

**St. John's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
April 23, 2019**

Members Present: President Kathi Bokano, Vice-President Melissa Westrick, Treasurer Kelly Barhorst, Secretary Jamie Inman, Krista Teschler, Joe Tinson Sr., Paul Meteyer, Christine Snooks, Pastor Roger Facione, Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) Enoch Carlton

Members Absent: None

Guests: Deborah Carlton and Gayle LeClair

AGENDA ITEMS

Call to Order: 7:00PM, by Council President Kathi Bokano.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Roger led the Council with an opening prayer- A Daily Prayer To Overcome Our Fears.

Minutes from the March 19, 2019 Church Council Meeting were reviewed. Krista Teschler made a motion to accept the March 19, 2019 Church Council Meeting minutes as presented with support from Joe Tinson, Sr. Motion passed unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Kelly Barhorst presented the Treasurer's Reports. The following reports were presented: Consolidated Fund Activity Report as of 1/31/2019, Balance Sheet as of January 31, 2019 and Treasurer's Report as of January 2019.

Under the Special Situation Fund entry of the Consolidated Fund Activity Report is an "Undeclared Special Situation Fund" for \$27.01. This was an income from Calvert. Kelly believes this may be for the Endowment Fund. Paul Meteyer will check with the Endowment Committee about that. Kelly also reported there appears to be a deposit that is \$50.00 short, the reason has not been determined yet but the situation is being reviewed. The monies from the Spaghetti Dinners are going into the Good Samaritan Fund.

Kathi Bokano thanked Kelly for the work she put in to simplify the reports. Kelly's work is greatly appreciated. Joe Tinson, Sr. made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report with support from Paul Meteyer. Motion passed unanimously.

Family Camping Weekend: Kelly Barhorst addressed the Family Camping Weekend. This year the dates are July 12-14. Kelly suggested, starting next year, setting the third weekend in July as St. John's Family Camping Weekend. That will make it easier to make reservations each year. Krista Teschler made the motion that starting in 2020 the third weekend of July be designated as the St. John's Family Camping Weekend. The motion was supported by Melissa Westrick. Motion passed unanimously.

Pastor Report (written and verbal discussion) Pastor Roger Facione presented his report.

- **Visitations-** Pastor Roger made visitations to Norb Hageman (5 visits), Judy Huebner (5 visits), John Wegner (1 rehab visit and 1 home visit), Jim Lind family

(1 visit), Marge Eick (1 visit), Dolores Nelson (2 visits), Clarence Huwe (2 visits), and Mina and Bob Abbey (1 visit). Pastor also visited Russell Dusetz's family to prepare his funeral and conduct the funeral.

- **Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter-** Pastor Roger thanked Minister Enoch, Choir Director Roger Bokano and the choir, the confirmands and their teachers, Alison White and the Altar Guild, Camille Miller and Joan Brown for their musicianship, Paul Meteyer and Tim Steffens, the Sunday School teachers, Worship leaders and Congregation members who volunteered their time and participated making our Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter Sunday all that it could be.

Pastor Roger shared the attendance figures for Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter services comparing the figures with last year:

2018 Palm Sunday 8AM- 28 Adults, 3 children. 10:15AM- 47 Adults, 3 children

2019 Palm Sunday 8AM- 30 Adults, 3 children. 10:15AM- 91 Adults, 21 children

2018 Maundy Thursday 7PM- 45 Adults, 7 children

2019 Maundy Thursday 7PM- 49 Adults, 10 children

2018 Good Friday Tenebrae 7PM- 55 Adults, 12 children

2019 Good Friday Tenebrae 7PM- 49 Adults, 2 children

2018 Easter Worship

8AM- 50 Adults, 6 children 10:15AM 106 Adults, 20 children

2019 Easter Worship

8AM- 55 Adults, 2 children. 10:15AM 159 Adults, 30 children

Pastor Roger noted that having families involved in the service helps with attendance and also enhances the purpose of the service.

- **New Member Activity-**
Kevin Behnke and Jennifer Costie, and daughter Natalie- Kevin and Jennifer's Affirmation of Faith and daughter Natalie's baptism is scheduled for Sunday, June 2 at the 10:15AM service.

Emma Grace Allen- The baptism of 5 month old Emma Grace Allen is scheduled for Sunday, June 23rd at the 10:15AM service. Her parents, Tracey and Paul became members of St. John's on Sunday, April 7th.

Kathy Sampson- Kathy is a single woman who has been attending the 10:15AM service for about six months. She informed Pastor Roger on Palm Sunday that after Easter she is traveling to Italy. When she returns she plans on meeting with Pastor Roger and arrange a time to make her Affirmation of Faith for membership at St. John's.

