

**Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Council Meeting Minutes – March 2, 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 because of COVID-19.

**Devotions and Opening Prayer** – Andy opened the meeting with devotions. He showed a clip of a movie; temptation of Christ and we shared our thoughts. Andy led our opening prayer.

Joanne led the meeting.

**Agenda Review** – no changes were proposed.

**Approval of February 2, 2023 Meeting Minutes** - We visually approved them.

**Financial Reports** – We compared data from 2022 and January 2023 and discussed the very interesting patterns.

**Covid Update** – Monroe County is stable with no significant changes in several months. Sheri will send out the policy for us to review for the next council meeting. We should better match what we have put into practice. We need to also keep the ability to reinforce previous guidelines based on CDC recommendations.

**Ministry Team Reports**

- Pastor Aileen:
  - Newsletter – We discussed reinstating the Herald newsletter; potential articles, and timing of deadlines. Anyone can write an article, not just council members. It would be both in paper and electronic. This could start in April. Ideas for articles and notices included carpooling.
  - Volunteers – There has been a lack of volunteers. We need to invite people, just posting in the bulletin is not effective. Can use the Time and Talent forms. There were a low number of forms returned this year. Perhaps the form and process should be changed, are there too many choices? Any new ideas are welcome.
  
- Extended Ministry Team Report –
  - Outreach: Mark provided an update. He included the possibility of a Time and Talent fair, which would provide time for questions and answers. Mark said the Food Distribution ministry runs itself. The RIT dinner last week was great fun. The coffee hour is also running itself. It was suggested we post directions on how to set up and make coffee, where the snacks are etc If people are confident in the process, there might be more people signing up. Mark would like to have another computer workshop and provide more people with laptops.
  - Stewardship: Jim discussed the Time and Talent process. He suggested the Stewardship team review current information and propose a new format to bring to the council. The 2023 theme is to live generously and sharing talent is a part of this theme. We could do some event each month and focus on talent, doesn't need to be a physical talent. Jim shared many ideas we can implement after Easter. One is a box in the narthex with paper

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and people could write down statements like “I am grateful for someone who does \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_.”

**Looking Ahead:**

- New Member breakfast – we voted to cancel and reschedule because of predicted bad weather. Cathy will call people and reschedule it for Saturday, April 1, 2023 at 9:30. New members will have the choice of being welcomed at the 10:00 service either this Sunday or in April.
- Discipleship workshop: Scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 2023. Paul will not be able to attend.

**Next Meeting**

**Council Meeting** – Thursday, March 30, 2023 7:00 – 8:30  
Devotions & prayer – Mark  
Extended ministry report – Review MELC COVID policy  
No meeting in April

**Closing Prayer** – Andy led the closing prayer.

Submitted by Laurie Simonson