

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Menominee, MI
Minutes of the Congregation Council Meeting on December 8, 2020

Present: Pastor Mark Laatsch, Ronda Pedersen, Kathy Bero, Terrie Porras, Matt Vanni, Jim Zobel, Bill Taccolini, Bill Kuhnlein, Jeremy Sallgren, Stacy Hansen, Boni Nerat-Heckel, Jeff Hines, Absent: Dave Anderson (unexcused), Kylie Chevalier (excused). Present to Report: Debbie Villas, Patti Treptow, Judy Raygo.

Meeting (via Zoom) called to order @ 6pm by President Ronda. Called for agenda approval. Motion to approve by Bonnie, seconded by Jeremy, motion carried.

Opening Devotion: Pastor Mark read from James 1:17-18 followed by devotion from *A Love Worth Giving to You at Christmas* by Max Lucado.

Secretary's Report: Terrie reported minutes emailed to council on 11/17/20. Asked for any corrections? None noted. Motion to approve minutes by Kathy, seconded by Matt, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Debbie reviewed reports: **1.** Income & Expense by Major Group; Income less expense for the month is \$2,245.10, for YTD is (-\$3,451.23). Finance Committee feels this is good. **2.** PPP Forgiveness letter not yet received. Our banker, reports, it just takes time. PPP money sitting in dedicated account will be moved to general fund when loan forgiveness received. **3.** Mission endowment fund not listed in our financial reports. Fund maintained separately by Mission Endowment Committee Treasurer working with Church Treasurer. Endowment Committee to report quarterly to the congregation council. **4.** 2021 proposed budget passed out, reviewed, and discussed. **4A.** 1% employee raise recommended. Jim **motioned** to approve 1% raise, seconded by Bonnie, motion carried. **4B.** Employee hours: Pastor, Patti, and Judy's hours the same, Lee Parish's decrease from 12 to 10 hrs/wk, and Carol Parish's decrease to 6 hrs/wk until church reopens. **4C.** Year-end bonus and gifts not budgeted, based on money left in budget at year end. 2020 bonus recommendations for paid employees are; \$150 for Pastor, Patti, and Judy, \$100 for Lee and Carol Parish. Gift recommendations for volunteers are; \$25 for Marcy Peters, Financial Secretary, her assistant Debbie Lemery, and Debbie Villas, Church Treasurer. Matt **motioned** to approve bonus and gift amounts to be paid by month end, seconded by Bill T., motion carried. **5.** Discussed snow removal and saving on cost by not plowing 13th street lot. No decision made.

ACTION ITEMS – where we've been

Annual Meeting: Pastor reported we are going ahead with a virtual meeting. Asked committee chairs to submit their reports (what your committee did this year) to Judy to be included in the Annual Meeting booklet. Meeting notice and information went out in the November Messenger.

REPORTS – where we are.

Youth Advisory Council: Patti - Have not met.

Youth & Family Ministry Director's Report: Patti reported the virtual Sunday School Christmas program video is finished and will be aired Sunday, 12/20/20 at 10am. She is working on plans for the second semester of virtual Sunday school.

President's Report: Ronda reflected on the Christmas classic "The Grinch". During this COVID19 pandemic with restricted shopping & get togethers, worries about COVID, and negative news, we all may be feeling a little bit "bah hum bug!" about Christmas. However, as we have worked to decorate the church, as Christmas

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Memorials go out, it is starting to feel like Christmas. Just like Cindy Lou Who said, when everything was gone in her world, Christmas is more than that stuff and still comes. Ronda reminded us that God is with us and wished us a blessed Christmas celebration with our small family groups. She is grateful for all of our support of our church. Lastly, she reminded us that elections will be here next month and we need a new Vice President. Please pray on this and consider stepping in to this role.

Committee Reports:

Finance: See Treasurers Report

Youth: Stacy - Have not met, no activity.

Learning: Bill T – Have not met.

Human Resources: Jim – Have not met, nothing to report.

Endowment: Kathy - met last week, via Zoom, with synod. Legacy Giving Seminar being planned to present to congregations. Plan to do this, via Zoom, in Feb. and will meet in Jan. to discuss and plan final details.