- **Spring and Summer Book Study-** The Spring and Summer Book Studies got underway on Thursday, May 4th. The first six weeks will be a study of Lee

Strobel's book "The Case For Faith". The books have arrived and members have been purchasing them. Please let Pastor Roger know if you would like to purchase a book. You do not need to participate in the study to purchase a book.

The Summer Study will follow with a study of the book of Ephesians. This is a six week study through the end of July with a break for the month of August. During August the congregation will be busy with Vacation Bible School and then hosting MCREST.

- **Mother's Day May 12th**- A special Call to Worship will be used as last year for Mother's Day. Children's Time will focus on the theme of "love", the unfailing love that God has for us, His children. And, how a Mom's love for her children is a similar love.

Last year the Church Council purchased carnations for the women of the church. Two weeks ago St. John's florist informed the church office that carnation orders for Mother's Day needed to be made by mid-April. Kathi Bokano and Pastor Roger discussed it at the time and made the decision to order the carnations. Council approval is now being sought so we have an official record of this action. This was unexpected, but now we know to come to Council in March to consider purchasing Mother's Day carnations.

- **Assistant to the Bishop Visit on April 24th**- Rev. Lauren Kirsch-Carr, Assistant to the Bishop will be visiting St. John's on April 24th. She is coming here to learn about our ministries, the progress being made on our Two-Year Plan, and the Ministerial Team Vision that the Executive Committee is developing. It would be prudent to discuss the visit during this Council Meeting.
- **The Future Of St. John's Children and Youth Ministry**- The Ministerial Team Vision being developed by the Executive Committee, along with the impending change of leadership of our Sunday School with the retirement of its leader Alison White. Alison has done an extraordinary job with the Sunday School and her retirement is potentially a watershed moment for St. John's.

Pastor Roger suggests that we consider planning a Work Session sometime in June or July to do some visioning on the future of St. John's children and youth Ministry. Pastor Roger believes the insight we gain from the meeting with Rev. Lauren may help inform the need for this kind of futuristic planning.

Whether or not the Work Session takes place, Pastor Roger recommends some sort of special recognition be given to Alison for all her years of service as the Leader and Sunday School teacher. The Special Congregational Meeting on May 5th would be a natural time for that recognition. Council may wish to do so at that time.

- **Ministerial Meetings**
 - Blue Water Conference**- The Blue Water Conference met on March 19th. They had a presentation on Samaritas (formerly Lutheran Social Services) on the ministries they provide. There was also a presentation from Ms. Pat Hartig,

Regional Gift Planner for the ELCA Foundation. Ms. Hartig informed everyone she is happy to meet with local church councils and/or endowment committees to review parish endowment policies and help planning for the future.

Minister Enoch provided an update on the NARCAN Training and the Youth Lock-In being made available to the churches.

There is no April meeting for the Blue Water Conference due to Holy Week and Easter. The next meeting is Tuesday, May 21st, 10AM at our church. There is no lunch involved, but we are expected to provide morning breakfast goodies, coffee, tea and water. St. John's is also expected to give a brief overview what is taking place at St. John's, as it was done for the Anchor Bay Ministerial Group in February. Council leadership will be needed make this as successful as the Anchor Bay Ministerial Group meeting was in March.

- **Anchor Bay Ministerial Meeting-** At the March 27th meeting Pastor Roger and Minister Enoch received a lot of positive feedback from the group on their visit to St. John's. The group enjoyed the food, presentation by Council leadership, and the tour of the church.

The primary topic for the March meeting was the upcoming "ForAnchorBay Weekend of Service" on Saturday, April 27th and the Sunday, April 28th Biker's Visit (Blessing of the Bikes). Both Minister Enoch and Pastor Roger expressed their desire to have St. John's participate in these events.

A motion was made by Krista Teschler with support from Melissa Westrick to accept Pastor Roger's Report and the purchase of the Mother's Day carnations. Motion passed unanimously.

Minister Enoch Carlton L.L.M. Report- Minister Enoch presented his report.

- **Visitations:** Minister Enoch made visitations to Norb Hageman (3 visits), Dee Inman (1 visit), Jim Penzien (1 visit), Dolores Nelson (1 visit), Wayne Allen Sr. (1 visit). Later this month Minister Enoch has scheduled visits for Clarence Huwe, Marge Eick, Clara Schoen, Marie Johansson, Bob & Mina Abbey, and Jim & Julie Lind.

Minister Enoch also met with Russell Duset's family for preparing Russell's funeral and assisted Pastor Roger with the funeral.

Minister Enoch reported that April has been a wonderful month celebrating the Lenten season and blessed resurrection of our Lord with all our sisters and brothers. Minister Enoch extended thanks to Christine Snooks and the Education Committee for preparing the gift bags. Our members extend their gratitude to the church for their care and time. Minister Enoch apologized for the number of later visits this month; he had Final Exams this month.

