



St. Andrew's Lutheran Church
August 18, 2020
Congregational Council Meeting 6:08PM

Present: David Anderson, Dan Thureen, John Saccoman, Kim Jamtgaard, Sue Mertz, Byron Snowden, Nikki Rud, Marj Lavalier, Alan Anderberg, Betsy Trevena, Angie Olson, Vicky Lorenz, Amber Jackson

Absent: Linda Flom

1. Devotions – Byron Snowden
2. Additions to the Agenda
 1. Old Business: PPP loan forgiveness (was covered under Pastor's report)
 2. New Business: Property committee update (covered under Sanctuary carpet update)
3. President's Comments: none
4. CYFM report:

Normally July is full of VBS craziness, Sunday School preparing, mission trip receipt filing and gearing up for the year ahead. While many of these things are now different now, we have continued on as best we can and I must say, the outcome has been very encouraging!

After speaking with the Youth Team, it was decided that we would have VBS in a Box. You may have seen the announcement on Facebook or the website. The idea was that I would put together four days of curriculum, projects, ideas and fun for kids who registered and deliver special boxes just for them to their doors. Thanks to a lot of the Youth Team that came to help, we were able to fill all 53 orders for boxes and deliver them all on the day we said we would – August 2nd. The curriculum followed the Green Lake Bible Camp's free resource for "Day camp at home" and the response I've received from kids and parents has been very positive. We all wish we were gathering together, singing songs, doing crazy art projects and meeting new friends, but the VBS in a Box had it's perks too. For one, it remained in the guidelines of safety for COVID. Also, we were able to deliver some boxes to friends of friends that either don't have a church home or their church wasn't able to provide anything. Outreach happened and I'm thrilled with that outcome.

VBS sparked some new ideas and thoughts about Sunday School for Fall 2020. Since the boxes seemed to be rather well received, we have decided to also do Sunday School in a similar fashion. It will be a bi-monthly mailing in large craft envelopes with the lesson, an activity leaflet, and any special materials that might be required for the projects. Budgetary money for this will come from the Sunday School account and (hopefully) a Thrivent Action Team Grant if it's approved. Since we aren't spending the usual money for ongoing classroom supplies and such, the mailings should fit nicely within our budget. At special times – holidays for instance – our Youth Team has offered to help me hand deliver special boxes for a little extra pizzazz! ☺ In addition to the mailings, I will also be recording bi-weekly openings with guitar and voice led songs along with an intro into the story for that day. Those will be posted either on the website or on facebook...or both.

This month has also brought about the finale of the t-shirt and promotional items saga that Betsy Trevena has been working on so hard. The logos are designed, the order forms are being made, and the hope is that it will be available by Rally Day for taking orders. Also, Betsy and I decided to do a small Rally Day gift for all families that attend. We have purchased a small window cling for cars or home windows with the logo and our church name in a simple black and white (classy!) design that Betsy herself created. Her artwork will hopefully be on cars and windows all over town! We are also looking into the cost for yard signs with the same logo but will wait on that til we see the response from this first round of promotional opportunities. Tonight, Betsy will be ready (I think) to take your order for t-shirts, sweatshirts or long sleeve shirts so you can be the first to model them!

As I have said in past council reports, one of the silver linings of this time apart has been the one on one interactions I've been able to have with the kids. I have 2 or so lunches per week to meet individual youths, I have talks out on the deck of my house or in the church parking lot and many, many text/call conversations. I'm so grateful that the kids still have this want to touch base and hunger for faith talks and confide in me about things that are personally going on in their lives – both the good and the not so good.

Motion to look into the cost of renting the IRA pavilion and permission to rent for Rally Sunday if cost is \$500 or less. Made by Kim J, 2nd by Marj L. Motion carried.

Pastor Report:

Lights have been added to the sanctuary, they are not hard wired. Appear to be working with illuminating those around the altar area during services.

Finished book Study "God and the Pandemic", considering other options for future studies.

