

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Menominee, Michigan

Minutes of the Monthly Congregation Council Meeting on February 9, 2021

Present: Pastor Mark Laatsch, Ronda Pedersen, Matt Vanni, Terrie Porras, Laura Magrane, Bill Taccolini, Jeff Hines, Bill Kuhnlein, Jeremy Sallgren, Jim Briar, Linda Davis, Boni Nerat-Heckel, Betty Kohrt Absent: Stacy Hansen (excused). Present to Report: Debbie Villas, Patti Treptow, Judy Raygo.

Meeting (via Zoom) called to order @ 6:04pm by President Ronda. Motion to approve agenda by Betty, seconded by Jeremy, motion carried.

Opening Devotion: Pastor Mark welcomed our new members. He then read from Mathew 28:16-20 and from the book The Difficult but Indispensable Church by H.S. Wilson.

Secretary's Report: Terrie reported minutes emailed to council on 2/8/21, no correspondence received. Motion to accept the minutes of the 1/12/2021 Congregation Council meeting made by Bill K., seconded by Boni, motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Debbie reported; 1. Reviewed financial reports emailed to council on 2/8. 2. Finance Committee has not discussed applying for a PPP loan yet, she will bring it up at their next meeting. In the meantime, she will complete application worksheet.

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

REPORTS – where we are.

Youth Advisory Council: New council member, Laura Magrane, reported she met with Patti and talked about planning a Zoom meeting. Will continue working with Patty on this.

Youth & Family Ministry Director's Report: Patti continues to work on her Youth Minister Certification classes as well as planning of youth activities. She welcomed new members and invited them to review previous and ongoing youth activities on our website and our Your-Tube channel.

President's Report: Ronda gave a huge welcome to new members. She noted they are all veteran members of Emmanuel who have been very involved. This experience will be valuable as they take on a leadership role and become a voice for our members. She expressed joy that our Annual Congregation Meeting, held virtually for the first time ever, went extremely well! She thanked all council members for their support and especially Pastor, Patty, and Judy for all their work. On a side note, she commented that in the 2020 Annual Meeting minutes, Pastor said; "We the church, need to Identify and re-invent ourselves, focus on our mission, and embrace the change. Little did any of us know how fitting those words would be during the pandemic that followed.

Committee Reports:

Finance: See Treasurers Report

Youth: Stacy absent, Patti reported they have not met.

Learning: Bill T – Have not met.

Fellowship: Ronda – Have not met.

Endowment: Jeff - Have not met. Pastor added we received Thank You notes from both Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services, and Compassion International for our donations from the Endowment Fund.

Human Resources: Pastor - Have not met. Need to appoint a council member to this committee.

Memorial: Pastor – Met 1/26. They purchased a new banner for the narthex.

Outreach: Terrie – Will meet early March to plan Easter Baskets for shut-ins. Basket will be delivered after Palm Sunday. Reached out (called) 15 members, reached 8, in Jan. 2 recovered from COVID, 5 fully vaccinated. One asked why other churches are able to gather and we are not? Others said they would only return to church after being fully vaccinated. No one in distress or needing our help. All appreciative of our call.

Policy & Procedure (P&P): Pastor – Meet Thursday. Jeremy will take over P&P report to council.

Property: Bill K. – Reported they met last night. 1. Close to making decision on paint color for kitchen cabinets, leaning towards dark gray. Painter will start 2/24, plans to be done by 3/5. Dorothy Jozwiak will head up selecting new hardware for cabinets. 2. Waiting to receive bids on outside fascia work and stair treads. Frustrated Contractors have been slow to get bids in. 3. Matt added he spoke to Dave Behrens and he will begin plowing both lots.

Stewardship: Jeff – Have not met.

Worship: Pastor Mark – Will meet soon to start implementation of our “Plan to Return to In-person Worship” on Ash Wednesday.

Pastor’s Report: 1. Pastor shared his plan to return to in-person worship on Ash Wednesday and for the six Sundays in Lent. Will then stop and evaluate where we are. A survey sent out by Pastor and returned by 93 members, showed 80% will come to worship with COVID safety measures in place. We will follow our COVID19 Safety plan, “Plan to Return to In-person Worship”, developed by Worship Committee and Congregation Council. Worship will focus on spirituality through silence, reflection, and prayer. We will not sing (to prevent COVID spread) but will listen to music performed by Barb Hay (pianist), Linda Davis (soloist), and John Wills (guitarist, soloist). There will be greeters at each door, 1 acolyte, 1 reader, 1 usher at entrance to sanctuary. Worship committee members will fill rolls as needed and will ask council for their help if needed. Ronda requested that Pastor share the “Return to In-Person Worship Plan” again so that new members can read it and all members review it. Pastor will email it out tomorrow. 2. He attended a Professional Leadership conference yesterday via Zoom. 3. He expressed his delight that our Annual Congregation meeting went so well and gave kudos to President Ronda for leading us through the meeting. 4. He performed a baptism last Sunday at 11 a.m. with only family in attendance. It was rewarding as we have had so few baptisms during this pandemic.

NEW BUSINESS –

Return to In-Person Worship - See Pastor’s Report.

LONG TERM PROJECT/GOALS – Next month, we will discuss ideas for a group project. In the meantime, email your ideas to Pastor.

Meeting adjourned at 7:09pm on a **motion** by Bill T, seconded by Jeremy, motion carried. We closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrie Porras, Council Secretary