

**St. John's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
February 19, 2019**

Members Present: President Kathi Bokano, Secretary Jamie Inman, Krista Teschler, Joe Tinson Sr., Pastor Roger Facione, Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) Enoch Carlton

Members Absent: Vice-President Melissa Westrick, Treasurer Kelly Barhorst, Paul Meteyer, Christine Snooks

Guests: Deborah Carlton

AGENDA ITEMS

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

Opening Prayer: Pastor Roger Facione started the meeting with a prayer written by Mother Teresa

Minutes from the January 15, 2019 Church Council Meeting were reviewed. Krista Teschler made a motion to accept the January 15, 2019 Church Council Meeting minutes as presented with support from Joe Tinson Sr. Motion passed unanimously.

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

- **Visitations-** Pastor Roger made visitations to Russell Dussett (2 hospital visits, 8 visits at rehab facility), Norb Hageman (5 visits), Clarence Huwe (1 visit), Marge Eick (1 visit), Bob and Mina Abbey (1 visit), Jim and Julie Lind (1 visit), Dolores Nelson (1 hospital visit and 1 home visit), Linda Meteyer (1 hospital visit), Diane Bossenbery (1 hospital visit), Janet and Wayne Allen, Sr. (1 visit), Jackson Kaltenbach (1 hospital visit), Lorraine Meteyer (1 hospital visit).

Pastor Roger informed the Council that Jackson Kaltenbach is scheduled to be going home from then hospital tonight. He also informed the Council Lorraine Meteyer is scheduled to return home tomorrow.

- **New Member Activity:**
Rebecca Meier and Tayon (TJ) Rogers/ daughter, Aniela- Pastor Roger met with Rebecca and Tayon at their home on January 26th. They both want to make their Affirmation of Faith for Membership and have their 16 month old daughter, Aniela baptized at St. John's. The tentative date is Sunday, March 24th at the 10:15AM service. Pastor Roger explained to them this was pending Church Council approval at the February Council meeting.

Both Rebecca and TJ have been baptized and confirmed. They have been worshiping with us for about four months and Rebecca has also been singing in our church choir. Rebecca and TJ wish to be married at St. John's. The tentative date they have set is February 14 (Valentine's Day), 2020.

Judith Gulliver- Judith desires to make her Affirmation of Faith for Membership in our church. Judith is baptized and confirmed. She has been worshiping with us

for about six months. She is retired, with two grown daughters. Judith is active in the Christian Masonic women's organization: Eastern Star. The tentative date for Judith to make her Affirmation of Faith for Membership is Sunday March 3, at the 10:15AM service. She understands Church Council approval is needed at our February Council meeting for this to occur.

Kevin Behnke, Jennifer Costie, and her daughter Natalie: Kevin and Jennifer live together with Jennifer's daughter Natalie. They have both been baptized and confirmed, and have worshiped in the Missouri Synod Lutheran tradition. They wish to make their Affirmation of Faith for Membership in our church and have Natalie baptized. They are considering dates in April and May. Kevin's family lives in Wisconsin so planning when to do so is more complicated. Pastor Roger recommends we approve going forward, and all will be scheduled when it fits their family and our church calendar.

John and Sara Klett- John and Sara have been worshipping with us a couple months at the 8:00AM service. They were married in 2017. John was born and raised Catholic. Sara was born and raised Lutheran in Germany. Both are baptized and confirmed. They wish to make their Affirmation of Faith for Membership on March 10th at the 8:00AM service. They know that Church Council approval is needed for this to occur.

