

EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

DATE: December 4, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Carol Christianson, Judy Vollbrecht, Dick Vollbrecht, Verlyn Rebelein, Susie Krohn, Russel Salter, Mary Fairbank, Pat Grams, Diane Fenendael

CALL TO ORDER: 4:00 p.m. by Judy Vollbrecht.

DEVOTIONS: See Pastor's Report

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA: Motion to approve Agenda by Verlyn Rebelein; Second, Mary Fairbank; Motion approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Motion to approve Council Meeting Minutes for November 6, 2023 by Mary Fairbank; Second, Verlyn Rebelein; Motion approved.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Carol distributed the Pastor's Report referencing Unity and Maturity in the Body of Christ - Ephesians 4:1-16 and Taming the Tongue – James 3:1-12. Conflicts arise in every organization, every community. As the scripture from Ephesians so clearly points out, there is a healthy biblical way to speak to one another. We can, as Christians, talk to one another in love and charity, having a positive desired outcome as the result. Together, we can be a family who loves one another, who respects one another, who wants to grow together as the family of God.

Bible Study was well-received; however, it was put on hold after Pastor Carol broke her ankle. it will resume after the first of the year.

Pastor Carol will partner with Charlotte Rebelein to hold a two-week study on the book Charlotte chose for book study (*In the Footsteps of the Savior* by Max Lucado) since the books have already been purchased.

All Saints Day: The candles were well-received. Will tweak a little for better support of small taper candles for next year.

First Communion/Confirmation: Pastor Carol offered first communion to one family for a family member if the family desires this sacrament.

Home Visits: Pastor Carol will resume home visits when she is able to navigate safely after her ankle is healed. Discussion of the possibility of a Lay Eucharistic Minister. Russel Salter volunteered to bring home communion to those who wish it.

Hymn selection committee has been put on hold until further notice.

Advent is off to a good start.

Discussion on having an Automatic External Defibrillator in church. No final decision made. Hand rails will be installed this coming Wednesday for downstairs bathroom at the parsonage.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Banners for the church were purchased using money from the Memorial fund in memory of those that have passed.

The committee for the 150th anniversary met December 2. The meeting went well with a lot of decisions made. We are going to have a pig roast at our celebration. Need to order the banner for the front of the church, started working on invitation ideas, working on guest list, creating a booklet, and entertainment ideas.

Our November outing was at St. Paul's Cathedral in Fond du Lac for a concert. After that we went out to eat at Salty's. The outings for the winter months will be discontinued because of unsafe walking and driving conditions in winter.

We are giving missionary money to Phillip Knutson. We should have a video or something from Phillip Knutson about his missionary work. We may look into a different mission if we don't hear from him.

We have stopped printing children's bulletins. If there are children, we give them Christian coloring books which they can take home with them.

We had the 2024 executive budget meeting on November 15, 2023.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer's Report for November, 2023 was distributed. Susie Krohn reported the \$1,500 Grant Designated – Harold & Grace Kurtz 150th Anniversary Celebration May 2024. Bill for snow removal was received for \$200. Some questions need to be asked about amount of salt used. Money to be transferred from savings for payment of gutters and guards. Amount of savings will be down next month. Discussion not to use Gary Pearce funds until such time as market has improved. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report by Dick Vollbrecht; Second, Verlyn Rebelein; Motion approved.

LEARNING /YOUTH: Nothing to report.

MEMORIAL: Verlyn Rebelein reported banners for church (\$78.47) were paid for from Memorial fund. Balance is \$4,182.24.

PROPERTY: Dick Vollbrecht (Russel Salter) reported that gutters and guards have been put on the parsonage and church. Display case from Gysbers was picked up to be used for display of historical documents.

STEWARDSHIP/WITNESS/WORSHIP: No report.

EVENTS/FUND RAISING: Mary Fairbank reported that we are well situated for the cookie and candy sale. Blanket ministry is done. Blankets will be on display upstairs. They will be donated to Sleep in Heavenly Peace to be used for children in need.

OLD BUSINESS: Ring security cameras need to be activated. Need to have the church credit card for this to happen. Susie Krohn is still working to get the card through the bank. There would be a \$29 annual fee. Verlyn Rebelein looked into the possibility of getting a credit card for our church through Edward Jones. There would be a \$25 annual fee if we don't use the card.

Updates are continuing to be made to the Constitution. Pastor Carol suggested it could be realigned to the model Constitution.

Verlyn Rebelein will submit application for Webster's Grant which is due December 15, 2023.

Christmas Eve Services: 9:30 a.m. will be the 4th week of Advent service. 4:00 p.m. will be the Christmas Eve candlelight service. Both services will have communion.

NEW BUSINESS:

We will need two to three candidates to replace members who will be leaving the church council. Discussion will take place at the annual meeting which will be held on January 28, 2024.

Discussion was opened on the possibility of getting battery operated candles with remote controls. Cost is approximately \$54. Suggested to use memorial funds. Oil for the candles we have now would, of course, be used up. Mary Fairbank made a motion to order 20 battery operated candles; Second, Judy Vollbrecht; Motion approved.

Council members reviewed and discussed the proposed 2024 budget which will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting on January 28, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn at 7:05 p.m. by Verlyn Rebelein; Second, Dick Vollbrecht; Motion approved.

LORD'S PRAYER

NEXT MEETING: Monday, January 8, 2024 at 4:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Diane Fenendael, Secretary