COVID Preparedness Plan – I emailed a draft of our COVID plan to you yesterday. I will attach a copy to the email this report is with, as I forgot to update the “cleaning” section in both the Red and Yellow sections. At our meeting we need to:

discuss any other **changes**

be clear about the **criteria** we will use to move to the Yellow level from Red – and remembering that “the Congregation Council may also decide to implement just portions of Level 2 – Caution” For instance, we might choose to allow for small groups (like the council and youth group) to meet in the building with masks and physical distancing but choose not to allow for larger gatherings like worship.

Officially adopt the “Plan for Returning to the Church Building in Light of the COVID-19 Pandemic:” as our guiding policy.

CURRENT ITASCA COVID DATA – there are several sources tracking COVID trends in our county. Each has a little different “twist” or perspective

COVID cases Itasca Co. Per MDH This is the cumulative number of cases in our county since the beginning of the pandemic. AS a rule the numbers can only go up. However, the rate of increase can be downward or upward trending. Current as of 8/18.

| | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
| 7/22 103 | 7/29 122 ↑ | 8/6. 135 ≡ | 8/14 146 ≡ |
| 7/23 108 ↑ | 7/30 123↑ | 8/7 136 ↑ | 8/15. 146 ≡ |
| 7/23 113↑ | 7/31 125 ↑ | 8/8 138 ↑ | 8/16 147 ↑ |
| 7/24 114 ↑ | 8/1 125 ↑ | 8/9 147 ↑ | 8/17 148 ↑ |
| 7/25 116 ↑ | 8/2 129 ↑ | 8/10 147 ≡ | 8/18 150 ↑ |
| 7/26 119 ↑ | 8/3. 132 ↑ | 8/11 146 ↓ | |
| 7/27 120↑ | 8/4 134 ↑ | 8/12 146 ≡ | |
| 7/28 121 ↑ | 8/5 135 ↑ | 8/13 146 ≡ | |

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COVID cases Itasca County per MDH **one week** case rates per 10,000 people. Through 8/1. This will be updated each Thursday.

Weekly Case Rate by County of Residence

Number of cases by county of residence in Minnesota per 10,000 people by week of specimen collection.

| County | Week 27: 6/28-7/4 | Week 28: 7/5-7/11 | Week 29: 7/12-7/18 | Week 30: 7/19-7/25 | Week 31: 7/26-8/1 |
|--------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Itasca | 0 | 2.9 | 6.6 | 3.3 | 2.9 |

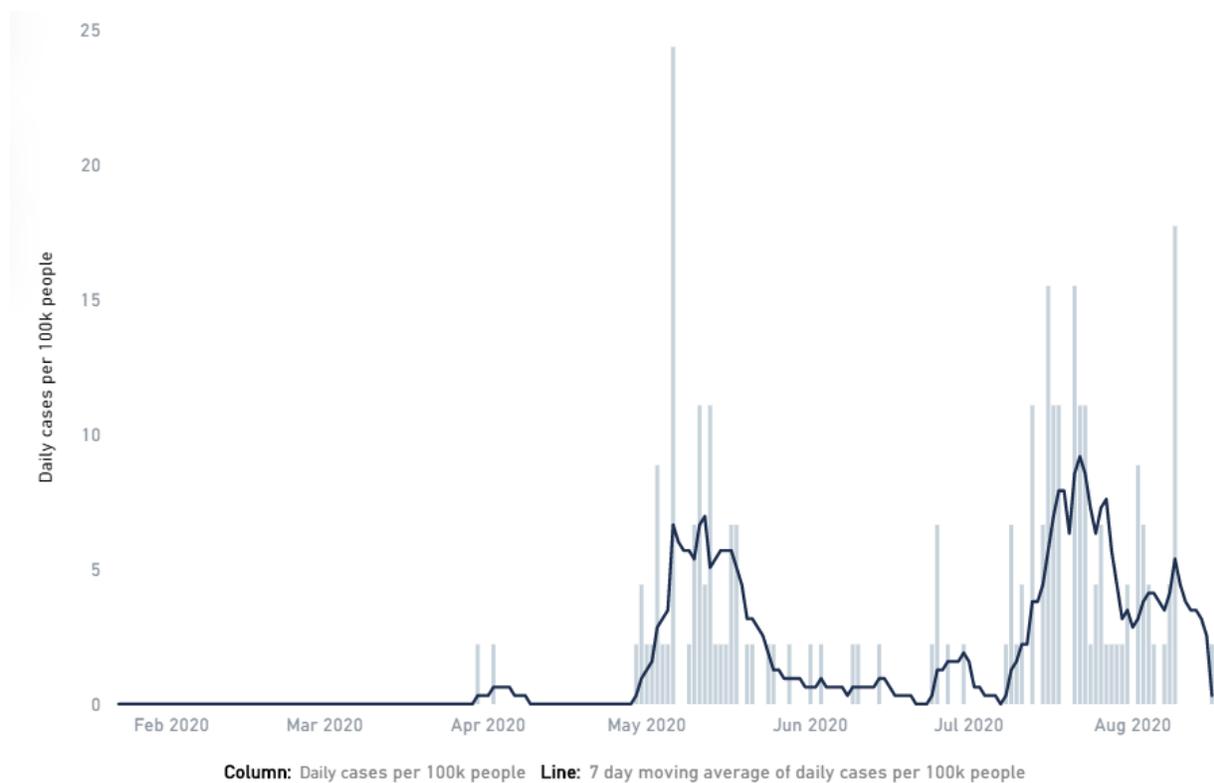
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COVID cases Itasca County per MDH 14 day (2 week) Data through 8/1 (report as of 8/13)