- **Non-Member Wedding Request-** Corey Marston and Rachelle Finegan would like to be married at St. John's on Saturday, September 28, 2019. Corey grew up in New Baltimore and knows a number of members of our church. His brother Lane, works for the city of New Baltimore. Corey and Rachelle plan on moving into the area after they are married. Both are baptized Christians. They began to attend St. John's to see if they might want to unite with our church as members. Pastor Roger spoke with the Council President and shared with Corey and Rachelle that the fee for a non-member wedding was \$1,500.00. Pastor Roger also informed them that our Church Council would have to approve the non-member wedding and decide whether or not to waive the fee. Corey and Rachelle understand that Pastor Roger is taking their marriage request at St. John's to the Church Council for a decision.
- **Verbal Report on Potential New Members-** Pastor Roger verbally reported to Council that he is in discussion about membership with Kathy and Wayne Allen. They are non-members at Trinity Lutheran in Richmond. Kathy has been active as an Assistant Minister and Reader at Trinity. Pastor Roger spoke of another couple, Paul and Tracy Allen (unrelated to Kathy and Wayne Allen) who wish to have their 3 month-old daughter Emma Grace baptized at St. John's. They have moved to the area and someone in the community recommended St. John's to them.
- **2019 Lent and Easter:** Pastor Roger reviewed plans for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. The Lenten Season begins March 6, Ash Wednesday. Two services will be held; one at Noon and one at 7PM. The Confirmand students will assist in leading the 7PM service. They will meet before the service at Little Camille's for

dinner courtesy of the Council as a Thank-you for their service. This has previously been approved by the Council. Imposition of Ashes will take place at both services. Pastor Roger provided an attachment for the Holy Week and Easter service activities:

Palm Sunday Liturgy: The liturgy sections are the same as last year. There are changes to the Passion Reading (this year, from the gospel of Luke), music, choir anthem, and theatrical presentation "The Cross Maker" (Pastor Roger and Minister Enoch).

Maundy Thursday- Led by the Confirmands: All sections of the Liturgy, including the readings are the same as last year; except for the music, choir anthem, a "hand-washing reading" before the hands of the congregation are washed, and a new dramatic message. The reading and message are:
"Wash Our Hands- Not Our Feet" read by Betsy Facione
"God's Passion For Us" read by Kelly Barhorst and Krista Teschler

Good Friday- Tenebrae Service led by the Larsen Family: All sections of the Tenebrae Service are the same as last year; except for the Choir anthem. This service includes the seven last words of our Lord from the Cross.

Easter Worship- All sections of the liturgy are the same as last year; except for the scripture readings, music and choir anthem.

Pastor Roger provided a sample insert that we would like to include in the church bulletin starting February 24th. The insert describes all the Lenten and Easter Services and Activities taking place in the church this year. This is similar to the Advent/Christmas insert used this year. We received positive feedback that people appreciated having the information in one simple-to-see sheet. We need to recognize and thank our church secretary, Brenda Pedersen, for preparing the inserts.

The Lenten and Easter Devotional Materials approved by Council were ordered and have arrived at the office.

- **February Ministerial Meetings-** The Bluewater Water Conference meeting took place February 19th, 10AM at St. Peter Lutheran Church in St. Clair. Minister Enoch Carlton attended the meeting while Pastor Roger was with Lorraine Meteyer at the hospital for her elbow surgery.

Anchor Bay Ministerial Alliance- The January meeting of the Anchor Bay Ministerial Alliance was cancelled due to the ice storm at that time. The group is scheduled to meet at our church on February 27th at noon. We are asked to provide lunch for the February meeting of the group. About 8-12 ministers are expected to attend.

- **2019 Synod Assembly-** The registration materials are now available to congregations to register for the 2019 Southeast Michigan Synod Assembly. It is scheduled for May 17-18 at Calvary Lutheran Church in Clarkston, MI. The

church is now free to register Minister Enoch, Lay Leaders who will be attending, and Pastor Roger. If anything is needed from Minister Enoch or Pastor Roger please let them know, otherwise Pastor Roger trusts this will now occur.

Pastor Roger made a suggestion regarding having the Bishop visit St. John's For a number of years the Bishop has come to St. John's for the MCREST Healing Service. Pastor Roger suggested inviting one of the local Pastors or Ministers to help with the MCREST healing Service this year. Invite the Bishop to one of our 10:15 Sunday worship services, have him stay for a lunch/ working meeting.

A motion was made by Joe Tinson Sr., with support from Krista Teschler to accept the new members and baptisms outlined in Pastor Roger's report. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Krista Teschler, support from Jamie Inman to accept the non-member Marston Finegan wedding. Motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Joe Tinson Sr. to accept the Lenten/Easter schedule as presented in Pastor Roger's Report, with support from Jamie Inman.

