Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes – March 30, 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 – Mark started our meeting with prayer.

Joanne led the meeting.

Agenda Review – no changes were proposed.

Approval of March 2 Minutes - They were sent too recently for review**.**

Financial Reports – There was a problem with the reports, we will review February and March in a future council meeting.

Covid Update
- Update - We reviewed our COVID-19 policy, discussed the ending of the National Emergency and Public Health Emergency, and voted unanimously to discontinue the MELC COVID-19 policy as of 3/30/2023. Pastor will include this message in her next Pastors Note. Masks and sanitizer availability will continue, as well as the recommendation to stay home if sick and use the option for Zoom worship.
- Building Use by Outside Groups – An outside group has asked for information regarding using our space for an event for 50 people on Saturday, May 27. We discussed the logistics of their request and what they would need to use in the kitchen. Pastor will get back to them and explain our pricing. We will review our room rental form including a waiver and a pricing increase.

Ministry Team Reports
- Pastor Aileen:
    - Extended Ministry Report – Pastor Aileen will be moving away from the current "Pastors Notes" and we will return to sending out our newsletter, the Herald. The target date for the first edition of 2023 will be June 1. Articles are due by May 15. Pastor gave examples of what would be interesting for council members to include in the Newsletter.
    - Pastor told us about the William Shortz Memorial Scholarship for high school seniors, and we unanimously agreed to provide $100 towards the $500 scholarship. Cathy will have an announcement in the bulletin with information regarding the essay and application process.
    - Pastor told us about some changes at the synod level.

- Property: Paul
    - Paul reviewed the property report with us, including repaired Fellowship doors and tree maintenance quotes. The elevator needs an upgrade again.
    - Both the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts want to use the larger Fellowship Hall space on the same night. We are trying to accommodate their requests and concerns. Pastor will propose ideas of time change and/or more tables and chairs to the Girl Scout leader so they can accommodate the space needed for 14 scouts and 2 leaders.

- o Paul showed us several proposed new signs for outside in front of the church so we could see what a new laminate laid over the current sign could look like. More discussion to follow.

- Extended Ministry Team Report –
  - o Stewardship: Jim told us he would start the Stewardship of Talents Program kick off with a temple talk, and announce what we will be doing, including the drop box in the Narthex. He brought up Visual Arts, Textiles, Performing Art, Gardening, and Talent Show and Tell. Commitment Sunday is scheduled for November 5.
- New Member Brunch is April 1ˢᵗ. IT will be for about 25-28 people and should start at 9:30.
- Easter Sunday – No Coffee Hour that day. We will hand out easter eggs with notes inside like "Jesus Loves You". Pastor, Cathy, Shelly, and Joanne will work on this project.

Looking Ahead:
- Website update: Please get information to Dave Best ASAP.
- Discipleship workshop: Goal review and setting date. Currently scheduled for Saturday, June 17, 2023. Paul will not be able to attend.

Next Meeting
> **Council Meeting** – Thursday, May 4, 7:00 – 8:30
> > Devotions & prayer – Shelly
> > Extended ministry report – Property

Closing Prayer – Mark led the closing prayer.

Submitted by Laurie Simonson