14-day case rate per 10,000 people by date of specimen collection

| County Name | 6/7 - 6/20 | 6/14 - 6/27 | 6/21 - 7/4 | 6/28 - 7/11 | 7/5 - 7/18 | 7/12-7/25 | 7/19-8/1 |
|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|------------|-----------|----------|
| Itasca | 0.22 | 1.11 | 1.11 | 2.88 | 9.51 | 9.96 | 6.19 |

This chart is from globalpandemics.org. It shows total new cases per day (vertical column) for Itasca County, as well as the 7 day moving average of daily cases per 100K people in Itasca County. The peak was July 22nd, and has been *trending* down – with smaller ups and downs – since then. **Data as of 8/16.**



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So what do we make of all the data at this month’s meeting? We will be doing this reflection each month at our council meetings and deciding if anything needs to change.

CAPITAL APPEAL UPDATE:

We now have all the money needed to start and complete the carpeting of the sanctuary. We ought to vote to move the sanctuary carpet project from “Congregationally Approved to Receive Funds” to “Council Authorized to Proceed”. Installation is scheduled to begin September 15. Prior to that we are responsible for removing the pews and removing existing carpet. This is good timing as we are not yet worshipping in the sanctuary – other than those necessary to produce our live-streamed worship services. (AS such, if we could keep the carpet on the chancel area (the red carpet) until jut before that area will get the new carpet, that would be appreciated. That does show in the videos) A work crew is needed!!

To date we have received \$277,987. \$307,772 was pledged. We are getting close to that \$300,000 mark, when we will want to choose the recipients of our 3rd installment of our tithe.

2021 BUDGET – last month I indicated we should take a preliminary look at how 2020 might end financially, in order to begin planning for 2021 budget. The short answer is “who knows?”. But to that end I have attached a spreadsheet with three scenarios for how 2020 might go. The data is current through June. Remainder of year is estimate/projection. The three scenarios are:

Remain closed remainder of 2020

Open October

Open September

While it's just a guesstimate, all three scenarios have us finishing the year in the black between \$61,000 - \$67,000. Of that, about 48,000 is attributable to our PPP (yet to be forgiven) loan. Perhaps the best guide for a 2021 budget is our 2020 budget. One question I have is if after the PPP loan is forgiven, we might NOT put (all of) it into the income of the 2020 budget, but to put (some of) it into a Dedicated Fund, so that if we do not need it in 2020, it is available as income in 2021.

PPP LOAN FORGIVENESS APPLICATION PROCESS - I just received notice this afternoon that in the next few days we will get a link from Grand Rapids State Bank that will take us to the form(s) for the loan forgiveness application process. Will be having a discussion with accountant on how to proceed with accounting for PPP funds.