Motion passed unanimously.

Synod Survey- The Southeast Michigan Synod sent a survey to the churches asking the churches about their activities. Council President Kathi Bokano read the survey questions as the Council answered them as a group. These are the questions and responses:

Ques.-Does your congregation have a Sunday morning time for Adult Education, Faith Formation, or Discipleship? Answer- Yes, Confirmation class

Ques- Does your congregation have a time for Adult Education other than Sunday morning? Answer – Yes, weekday and weekday evening, the Book Study

Ques- Does your congregation have any sort of program or effort to encourage daily personal devotion time for adults? Yes- the weekly email from the church contains devotional Bible verses.

Ques.- Does your congregation have any sort of program or effort to encourage daily personal devotion time for family units? Yes, the devotional booklet materials, weekly email.

Ques- Does your congregation have any sort of program that intentionally provides for mentoring adults in Discipleship? Answer- No

Ques.- Does your congregation have any sort of progressive education program where congregants are encouraged to take a level one course, then a level two course, etc. progressing through steps that encourage growth in discipleship? Answer- No.

Ques.- Does your congregation encourage people to form into small groups for purposes of Faith Formation? Answer- No

Ques. Are you willing to have Pr. Sean Ewbank (from the Synod) contact you for a follow-up question? Answer- Yes.

Kathi will send in the survey results.

Community Picnic Proposal- Kathi Bokano informed the Council that the idea of a Community picnic at St. John's this summer was proposed by Mark Miller of Little Camille's. The vision was St. John's would host the picnic in the church parking lot, Little Camille's would cater it, tickets would be sold in advance to local churches and the public, and proceeds after costs would go to a community project or charity. A tentative date of July 21st was suggested.

The Council discussed the idea and had some concerns with how intense the details of planning and execution might be. Since four of the Council members are not present at this Council meeting it was suggested that the Executive Committee meet with Mark Miller to go over the details and report back to the Council at the next meeting before making a decision. A motion was made by Krista Teschler to meet with Mark Miller and outline the details and timeline for a Community Picnic at St. John's. Support from Jamie Inman. Motion passed unanimously. Kathi Bokano will set up the meeting with Mark Miller.

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

- **Visitations:** Minister Enoch made visitations to Russell Dussett (2 hospital visits, 8 visits at rehab facility and two more visits scheduled this month), Norb Hageman (2 visits, and two more scheduled for February), Dee Inman (1 visit), Jim Penzien (1 visit), Clara Schoen (1 visit). Scheduled for later in the month Clarence Huwe (1 visit), Marge Eick (1 visit), Marie Johansson (1 visit), Bob & Mina Abbey (1 visit), and Jim & Julie Lind (1 visit).

Minister Enoch had the pleasure of making these visits and bringing chocolates from Chris Snooks for the homebound and the gifts of hand crafted crosses from our fellow member Duane Osbourn. Our homebound members are truly touched by the gifts and wish to extend their thanks to Chris, Duane and our church. Minister Enoch has reached out to the Member Care Committee asking if they will be willing to assist with homebound packages during the summer.

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.

- **Youth Ministry and Fun Day-** Minister Enoch is waiting on confirmation from some sources and has not heard back from them so there won't be a youth activity this month.
- **Upcoming Events-** Minister Enoch has spoken with Greystone Assisted Living and is waiting to plan a visit one Sunday in March. The plan is to do some singing and present each resident with a handmade cross from Duane Osbourn.

Minister Enoch hopes to have pizza and pop before or after the event. He also hopes to invite Mr. Osbourn to personally hand out the crosses. Minister Enoch will contact Choir Director Roger Bokano to help select and perform the songs. After coordinating with Greystone and others, a Sunday will be selected. That works for all involved.

