

Emmanuel Lutheran Church – Menominee, MI  
Minutes of the Monthly Congregation Council Meeting on April 13, 2021

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

Meeting (in-person) called to order: at 6pm by President Ronda. Boni motioned to approve agenda, Bill T seconded, motion carried.

Opening Devotion: Pastor Mark read from “Praying with Martin Luther”, a collection of meditations and reflections. The meditation he read was titled: “Sanctification and the Church”.

Secretary’s Report: Terrie emailed minutes to council 3/17. 2 corrections received, minutes updated and emailed 4/11. No correspondence received. Betty motioned to accept 3/9 minutes, seconded by Jeremy, motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Deb reported: **1.** Reviewed financial reports. **2.** Quote from B&G approved by Finance Committee. **3.** Discussed amount of money in checking and need to move some to another account (76 Maintenance Fund). Council had previously decided to hold more money in general checking due to not knowing what the ongoing financial situation during COVID19 pandemic would be. **4.** Discussed “good financial shape” criteria. Look at income minus expenses on a month by month and year to date basis, doing well if income is greater than expenses (or close to).

**REPORTS – where we are.**

Youth Advisory Council: Patti reported GLOW Youth to start meeting 4/28, every Wed. at 6pm. Will meet outside, following COVID guidelines.

Youth & Family Ministry Director’s Report: Patti presented her written report (see attached). She added that 10 students are registered for first communion instruction. 21 students are registered for in person Sunday school and 16 attended the first day on 4/11/2021.

President’s Report: Ronda was happy to see everyone in person and thanked them for their participation on council. As we return to in person church service and activities, she encouraged all to participate. Also, if pandemic circumstances change, and you are no longer comfortable with in person council meeting, please let her or Pastor know. Poll taken of who was vaccinated: 3 members were not yet, approximately 4 had their first, the rest were fully vaccinated.

Committee Reports:

Finance: See Treasurers Report. Youth: Stacy - will meet 4/25/21. Endowment: Pastor - will meet this month.

Learning: Bill T - have not met. Patti asked for council input on resuming in person VBS this summer. Discussed; past attendance avg. 24-26, to organize kids in small separated groups, to follow COVID safety guideline. After discussion, council supported going forward with in person VBS.

Fellowship: Boni reported. **1.** Could hold individual family oriented activities such as, a Scavenger hunt with each family group looking for items in the community. Family could video their adventure, usually very funny. Suggestion made to give videos to Patti, format as Power Point presentation, and show at church. Council supported going forward. **2.** Booked pavilion at Henes Park for 9/19/21, Rally Sunday. **3.** Suggest recognizing member birthdays, post by month on kiosk. Council was in favor of doing this.

Human Resources (HR): Pastor - have not met. Ronda shared a council member is needed to serve on this committee. Due to sensitive nature, HR recommended it be the Council President. HR membership policy first needs to be updated.

Memorial: Betty reported they met this a.m. Purchased 2 candle lighters, 2-6ft. outside picnic tables (arrive July), a baptism banner and stand (will be dedicated 5/9, both services).

Outreach: Terrie reported they assembled and delivered 12 Easter baskets to shut-ins. Working on Mother's Day gifts. "Reach Out" called 69 members, reached 47 to date. Personal connection has been appreciated.

Policy & Procedure (P&P): Boni presented 2 policies for review. **Motion** to approved "Procedure for Unbudgeted Revenue & Related Expenses" made by Matt, seconded by Jeremy, motion carried. **Motion** to approve "Procedure for Unexpected Gifts & Donations" made by Matt, seconded by Bill K., motion carried. "Policy on the Creation and Use of Restricted Funds" sent back to Policy committee by Finance committee so not reviewed by council.

Property: Bill K **1.** Getting bids on roll up doors for counter between kitchen and fellowship hall. **2.** Matt presented attached quote from B&G Contracting. Unable to obtain other quotes, contactors booked and not taking on new work. Gutters to be taken down in order to do work are in poor condition and need to be replaced. Gutter over previous water leak will be left off to prevent ice buildup-further leakage. Ground drainage below was built up to improve drainage away from building. Discussed existing heat tape; contractor will remove it, complete work, and reinstall it. **Motion** by Bill T to accept quote and move forward with work, seconded by Linda, motion carried. Matt will notify contractor, hope he can start July/Aug but work will be done before Nov. **3.** Jeremy contacted Stained Glass of Marinette, they have worked on local church windows. Will meet to assess and prioritize work needed on windows. **4.** Kitchen cabinet hardware installed. **5.** Elevator Inspector needs information on new flooring; slip resistant, fire retardant material? Matt will follow up.

Stewardship: Jeff – Have not met.

Worship: Pastor Mark reported. 2 Palm Sunday services went well, started limited singing (2 verses). Maundy Thursday service included stripping of alter. Good Friday service went well. Virtual only Easter service had 700 views! Will hold 8am & 10am Sunday service through May, then one 9am service through summer. Will continue in person services unless COVID infection level becomes critical or we are mandated to close. Pastor's comfort level is 50 people/service. Recommendations made by council to have plan in place if attendance exceeds 50, watch that social distance is maintained when exiting, provide sanitizing wipes to greeters to wipe down stair rails after members use them.

Pastor's Report: Going on retreat Thur. & Fri. as part of his CE class. Synod Assemble is next month, will be virtually so only cost is \$200 (\$50/person). Will do a World Hunger collection at church service and is looking for creative, safe way to do this. Nursing Home and Hospital visits have been limited as he is not fully vaccinated yet (will be in 2 weeks). Wedding planned for 7/3/21. Open to resuming funeral services.

## **NEW BUSINESS –**

New Policies- See Policy & Procedures report. Soffit/Fascia/Gutter Replacement – See Property Committee report.

**LONG TERM PROJECT/GOALS** – Pastor has ideas to expand church fellowship. Will meet with Fellowship committee next month then share with Council.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm on a **motion** by Stacy, seconded by Boni, motion carried. We closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrie Porras, Council Secretary