2021 STEWARDSHIP APPEAL - the Financial Planning & Giving Council Team (Dan Thureen, Byron Snowden) should start making plans for how we might invite members of our congregation to join in supporting the mission of St. Andrew's in 2021. How do we encourage one another to invest in something we hold as of utmost importance and which defines us? – The advancement of the Good News of the love of Jesus and the hope, peace and promise to be experience when people hear the message and live intentionally in its Light and Truth.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP PLANS (weather permitting) BYOC (bring your own chair). Stay physically distanced from other households.

RECHARGE – Wednesday August 26th. 6:00 PM at Camp Hiawatha.

RALLY SUNDAY September 13, 9:00 AM in St. Andrew's west parking lot. We will be releasing environmentally friendly balloons, have individually wrapped fresh cinnamon rolls, and coffee and lemonade served by masked and gloved volunteers.

AFFIRMATION of BAPTISM – Sunday October 4, 2:00 PM in St. Andrew's west parking lot. Affirmation of Baptism typically takes place on Reformation Sunday. But that's the last Sunday of October – and we could have s__w. IF we are not yet in our building, this would be probably be early enough to be nice enough to be outside. It also is late

enough that we will have time for an all-day (masked, physically distanced) 10th Grade Workshop, hopefully at Camp Hiawatha. (checking on availability of Saturday 9/19 or Sunday 9/20)

5. Previous Minutes – Motion to accept July 21, 2020 minutes by Byron, 2nd by Kim. Motion carried
6. Treasurer’s Report – Motion to accept by Byron, 2nd by Sue. Motion carried
7. Old Business
 - a. Capital Appeal Update – see Pastor’s report. Motion to move carpet activity to approved made by Amber, 2nd by Betsy. Motion carried
 - b. Sanctuary carpeting Update - Alan Anderberg. September 10th for pew removal, September 12 for carpet install, October 12 for altar area. Will also be working on removing concrete patio outside kitchen door, digging a draining ditch and replacing patio.
 - c. Insurance Carrier – Dan Thureen. A few changes in policy and cost from quoted policy, still cheaper than current policy. New carrier American Church Group a division of Brotherhood Mutual. Motion was made to select higher coverage for Preschool activities by Kim, 2nd by Betsy and Byron at same time. Motion carried
Motion made to designate Dan Thureen as signatory for policy by John, 2nd by Byron. Motion carried
 - d. DVDs (Wayne’s input) of worship service – PD has figured out a way to burn a DVD, takes about an hour. Not sure of need.
 - e. Lighting issues / Video Challenges –No additional discussion
 - f. COVID-19 Preparedness Plan – Pastor Dave. Motion made to approve document presented by Pastor Dave by Kim, 2nd by Marj. Motion carried. Will be reviewing this plan/guide monthly.
8. New Business
 - a. Initial Budget Discussion – Pastor Dave. Need to start looking at this. A spreadsheet was sent out for council to review and be prepared to discuss at next council meeting.
 - b. Refurbishing Church front – Marj Lavalier. A group is looking at plantings and other things that can be done to front of building to beautify. Motion made to approve expenditure of up to \$2500 from account 8015 Memorials unrestricted by Al, 2nd by Byron. Motion carried.
 - c. Eagle Scout gathering – John Saccoman. Request was received from a church member to be able to use lakeside area. Motion to approve by Marj, 2nd by Betsy. Motion carried
9. Upcoming Calendar Events
 - a. **Virtual Synod Assembly** 8-29-20
 - b. **Rally Sunday** 9-13-20
 - a. **Habitat for Humanity Build Day** 9-17-20

Adjournment – Motion by Kim, 2nd by Byron. Motion carried

Lord's Prayer

Next regular meeting – September 15, 2020 6:00 p.m. Fireside Room (Zoom)
Devotions – Sue Mertz

2020 Council TEAMS

Executive: Pastor Dave, Pres. John Saccoman, VP Kim Jamtgaard, Treas. Dan Thureen,
Secretary Amber Jackson

Financial Planning & Giving: Dan Thureen, Byron Snowden

Property Site Care & Planning: Alan Anderberg, Sue Mertz, Kim Jamtgaard

Faith Formation & Journey: John Saccoman, Amber Jackson, Betsy Trevena

Faith in Action: Vicky Lorenz, Linda Flom, Marj Lavalier