- **Iseiah Concert hosted by St. Peters of St. Clair-** Last month Minister Enoch reported that Pastor Staib of St. Peters and their youth group are hosting contemporary young singer/artist, Iseiah, at their church on the weekend of November 8 through the 10th. They have invited area churches to attend and are now asking for financial help in supporting this event. The cost to host Iseiah will be between \$1500-\$2000 for the weekend. St. Peters has not asked for donation of a specific amount, but Minister Enoch believes if we do choose to attend the concert it would be appropriate to make some form of donation. Pastor Staib will have more information soon.
- **Youth Lock-In:** Details are still in the works.
- **Youth Ministry Fundraisers-** Minister Enoch reported that from his time in Capac and the conference meeting today he has some Youth fundraising ideas to share with the Council for input and approval. These include bottle/can return, Palm Sunday Breakfast, car wash, Super-bowl subs, bowling fundraiser.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE CHURCH

- **Bluewater Cluster Conference Meeting-** Minister Enoch met today with other Pastors and Ministers of our Cluster at St. Peter's in Port Huron. The meeting started with a short worship service in the sanctuary. They then met in a conference room where they were supposed to hear about candidacy and the Rise-Up campaign from Pastor Kirsh-Carr. Unfortunately she was unable to attend so the group heard some information from the bishop's office.
 - Tanzania mission trip being planned.
 - Two new interns beginning in the Synod.
 - One bishop's scholarship available for someone attending Trinity Lutheran Seminary
 - The Vacancy Report was shared
 - Discussion what the other churches were doing for Lent.

In closing Pastor Ken Greble of Calvary Lutheran shared information about their "Voice of Truth" Summer Mission Trip (a flyer was shared with the Council). This is a week-long mission/fellowship camp for youths and young adults taking place in Pontiac, MI. Churches join together for mission work, packing food for homeless, visiting assisted living facilities, and time for fun and fellowship. Minister Enoch says this would be a great opportunity for our youth and young adults to meet others in our Synod while doing God's work. The camp is July 14-

19, 2019, cost is \$200 for grades 6-12th, and \$125 for young adults 18-25 years old, and \$100 for adults 25 and older.

- **Narcan Overdose Prevention Training-** Minister Enoch spoke of this last month. There is growing concern in Macomb County of increased use of opioids and deaths from opioids. He has been in contact with Sue DeMara, who works for the Macomb County Community Mental Health Office. She sent minister Enoch the N.O.P.E. flyer and said her organization would be more than happy to come to St. John's to host an event. Pastor Staib originally informed Minister Enoch of this seminar because her church in St. Clair is unable to get a seminar in her area, so she asked if we could host it. Minister Enoch spoke with Pastor Staib; the best dates for her to attend are Sunday, May 5 or Sunday, June 2 after Noon.
- **Southeast Michigan Synod Lay Licensed Ministry Winter Retreat, January 19th and 26th 8:30AM-5:00PM:** Minister Enoch attended the Retreat and the Crucial Conversation seminar. The seminar defined Crucial Conversation and how training provides high leverage skills to effectively hold conversations where there are high stakes, opposing opinions, and strong emotions involved. Minister Enoch was given materials giving a basic idea of what the course included. The basic idea is to realize when a conversation has gone crucial or communication has gone silent or violent; and what to do to bring the conversation to a safe and positive place for all involved. Minister Enoch is glad to expand on the course ideas with Council at another time. Minister Enoch thanked the Council for allowing him to attend and for covering the costs associated with the course.
- **Anchor Bay Ministerial Alliance-** We are honored to host the next meeting of the Anchor Bay Ministerial Alliance here at St. John's, next Wednesday, February 27th at Noon. This is a great opportunity for Council members and congregation members meet other ministers and Pastors in our area.

Krista Teschler made a motion to accept Minister Enoch's Report, promote the "Voice of Truth" mission and host the Narcan Overdose Prevention Training Seminar (June 2). Support from Jamie Inman. Motion passed unanimously. Minister Enoch will check with Sue DeMara if June 2nd works for her.

Financial Report: Kelly Barhorst is absent this meeting, so the Financial Reports are tabled until next Council Meeting.

