

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Sister Bay
Vestry Meeting
April 16, 2023
MINUTES

The meeting convened at 1:05 p.m. Attendees: Brit Frazier, Betsy Rogers, Trudy Jischke, George Hughes, Susan Hoffert, Lori Holton,, Pete Thelen, Karen Malzahn and Carolyn Finch. Norma Bramsen and Carol Heil attended via Zoom. Guest: Carol Ann Osinski

Opening prayer

Brit offered the opening prayer. This was her first vestry as St. Luke's new rector and she expressed her gratitude to everyone for welcoming her so warmly. She asked each member to volunteer their favorite lesson, prayer or hymn and why it has meaning.

Procedural

The April agenda was approved as were the March minutes.

Junior warden's report—George and Ross Holton spent several hours with the owner of Forestville Lumber discussing what needs done at St. Luke's. This includes installing a closing system on the bathroom door closest to the Canterbury Room so it automatically closes when not occupied. Plans also include making the second floor landing safer by adding doors to the office, supply closet and Sunday School room as well as adding cabinetry for more storage upstairs. George reminded everyone that all the bathroom paper products are now stored upstairs.

The old linens previously stored in the treasurer's office have been donated to Bargains Unlimited.

Plans are also underway to lower the eight ceiling panels in the Canterbury Room for better noise control. Betsy suggested alerting the Midsummer Music group as it may affect acoustics during their concerts. George will contact Allyson Fleck.

Doug Schwartz who has been responsible for the columbarium has announced he no longer wants that responsibility. Anyone who knows someone who would be happy to replace him should contact George.

We currently have only one key for the safety deposit box. George will have a second one made.

Carol Ann reported that the garbage disposal is working extremely slowly. George will check on it.

With so many people in attendance at Sunday's service, George recruited an usher and served as one as well. For the time being Betsy is filling in the slots through May. There followed a discussion about recruiting volunteers to help with various ministries. While everyone agreed Clipboard Alley should be reopened it was also suggested that we use the Enews and perhaps use an online sign up system which can be set up to send reminders to those who have volunteered for a task. Brit and Carol will discuss which system may work best for us.

Brit also suggested we develop Contact Cards for newcomers to provide their names, phone numbers and email addresses. She can then contact them the following week and offer to send them the Enews. Ushers can collect them after each service.

Prior to Covid changes, ushers were responsible for bringing up the elements and passing the collection plates. It was agreed to again appoint ushers for each service. Through May, George will ask someone attending. After that, the position will be included in volunteer requests.

Lori reported that she was asked by two people why we don't provide envelopes for the offerings. Norma explained it was an unnecessary expense and it was agreed people who want to may bring an envelope of their own.

Senior warden's report—Betsy announced the Diocese has asked us to participate in a survey on the pandemic's impact on St. Luke's. Betsy will complete.

There is a need for creating name tags for newcomers now that Jane is no longer responsible for them. Susan will work on them. Once we create the contact cards, Brit will share them with her for tags. Brit would also like to create a database for the names of all donors.

The Pulse ad now includes the additional 8 a.m. service but still has Frank's name as rector. (It does welcome Brit as our new rector however). Carolyn will follow up to correct.

Following a discussion of the need for new lay Eucharist ministers and chalice bearers, Brit suggested, in the future, that we break out that ministry into chalice bearers (adults) and acolytes (all ages) in order to get more children involved.

Treasurer's report—Submitted. Carolyn recapped that we are moving our extra funds to accounts with higher yields. Our CDs and savings accounts will be closed and those monies invested in Treasuries. Much of the extra operating funds currently in the checking account will go into a new money market account, which will still be accessible but will earn interest. Nicolet Wealth Managers will oversee the treasuries and our Fidelity Account. We are to provide them with guidance as to how much risk we will accept. Carolyn noted we have chosen a moderate investment style. Brit will provide them with a letter defining St. Luke's tax status.

George, Paul Neuman and Brit met with Nicolet Bank. Brit noted she would prefer to use a debit card rather than her personal credit card for church expenses. She will meet with Karen to discuss.

Outreach—Pete reported that the committee bought 100 lbs of chicken breasts and dropped off at the Door of Life. He noted such buys will occur again through May. May 21 is Companion Sunday when we celebrate our relationship with the Diocese of Masvingo in Zimbabwe. Pete will meet with Brit to discuss the needs of Masvingo and how we can possibly help them. Brit added it was a priority for her to set up online giving and perhaps have a QR code in the Sunday bulletin so people can also scan and give by phone.

Discussion was also held on setting up a food drive during Memorial Day weekend.

Rector's report—Brit announced she plans to meet with each vestry member in the next couple of months to get to know each other, discuss ministries, parish needs and individual ideas.

Beginning Sunday, April 23, she will offer an 8 a.m. service in addition to the 10 a.m. and starting May 3, a 5:30 p.m. Wednesday. It is her priority that the church be open for worship as much as possible. She plans to be at St. Luke's five to six days a week and asked the vestry to imagine how we can increase attendance, especially with children and young people. Carol Ann suggested speaking to Dawn Volpe who is currently working with area pastors to offer a summer children's program. Lori suggested offering Taize services again.

Brit is also working with the Medical Center's outreach department to put notices on the center's bulletin boards about Bible studies. She also plans to celebrate major feast days of the church, beginning April 25 with St. Mark's Day. This will consist of services followed, ideally, by a shared supper.

She will be starting Facebook and Instagram accounts for St. Luke's and is working with David Skidmore to get an email address including her name and St. Luke's domain name. She also listed out several other ideas in addition to Bible Study, such as Tuesday evening studies on the prayer book. She encouraged everyone to reach out to her regarding other ideas and promised to have ideas for summer programs by the next vestry meeting.

Discussion was held on the value of the Zoom Happy Hour and it was agreed to continue them but move to the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 6 p.m.

Old business—Tabled.

New business—Tabled.

Brit offered a prayer and the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hoffert
Vestry Clerk