

Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2023

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

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

We met via Zoom.

Devotions and Opening Prayer – Janet started our meeting with devotions and prayer. For devotions, Janet used a prior study group book about four acts of love – “Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore: And How 4 Acts of Love will Make your Church Irresistible by Thom and Joani Schultz. The four acts of love are radical hospitality, fearless conversation, genuine humility, divine anticipation.

Joanne led the meeting.

Agenda Review – No additions

Approval of June 8 and July 27 minutes – (Sending 9/23/23 for approval)

Financial Reports – Janet sent the reports this morning. We reviewed the thumbnail summary. There is an improvement with giving. There was a positive cash flow in both June and July. Budget percent is about 4% short of target. We clarified some other church expenses.

Ministry Team Reports

- Pastor Aileen:
 - New position update - Pastor sent her August 2023 report, including an update with the Synod work and August meetings with the Bishop, Synod Staff and with her Synod partner as needed.
 - 25th Anniversary Celebration – Sheri, Tarra, Meghan, Shelly, and team are working on this luncheon event. Pastor Hans and a variety of guests will be speaking. We will be celebrating our 16 years together.
- Extended Ministry Report:
 - Adult Faith Formation: Andy reviewed all the many thriving Faith Formation ministries via screen sharing. He said the library needs a volunteer. We suggested a focus on spiritual gifts and perhaps we will have a survey in the bulletin.
- Property Report – Paul discussed the three-person Security Team and he talked to the police. There is no longer a police community affairs group. If we have a security issue we need to call 911 and leave a message for police that patrols our area. There is a natural gas issue and parts are on order. We don't have an idea yet of the cost, but there will be many man hours. We have a request for usage of our space for a baby shower on Saturday September 23 or 30. There will be no stove, no hot water so no charge for using the kitchen. We have a quote of \$950 for a new lawn sign. We discussed repair of the sign and deferred it to spring of 2024 and a new budget. We can add \$1000 to the Communications budget.

Looking Ahead:

- Nominating Process
 - Nominating Committee – we need to fill 3 council positions. Shelly and Joanne cannot continue serving their current rolls on council. Paul could serve a second term. We need one council member on the nominating committee. Shelly could meet with the

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nominating committee. They need to meet and recommend potential council candidates.

- Mutual Ministry staff evaluations. Meet in Mid-October

- Harassment Prevention Training – We are sending online NYS training instruction and links to all staff members. The new Messiah Evangelical Lutheran Church Harassment Prevention policy will be made available on our website when it completed. Considering training all leaders in 2024.

Upcoming Dates: Discipleship Workshop:

- October 14 at 9:00 – 12:00. Continental breakfast and light lunch.

Next Meeting Date:

Council Meeting – Thursday, October 12 7:00 – 8:30 (Andy cannot attend)

Devotions & prayer – Paul

Extended ministry report – Stewardship

Closing Prayer – Janet closed our meeting with prayer.

Submitted by Laurie Simonson