

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2023

Called into community, gifted to serve.
Glorifying God through love in action.

Present: Pastor Aileen Robbins, Joanne Niemi, Janet Graves-Wright, Laurie Simonson, Sheri Treadwell, Amy Trichanh, Paul Williams, Mark Sutliff, Jim Hartmann, and Shelly Knapp. Andy Mitchell was absent.

We met via Zoom.

Devotions and Opening Prayer – Sheri started our meeting with devotions and prayer. 2 Corinthians.

Joanne led the meeting.

Agenda Review – Nothing new added.

Approval of September 14 and October 12 minutes - They had not been sent yet, so no approval.

Financial Reports – Janet has not had received Gene's input. We did receive payment from the Synod for Pastor's new part time position. There is a dip in income, perhaps missed some contributions. We are looking for patterns regarding countings. The percentage is not off, just not quite what we expect. Expenses are 70% compared to the budget.

Ministry Team Reports

- Pastor Aileen:
 - Discipleship Workshop Review – There were some people who showed interest in preaching, home communion, new classes and there were good ideas for Faith Formation. The event was not well attended. Perhaps a coffee hour on the 2nd Sunday in January to explore Spiritual Gifts would result in better attendance.
 - Synod position training – Pastor's trip to Chicago focused on "how do we manage our own anxiety" and she can use these skills to use in her new role and share with our congregation also. She will have more training via a zoom meeting in January.
 - November 19th there will be a 5:00 PM Ecumenical Thanksgiving service.
- Extended Ministry Report – Worship and Music. Shelly reviewed the amazing amount of events and programs the Worship team has done so far this year. She detailed the theme for Advent and the services for Christmas. Shelly will be stepping down from Council, however, she could continue momentum as a worship team member.
- Property: Paul said it is time for Boy Scout Troop #130 Annual Charter Renewal and training. It is a pretty active chapter with camping and sleep overs. They will be camping February 19. They will help with spring cleaning, both their adults and scouts.

There was a bill of \$7125.06 for the gas repair and inspection. \$4,500 for the labor of 4 mechanics and 40 hours, the remainder is for parts. We checked the greater Messiah Fund balance and deciding we could use it for this purpose. We made a motion to use the Greater Messiah Fund to use to pay for the gas leakage repair. Paul made the motion and Janet seconded it. We voted unanimously to pay this bill from the Greater Messiah Fund.

There will be a sanctuary cleaning on Saturday, in preparation for the holiday season. The tree will be put up by December 9th. Blue wreaths will be up by December 3 as well as the Advent Star. Hanging of the greens will be during coffee hours upstairs with cookies and Christmas carols.

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Paul and Rod raked at Fred Fant's home.

Looking Ahead:

- The Nominating Committee will be Shelly, Mark, Larry Denis and Judy Merritt Speed. They only need to meet once and generate a list of people to propose to the Council. We need two new Council Members in 2024, President, and Worship and Music.
- 2024 Budget goals and pre-planning – Janet will send out spreadsheets, with separate tabs for the ministry. Please send her the information she needs in a timely fashion. She will populate the primary spreadsheet with our data.
- Mutual Ministry staff evaluations – 38 surveys were returned. The Mutual Ministry teams will schedule individual review meetings with Pastor Aileen, Pastor Hans, Cathy, and Willie. Mutual Ministry team will meet 11/13 and discuss compensation recommendations for council review. Cathy has completed her NYS Sexual Harassment Prevention Training; the other paid staff will complete this soon. We have written a new Harassment Prevention policy and when it is approved, it will be distributed and put on our website.

Upcoming Dates:

- Holiday Gathering: Paul's house
- January 21 Financial Forum
- January 28 Annual Meeting

Next Meeting

Council Meeting – Thursday, December 7, 2023 (Shelly cannot attend, however, she will send budget numbers to Janet)
Devotions & prayer – Laurie
Extended ministry report – Budget

Closing Prayer – Sheri closed our meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Laurie Simonson