Minister Enoch noted that our homebound member Marie Johansson enjoys receiving cards. If anyone would like to send her a card, please send it to: Marie Johansson, 14650 Lakeside Circle, Room 3020, Sterling Heights, MI 48313.

- **Upcoming Events:** Saturday, April 27th from 9AM-11AM about 25 members of St. John's will be participating in the "ForAnchorBay" community service day. Sunday, April 28th after the second service is the "Blessing of the Bikes" (motorcyclists and their motor cycles) in New Baltimore.
- **Youth Lock-In:** Minister Enoch met with Kyle Larsen about an overnight Youth Lock-In. Details are in the works and will be presented to the Christian Education Committee, very soon and then to the Church Council.
- **Summer Mission Camp:** Minister Enoch is waiting to hear back from the coordinators of the camp, if he does not receive information soon, then Council may want to reconsider St. John's participation.
- **Youth Advisory Board:** Minister Enoch will be meeting with the Christian Education Committee in May to discuss St. John's Youth Advisory Board, and possible members. They will also discuss a weekly youth-and-family meeting/service.
- **NARCAN Overdose Prevention Training:** St. John's will be hosting a NARCAN overdose prevention seminar on June 2nd at 1:00PM. Attendance is by reservation only. Please contact Minister Enoch at 586-484-8407 for more information or to register. Fliers will be included in the worship bulletins beginning the first Sunday of May and running through the entire month. There are 50 spaces available.
- **Anchor Bay Ministerial Alliance:** On March 27th at Noon, Minister Enoch and Pastor Roger met with the other ministers and pastors at Woods church. The focus of the meeting was on the "ForAnchorBay" service weekend and the "Blessing of the Bikes". Everyone at the meeting is excited about participating in these events.

A motion was made by Krista Teschler with support from Melissa Westrick to accept Minister Enoch's Report. Motion passed unanimously.

File Cabinets- Kathi Bokano informed the Council that Kelly Barhorst has arranged to have four file cabinets (for \$300.00) purchased for St. John's. Kelly's husband, Scott brought them to the church so there was a short break in the meeting to help unload the file cabinets and put them in the office. *(Note- Kelly had her two-year old twin daughters with her during the meeting and left the meeting for home after the file cabinets were delivered).*

Committee Reports:

Christian Education Committee Report- Chris Snooks provided the Christian Education Committee Report. The Confirmation students co-led the Maundy Thursday service and they filled the Easter Eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. Alison White will speak

with Charlene Barrett about having the Confirmands handle the Mission Projects during the summer. It has become too difficult to coordinate that with the Sunday School students.

Christian Education Committee will host a Mother's Day Coffee Hour, money from the Bingo party will cover it. The Committee will also provide a cake for Greg Larsen and Ben Wrobel who are being Confirmed on June 9th. The Committee will also host an End of the Year Celebration for the students. Student bibles will be handed out on Confirmation Sunday (June 9).

Vacation Bible School (VBS)- The first VBS planning meeting will be on Saturday, June 1st at 10AM. First Congregational Church and North Shore will be informed. Vacation Bible School will be from July 24-Aug 2, 2019. Plans for the Youth Advisory Board are being worked on.

Member Care Committee Report- Gayle LeClair and Debb Carlton provided the Member Care Committee Report. The Online Church Directory is being worked on. The current member contact information has been completed and about 46% of the photos are complete. The cutoff date for photos is set for the end of May. The announcement will be updated to make sure congregation members understand there is no cost for this. Debb Carlton, Paul Meteyer, Nancy Steffens, and Krista Teschler will be contacting members regarding the photos.

Mentoring/Shepherding New Members: This will be the next big focus of the Committee. The Committee discussed using the new member folders to help create an outline for what to include.

Visitor Bookmarks- Debb Carlton received a price quote from Eastside Printing to have bookmarks printed and hole-punched: 500 bookmarks = \$144.00, 1000 bookmarks = \$166.00. Eastside Printing informed Debb that laminating the bookmarks would increase the price significantly. The card stock is sturdy. They informed Debb they could make Communion cards also. Debb will check with Brenda in the church office on what the cost of current Communion cards.

Children's Church- The Committee is searching for a coordinator for Children's Church during the summer months. Krista Teschler spoke with Becca Meier who is interested in helping but not taking on the role of coordinator.

Prayer Circle- The Committee discussed the prayer circle emails/calls and how well it is facilitated. The option for more follow through or updates so members are aware the updates or changes for the people we pray for.

A motion was made by Krista Teschler with support from Melissa Westrick to accept the Member Care Report and purchase 1000 bookmarks costing \$166.00 and the money come from the Worship & Music Committee fund. Motion passed unanimously.

Special Congregational Meeting on May 5, 2019: Kathi Bokano reviewed the agenda for the Special Congregational Meeting to be held on May 5, 2019. Call to order and an Opening Prayer will start the meeting. The quote for the technology update for St.

