

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes – May 4, 2023

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

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

We met remotely via Zoom.

Devotions and Opening Prayer – Shelly started our meeting with devotions and prayer. Psalm 95.

Joanne led the meeting.

Agenda Review – Mark suggested an informal survey of people regarding starting a dementia support group for care givers.

Approval of March 2 and March 30 Minutes – They were approved.

Financial Reports – February and March numbers are not fully aligned; Janet needs to investigate. She hopes to have this resolved soon and have information to include in the Herald.

Ministry Team Reports

- Pastor Aileen:
 - Report – Pastor Hans has served above and beyond. We will have a 50th Anniversary of his Ordination with friends and family on July 30.
 - Newsletter items to be included in the Herald need to get to Cathy by the end of the week. Include our areas of expertise and include dates and times of events.
- Extended Ministry Team Report –
 - Property: Paul sent out a detailed report, including thanks to his core group of volunteers who work together every Monday. Paul detailed property categories of the elevator, lighting, water (and plumbing), doors, trees, lawn, landscaping, parking lot, the VFR system, the boilers, and provided 6 years of RG&E billing data. Paul said everything is good, however it is difficult to find contractors. Many costs are down this year. We had a mild winter which resulted in less stress on our heating system. The Eagle Scout project is on hold because we need a dedicated team to guide them. People are monitoring the main entrance latching issue and this is going well and saving expenses. Paul detailed some of the potential water problems and the challenges of replacing ceiling tiles in the dropped ceiling.

The bathroom plumbing continues to clog. Gatti Plumbing provided an estimate to fix the problem, rather than just continually unclogging. We checked the funds in the Greater Messiah Fund and the Concord funds. Based on that information, Jim made the motion to approve the Gatti proposal of \$3,650 and Amy seconded it. Paul also made a motion to allow usage of the one quote and Amy seconded it. Both votes were approved unanimously.

- The Altar Guild requested \$352.50 from the memorial fund to complete the frontals for Pentecost. We made a motion for up to \$400 for this request and Jim seconded it. This was approved unanimously.

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Looking Ahead:

- Synod Assembly is June 2 and 3rd in Syracuse. Shelly and Pastor Aileen, Pastor Hans and Larry Dennis will attend. They are registered and have hotel rooms.
 - There is a Synod Assembly appeal this year: The Bee Generous program funds bee colonies and gardens. Each congregation is challenged to raise \$440 or more. We should communicate the details of this ministry and get it into the bulletin asap. Donations should be brought to the Synod Assembly. Joanne will forward information to Laurie, and she will provide details to Cathy.

- The Sticky Lips fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity has been moved to June 1 and the menu has changed. The cost will be \$17. Sheri cannot be there to serve and will need assistance with setup, serving, and clean up. Cathy will add the fundraiser to the announcements and the newsletter. We approved signs on the property for the event and Sheri will be selling tickets. Sheri told us the Habitat coalition is shrinking and needs more volunteers. This could be an opportunity for the ecumenical congregations.

- Website update: Please get information to Dave Best ASAP

- Discipleship Workshop – Need to move the date from June 17 to the Fall. It is an opportunity to update our goals. We discussed how to measure involvement. What can we learn from the pandemic? How do we measure involvement? Should we revamp the Time and Talent form? How do we improve our engagement? Should we have an informal survey “what do you want”?

- June 15th is the registration deadline to march in the Pride Parade.

Next Meeting

Council Meeting – Thursday, June 8, 7:00 – 8:30 – Hybrid (use the OWL)
Devotions & prayer – Jim
Extended ministry report – Synod Assembly Report

Closing Prayer – Shelly closed our meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Laurie Simonson