

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Menominee, Michigan

Minutes of the Monthly Congregation Council Meeting on March 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, Stacy Hansen, Boni Nerat-Heckel, Betty Kohrt Absent: Matt Vanni (excused), Judy Raygo. Present to Report: Debbie Villas, Patti Treptow.

Meeting (via Zoom) called to order @ 6:02pm by President Ronda. Motion to approve agenda by Bill K, seconded by Stacy, motion carried.

Opening Devotion: Pastor Mark opened with thoughts on “what is Lent”. He then read that day’s devotion from the website “God pause”, followed with readings from Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22.

Secretary’s Report: Terrie reported minutes emailed to council on 2/16/21, no correspondence received. Motion to accept the minutes of the 2/9/2021 Council meeting made by Boni, seconded by Jeremy, motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Deb reported; **1.** Reviewed financial reports. **2.** Do not qualify for second PPP Loan, do not meet requirement of income being down 25% or more during any quarter last year. We were down 9% for the year. **3.** Finance Committee looking to reduce costs by exploring cheaper payroll systems and talking to Spectrum regarding phone-internet bill. **4.** Kitchen painting bill came in at \$2,000. Finance Committee was not aware of this expense. Per procedure, which has been in place a few years now, anything over \$500 is supposed to go to Finance first. The expense had to be paid out of the maintenance fund which should only be used for absolutely necessary building repairs. **5.** Discussed printing approved Policy and Procedures (P&Ps) for council members. Suggestion made to use web site instead, Patti shared P&P’s are located under Our Work, Church Council. Deb will look into this.

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

REPORTS – where we are.

Youth Advisory Council: Laura reported she and Patti continue to meet and plan community service opportunities.

Youth & Family Ministry Director’s Report: Patti developed a plan for return to in-person Sunday school and presented it to the learning committee. They will continue virtual Sunday school for those uncomfortable with in-person. With warm weather coming, plan to start outside activities.

President’s Report: Ronda shared she had her first COVID-19 vaccination and her father received his second. The vaccine felt like “a shot of hope”! She sees hope all around. As a council, we are talking about re-opening. With the arrival of Easter and spring is a promise of a new tomorrow.

Committee Reports:

Finance: See Treasurers Report

Youth: Stacy reported they have not met.

Learning: Bill T – Reported highlights of proposal to return to in-person Sunday school. Their committee is comfortable moving forward. Patti added she reviewed plan with teachers and they are comfortable going forward. In-person to start 4/11 at 10 a.m. and run through 5/23. First Communion classes to start 4/25 with first communion being received on 5/23. **Motion** to approve and implement plan made by Jeremy, seconded by Bill T, motion carried.

Fellowship: Ronda reported they have not met but she will contact members this month to meet and plan events.

Endowment: Jeff reported they have not met. Pastor added Thank You notes from Lutheran Immigration and Compassion International are posted on the kiosk.

Human Resources: Pastor - Have not met.

Memorial: Pastor – Met 3/4. See attached minutes.

Outreach: Terrie reported they will meet March 17 to work on Easter baskets for shut-ins. Basket delivery will start after Palm Sunday service. Continue to call members, many now fully vaccinated and comfortable coming back to in-person worship. No one was in distress or in need of help. All members contacted have appreciated being called.

Policy & Procedure (P&P): Boni presented two new policies for review and approval. Members had not received them in time to review. Discussion tabled until next meeting.

Property: Bill K reported; 1. Received positive feedback on painted cabinets. 2. Still looking for quotes on exterior fascia and soffit repair. 3. Matt, with Pastor Mark, Judy, and Lee Parrish, beginning work on church inventory. 4. Continue to look for contractor who can give us a quote for outside stained glass maintenance and repairs. 5. Kitchen cabinet hardware has been installed and bill submitted. Cost was approximately \$50.

Stewardship: Jeff – Have not met.

Worship: Pastor Mark – Will meet in the next 2 weeks to prepare for Holy Week, Easter, and following Sundays.

Pastor's Report: **1.** After Easter will start 8am and 10am Sunday services. **2.** Attendance at current in-person 9am service continues to increase with last Sunday's attendance being 55. **3. Holy Week Plan:** All services in person and virtual except Easter. **Palm Sunday** - 8am & 10am services. Palms will be handed out. **Maundy Thursday** - 10am and 6pm service, no music, **Good Friday** – No community ecumenical services or evening service with Bethel, but will have a service (based on idea by Linda & Barb), **Easter Sunday** - Virtual service only (in-person would likely draw a large crowd and be unsafe). **4.** First communion, normally held Maundy Thursday, will occur on Pentecost Sunday instead. **5.** Luther Home in now allowing in-person visits from clergy so Pastor will resume visits. **5.** Three weddings booked for this summer. **6.** Pastor was selected (1 of only 12 Pastors from WI and the U.P.) to attend "Synods of WI Cohort" class. It begins tomorrow and cost is covered by a synod grant for continuing education. Although class is predominately virtual, he will need to travel twice to MN, in Sep. and April, for in-person meeting.

NEW BUSINESS –

New Policies- Tabled until next meeting.

Open Standing Committee Council Positions: Betty will join the Memorial Committee and Linda will join the Finance Committee.

April Meeting – Virtual or In-Person? After group discussion, decision made to meet in person next month.

LONG TERM PROJECT/GOALS – Pastor would like to see our church fellowship expanded and to make this a Congregation Council project. Think about how we can contribute to that.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm on a **motion** by Boni, seconded by Stacy, motion carried. We closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrie Porras, Council Secretary