John's will be presented and approval for the funding will be sought. The agenda will also include Good of the Church for comments from the Congregation.

A motion was made by Melissa Westrick to approve the agenda for the May 5, 2019 Special Congregational Meeting with support from Chris Snooks. Motion passed unanimously.

Synod Emergency Tornado Relief Appeal- Kathi Bokano shared information regarding the Synod Emergency Tornado Relief Appeal. The Synod is asking churches for help with donations to address the numerous tornadoes that devastated areas of the country. The Council discussed the appeal, and the information will be included in the church bulletin. Jamie Inman will relay the information to the church office so it will be included. A motion was made by Joe Tinson Sr. to donate \$1000.00 from the Good Samaritan Fund for the Synod Emergency Tornado Relief Appeal. Paul Meteyer supported the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Church Council Meeting Date Change- Kathi Bokano led a discussion about moving the Church Council Meeting date. She suggested moving the meeting date to the last Tuesday of the month. That would make it easier for the Treasurer Kelly Barhorst. Also, Secretary Jamie Inman sometimes has a Township meeting which conflicts with the third Tuesday. A motion was made by Krista Teschler to move the Church Council Meeting to the last Tuesday of the month, starting with May 2019. Jamie Inman supported the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting with the Assistant to the Bishop Lauren Kirsch-Carr- Kathi Bokano informed the Council about the upcoming April 24th meeting with Rev. Lauren Kirsch-Carr, who is the Assistant to the Bishop. Pastor Roger, the Executive Committee, and Chairs of the Member Care Committee will meet with her and review the Ministerial Team Vision for St. John's. The meeting is at Noon on April 24th.

Queen's Breakfast- Kathi Bokano informed the Council that the Queen's Breakfast at St. John's during Bay-Rama needs to be approved. Melissa Westrick made a motion to approve the Queen's Breakfast to be held at St. John's on June 23, 2019. Krista Teschler supported the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Green Day- Gayle LeClair spoke about the upcoming Green Day when flowers will be planted in St. John's gardens between the church and the Educational Building. The plans are to clean up the gardens and plant flowers in the pots. Then, on May 25th plant the rest of the flowers. Funds will be needed. Gayle suggested hiring Chad Gira (who does the lawns and snow-plowing for St. John's) to spread the mulch this year. This is a heavy job, and most of the people volunteering would have difficulty with it. Chad will spread the mulch for \$60.00 per yard which would come to \$240.00 for our purposes.

A motion was made by Krista Teschler with support from Melissa Westrick to use up to \$500.00 from the Landscaping/Gardens/Gazebo Memorials Fund for the mulch spreading and purchasing flowers and plants. Motion passed unanimously. Paul Meteyer and Gayle LeClair will also ask for donations from the congregation.

Rise-Up Campaign- No action taken at this meeting.

Universal Directory- Melissa Westrick updated the Council concerning Universal Directory, the company originally contracted to produce St. John's directory. Melissa received a copy of what Universal Directory produced. She reviewed it and made some edits. Universal Directory can add photos. Melissa will load the photos we have on a USB (keeping a copy of it here) and send those to Universal Directory. Although we are developing the Online Directory, since Universal Directory made obligations and mismanaged the project, we'll see it through and get something from them.

Synod Assembly Update- Kathi Bokano provided an update on the Synod Assembly. Pastor Roger, Minister Enoch, Roger and Kathi Bokano are all registered and paid for the Synod Assembly. Minister Enoch is attending as a visitor.

Community Picnic for Families Against Narcotics (FAN) Update: Krista Teschler spoke about the Community Picnic to be held on July 21, 2019 (in St. John's parking lot). She received a copy of the flyer to use from Mark Miller of Little Camille's By the Bay. Krista is the contact person to place and pay for reservations. She is coordinating with Mark Miller who has been working on community sponsorships/reservations. Krista passed around the flyer for the Council members to review.

Security Upgrades- This will be discussed at another time.

Educational Building Rental Request- A request to rent the Educational Building has been made by Mike and Meghan Gonyeau for a First Communion party. They expect 60 people. The Gonyeaus are not members, but they have been attending our Spaghetti Dinners on a regularly. The fee will be \$200.00, and a \$100.00 refundable deposit.

A motion was made by Melissa Westrick with support from Krista Teschler to grant the request to rent the Educational Building for \$200.00 and a \$100.00 refundable deposit to Mike and Meghan Gonyeau.

Executive Committee Good Samaritan Fund Action- Kathi Bokano informed the Council that the Executive Committee took action to provide \$500.00 from the Good Samaritan Fund to support a newborn child. The child's mother died from cancer, the mother's friend has adopted the baby. These are close friends of a congregation member.

Next Meeting- May 28, 2019

Motion to adjourn (8:55PM). Motion by Melissa Westrick, support from Krista Teschler Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jamie Inman