

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Menominee, MI  
Minutes of the Congregation Council Meeting on January 12, 2021

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 @ 6:10pm by President Ronda. Called for agenda approval. Motion to approve by Stacy, seconded by Kathy, motion carried.

Opening Devotion: Pastor Mark read from Chaplain Chris Linzey's devotion, theologymix.com. The Devotion was entitled "Burn the Ships! A New Years Eve Devotion" and included readings from Philipians 3: 7-9, 10-14.

Secretary's Report: Terrie reported minutes emailed to council on 1/2/21. Asked for any corrections? None noted. Motion to approve minutes by Kathy, seconded by Boni, motion carried. Pastor read correspondences from Judy Raygo, Marcia Peters, and himself thanking council for their Christmas bonus.

Treasurer's Report: Debbie reviewed financial reports emailed to council on 1/11. **1.** Actual balance in checking accounts (with outstanding checks deducted): \$51,859 in General and \$32,942 in Dedicated. **2.** Sign fund is \$200 short after applying funds from Maintenance Fund Christmas memorials. Memorial Committee may be able to help. **3.** History reports, prepared by Marcia Peters and Deb Lemery, emailed to council for review. **4.** Income & Expense report, Year-end balance is \$14,594 ahead. Will leave in general fund for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter. **5.** Received PPP Forgiveness letter, will now transfer PPP funds to general fund. **6.** Mission Endowment Funds in dedicated savings account @ ELCA, had to be moved to dedicated checking account for distribution. Finance Committee recommends making this savings account a checking account for easier distribution. No decision made. Per constitution, these funds to be managed by Mission Endowment Committee secretary (currently Denise Ruleau) and to be kept separate from church accounts.

**ACTION ITEMS – where we've been –** No old business discussed

**REPORTS – where we are.**

Youth Advisory Council: Per Patti, have not met.

Youth & Family Ministry Director's Report: Patti thanked council for her end of year bonus. Second semester of Sunday school has started and continues to be virtual with online Bible Stories and emailed worksheets for parents-children to do. Last semester classes on our web site and our You-Tube channel. She continues online class to become a certified youth minister. In Feb., she will attend a 3 day National Conference via Zoom. Zoom courses have been a great opportunity for her. Our website and online presence are up to date.

President's Report: Ronda expressed her heart felt gratitude to outgoing members Kathy and Jim. She highlighted all they have given to this council and accomplished. They will be missed!

Committee Reports:

Finance: See Treasurers Report

Youth: Stacy - Have not met.

Learning: Bill T – Have not met.

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

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Endowment: Kathy – Meet Feb. 11 via Zoom. Kathy attending an ELCA Legacy Seminar, by Cindy Halverson, via Zoom. As she is stepping down from this committee, she will forward information to Jeff.

Fellowship: Ronda – Have not met but did help take down & put away Christmas Trees.

Memorial: Pastor – Have not meet but the new nativity scene was set up in front of church for Christmas.

Outreach: Terrie - **1.** Distributed 20 Christmas cards with gift cards enclosed (instead of Tree of Love gifts and Christmas Baskets) to Rainbow House (3), Haven of Hope (13), community members (2), and congregation members (2). **2.** Reach Out to Members: Robin Gustafson and Sue Larson volunteered to help. 18 calls placed, 10 members reached. Some watch Facebook services. Others not aware services available on our website by Monday, but now they know. All had family/friends to help if needed. Calls were well received and appreciated.

P&P: Jim – Meet Thur. to start work on P&P for Restricted Funds and other finance items that council has talked about.

Property: Bill K. - **1.** Ture Green bid received for \$373.71. This includes 3 applications for weed control and green grass. They recommend we do this. **2.** Quote of \$2,000 to paint kitchen cabinets from Holy Paint received. Committee request amount “not to exceed \$3000” be approved so that new hardware can also be purchased (30 drawers, 27 doors). Matt personally knows the painter, highly recommends him. Will prime cabinets and paint 2-3 coats, uses Benjamin More paint (looking at light gray). To begin in March if approved. Have money in their budget for this. **Motion** by Jim to; approve an amount not to exceed \$3,000 to paint kitchen cabinets and replace hardware, and to approve decorating (property) committee to select color and hardware. Motion seconded by Stacy, motion carried. **3.** Matt spoke with Dave Behrands regarding only plowing back parking lot. Dave would charge half of snow removal fee, and if church re-opens he has the equipment to plow the front lot. Committee made decision to only plow back (14<sup>th</sup> street) lot. **4.** Recommendation made to turn heat down whenever possible to save money. Pastor stated he would do this.

Stewardship: Kathy acknowledged and thanked Connie Taccolini who spent 2 days hand writing personal thank you cards to each member who pledged. Cards have been mailed out.

Worship: Pastor Mark – Came back from vacation to find Christmas trees and decorations down. He expressed gratitude for those who did the work. 16 Christmas memorial Poinsettias purchased, perfect amount for our display, and looked very nice on Facebook Christmas services. He was thankful to those who helped with this.

Pastor’s Report: **1.** Christmas Eve service went well even though it ran a bit long (1.5 hrs.). Thanked Barb and Linda for their work to provide special music. **2.** Outdoor digital sign came in Tue before Christmas. He spent ½ day to learn and complete basic programing on it. It was very visible far down 13<sup>th</sup> street. **3.** Thankful for his vacation last week. Sunday FB service was directed to the Fortune Lake 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary worship service. He commented it was well done and worth viewing. **4.** Bill & Lana Campbell with Sarah gave notice they are leaving our church, have joined a different church. Pastor expressed concern about losing members due to our church being closed. **5.** Annual Meeting: Booklet will be ready this week Thursday. Article was published in *The Messenger* with details on how to participate. We have received 6 R.S.V.P.’s, need a quorum of 83. If low response continues, will need to call members next week. Did a count of council members & their families; 28 members will attend from this group. **5.** Thanked outgoing members Kathy and Jim for their time and dedicated service on council. Thankful for their commitment to continue their work on committees.

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**NEW BUSINESS –**

Vice President – President Ronda shared we still do not have a candidate for this position. After much discussion, Matt Vanni accepted the nomination. **Motion** by Jim to elect Ronda Pedersen as President, Matt Vanni and Vice President, Terrie Porras as Secretary, and Debbie Villas as Treasurer, seconded by Kathy, motion carried.

Tax Aid – Jim reported MI will allow this service per modified procedure. They hope to start last week of Jan. or first week of Feb. National Tax Aid will be sending them a new printer and router. 9 members are helping with this community service.

**LONG TERM PROJECT/GOALS –**

Meeting adjourned at 7:59pm on a **motion** by Boni, seconded by Kathy, motion carried. We closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrie Porras, Council Secretary