Kathy also reported she attended the NGLS Zoom meeting of Congregation Council President's in Ronda's absence (she had parent-teacher conferences). Many good ideas shared. Synod will broadcast Christmas Eve services on Marquette stations.

Fellowship: Ronda – they have not met other than helping Fellowship Committee decorate Christmas Trees.

Memorial: Pastor – A nativity scene was purchased. Shining light on it casts a shadow of the nativity.

Outreach: Terrie reported **1.** Meet tomorrow to write Christmas cards to place gift cards in. Have received many gift card and money donations. Will use money to purchase additional cards as needed. 3 families from Rainbow House, 13 residents from Haven of Hope will receive gifts. Members will hand deliver. **2.** "Reach Out to Members" contacted 6 members last month. A second call to a COVID infected member found her 90% better. We were able to catch another member at home who has been traveling almost daily to Green Bay for cancer treatment. We were able to track down a member who had moved but hadn't updated us with her new phone number. All members were happy to be contacted. Not all were able to access the internet but all did receive The Messenger and enjoyed reading it. Pastor placed an article in the Messenger about "Reach Out" and we received two calls as a result. One call for help needed, one call from a member who will help with calling. Continue to work on help for Gladys Day, making progress!

P&P: Jim reported continued work with Finance Committee on restricted funds. Rob Jamo resigned from committee. Stacy Hanson stepped down last month and Jim thanked her for her service. Jim asked Jeremy and Bonnie if they would join as they had been considering it. Matt **motioned** to confirm Jeremy and Bonnie to serve on the P&P Committee, Bill K. seconded, motion carried. Next meeting is 1/4/2021.

Property: Bill K. and Matt reported. **1.** See attached minutes from 12/3/20 meeting. **2.** Since meeting, Tim and Judy Raygo completed the new electrical connection to outdoor sign! Labor donated, cost for materials \$800. Stacy **motioned** to approve \$800 for materials, Bill T. seconded, motion carried. Pastor commented that Christmas Memorials for Maintenance Fund and Memorial Fund (with committee vote) could be used to help pay for this. **3.** Snow Removal Agreement for shoveling and de-icing of sidewalks from Tyler Bloom handed out and reviewed. **Motion** by Jim to approve, seconded by Bonnie, motion carried.

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Stewardship: Kathy reported working on writing personal thank you cards to each member who pledged. Kathy announced she will step down from this committee at end of January after 18 years of service. She wants to focus her time and energy on the Outreach Committee's Witness program.

Worship: Pastor Mark – Trees are up in the sanctuary. The sanctuary will be opened to members for meditation. Information on this will be in The Messenger. Midweek services start tomorrow. Bulletins are available by email. Christmas Eve, Barb and Linda are putting together a musical for 4pm.

Pastor's Report: Lost 7 members last month, 2 COVID related. Only 2 had funerals. It is so important to reach out to members. Expressed he is grateful for our service to our church.

NEW BUSINESS –

P&P: Jim presented new P&Ps for; The Property Committee: Key & Access Control of Church Facilities, Facilities Emergency Action Plan, and The Mission Endowment Fund: Duties and Responsibilities. P&Ps reviewed no questions or comments. **Motion** by Kathy to approve all P&Ps as presented, seconded by Stacy, motion carried.

AARP Tax Aid Program: Jim reported they are working on ability to do taxes this year. Plan for clients to bring in documents, have them scanned, then return home. Taxes would be done quickly, explained to client via phone to minimize contact. Program will run Feb 1 through April 15 if approved. Will be at Emmanuel on Tuesdays, and the Marinette Rec Center on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Each unit can set its own dates. Our local unit stops 1 week before 4/15. They will clean their own areas and follow strict COVID-19 guidelines.

Gift for Linda Davis: Ronda recommended we give a gift to Linda in appreciation for her volunteer work as soloist for our church services. Linda normally serves as Choir Director and is paid as a contractor. Due to the COVID19 church closure, she has lost income. Jeff Hines **motioned** to pay Linda a one-time stipend of \$100, seconded by Bonnie, motion carried.

LONG TERM PROJECT/GOALS – Pastor recommended we not start a new project until we get through COVID19 pandemic. We will revisit this when church re-opens. He thanked us all for our service.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm on a **motion** by Stacy, seconded by Kathy, motion carried. We closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrie Porras, Council Secretary