily Thompson, Wendy Wadnizak, Karin Weberg, Julie Williams.

Staff: Troy Kehm-Goins, Pastor Briana Merkle, Pastor John Vaswig.

Call to order

President Carol Powers called the meeting to order.

Devotions

Bob Linden led devotions based upon John 5:1-18 (“Do you want to be made well?”); Romans 12:1-21; and the notion of what change/transformation *can* look like. The council prayed together.

Minutes

**It was M/S/P to approve the minutes of the Tuesday 06 August 2019 meeting of the MVLC Church Council.**

Financial update

Giving still exceeds last year’s total giving by \$10,750, but has weakened substantially. Giving last Sunday was only \$8,659 versus a weekly expected giving amount of \$20,949 and 2018 giving for the same Sunday of \$19,965. Year-to-date giving is \$640,209, which is \$33,830 below YTD expected giving of \$674,039 for 34 Sundays. We need to keep an eye on giving so that we aren’t starting a trend of lower giving.

Pastor’s report

Pastor John Vaswig spoke regarding the following:

- Being deeply grateful for the Mountain View Community Center’s Back-to-School event and the response of Mountain View Lutheran Church.

- An interview with Brian Stein-Webber about Pastor John's Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary (PLTS) Alumni Award, especially in regard to MVLC's propensity to welcome without judgment.
- Gathering Day's theme will be "Fellowship of the Light."
- The start of the fall session of ExALT: Extraordinary Active Life Together on Wednesday, September 11, 2019.
- Working on "The Parables of Jesus" for ExALT.
- Reformation Sunday (10/27) will feature three lay homilists, building upon the "Fellowship of the Light" theme.

Pastor's report

Pastor Briana Merkle spoke regarding the following:

- Preparing for fall programming.
- Meeting with the Rock Ministry mentors tomorrow evening, in preparation for Gathering Day, as well as sending handwritten notes and invitations to Rock Ministry students.
- Blessing of the Backpacks at the 10:45 a.m. worship service on 9/8.
- Acolyte Retreat on Sunday 9/22 and Acolyte Rite on Sunday 9/29 (at the 10:45 a.m. worship service).
- Joint high school youth event with other Lutheran congregations in September.

Window for the Gathering Space

Artist's drawings for the initial phase of the stained glass windows in the Gathering Space were reviewed and discussed. The "welcoming Christ" is also an "ascending Christ."

**It was M/S/P to approve the contract for Phase One of the window(s) in the Gathering Space, in the amount of \$12,600.**

Cell phone tower

Another batch of simulations and renderings should be ready for review in a couple of weeks.

"Friends in Faith" small groups

*Rising Out of Hatred: The Awakening of a Former White Nationalist* by Eli Saslow will be the next book that "Friends in Faith" small groups read and discuss.

### Council Retreat homework

President Carol Powers assigned homework for the upcoming Council Retreat—Saturday 9/14, from 9:15 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Members of the Council are to read Matthew 5–7. During the first reading, relate the text to your own life. During the second reading, read the text in the context of our church body. Bring your perspectives and reflections with you on the morning of the Retreat.

Sonja Dahl and Jason Cornell will provide hospitality for the Retreat.

### Other business

Items briefly discussed included:

- A recap of the recent Ice Cream Social, which saw 70 adults and many children in attendance.
- Bob Linden will check on the availability and cost of chairs with arms for the Gathering Space.
- MVCC Executive Director Jesie Holden would like to speak before the Church Council at one of their September meetings.
- Members of the MVLC Church Council expressed appreciation and gratitude to Pastor Vaswig for his receiving the PLTS Alumni Award.

### Next meeting

The next meeting of the MVLC Church Council is at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday 10 September 2019 in the Library. Wendy Wadnizak leads devotions.

### Adjournment

Emily Thompson “prayed us out.”

Respectfully submitted,

Troy Kehm-Goins  
Recording Secretary