Annual Employee Review- Kathi Bokano presented the 2019 Ministerial Team and Employee Review Report. During January 21 and 22nd, February 6, February 13 and 14th the Executive Committee (Kathi Bokano, Melissa Westrick, Kelly Barhorst, and Jamie Inman) reviewed and amended the job descriptions/duties for the paid staff of St. John's, and conducted the employee reviews. The paid staff/employees are Pastor Roger, Minister Enoch, Choir Director Roger Bokano, Choir Accompanist

Joan Brown, Church Musician Camille Miller, and Administrative Assistant Brenda Pedersen.

This was the first time reviews were conducted for Pastors/Ministers of St. John's so the Executive Committee gathered input from Pastor Roger and Minister Enoch to clarify and amend duties of a Part Time Pastor, and Licensed Lay Minister. During the reviews of Pastor Roger and Minister Enoch a vision for St. John's, going forward, was discussed. The vision is spelled out in a separate report to the Council (and included in these minutes). All employees meet/exceed expectations for their job description/duties. Administrative Assistant Brenda Pedersen is successfully working towards learning all aspects of her position.

Each employee signed and dated their review form. They kept a copy and the original is filed in the office filing cabinet. The newly created/amended job descriptions/duties for Administrative Assistant, Part-Time Pastor, and Licensed Lay Minister were signed, dated, and filed. A copy was given to the individuals.

Executive Committee/ Ministerial Team Vision- Kathi Bokano presented the Executive Committee/Ministerial Team Vision report. When the Executive Committee met with Pastor Roger and Minister Enoch for their reviews we also discussed the vision for St. John's. Pastor Roger informed us that he is prepared to extend his call for one more year. Minister Enoch is pursuing his Bachelor's Degree and plans to graduate in the spring of 2020. At this time, he plans to be accepted in a program to become ordained. Our hope is once Minister Enoch graduates in 2020 he and Pastor Roger will begin to alter their worship leader schedule.

The transition would have Pastor Roger preside over two Sundays (instead of three) per month, and Minister Enoch would preside over two Sundays (instead of one) per month. Further transition would have Minister Enoch preside over three Sundays per month, and Pastor Roger presiding over one Sunday per month. The final transition would be to attempt to hire another Licensed Lay Minister to cover one Sunday per month. That would allow Pastor Roger to return as a congregation member of St. John's. Pastor Roger and Minister Enoch are agreeable with this vision. This will have to be presented and accepted by the Bishop.

Security Upgrades: Tabled until next meeting for Kelly Barhorst's report

Blessing of the Bikes Weekend: Tabled pending more information.

Bluewater Cluster: Meeting at St. John's, May 21, 2019, 10AM. St. John's will provide breakfast.

Rise-Up Campaign: Tabled until March Council meeting.

Technology Update: Kathi Bokano informed the Council that Kelly Barhorst has emailed the company Nomax for information.

Universal Church Directory Update: Kathi Bokano shared the information she received from Melissa Westrick regarding the company, Universal Church

Directory which took the photos and was supposed to supply church directories to St. John's. The company has been going through a lot of transition and they have lost the photos they took at St. John's.

In response to the disappointment with Universal Church Directory, our Member Care Committee is working on an online directory for the congregation, gathering information and photos from congregation members.

Member Care Committee Report: Debb Carlton presented the Member Care Committee Report from their February 10th meeting. Funeral luncheon supplies were moved to Nancy and Tim Steffen's home for storage until needed.

All demographic information available from current members has been uploaded into the Online Directory. Emails have been sent and announcements made requesting photos to be uploaded. Member Care members have offered to take photos of members, if they desire. Member Care will need to determine who else shall have administrative rights. Appropriate links for access are needed.

New Member Orientation Packets were reviewed/approved by Committee members. The packets include some historical information about St. John's. Once approved by the Church Council the packets will be distributed to new and recent members.

Souper Bowl Sunday Luncheon was a success. The Committee suggests having another Soup and Salad Luncheon after the second service on April 4, 2019.

Member Care Committee offers having Children's Church for the 2019 summer since Sunday School will be out then. The Committee is seeking a coordinator outside of the Committee. Member Care has also volunteered to assist with home visit packages during the summer months.

Melissa Westrick and Paul Meteyer will be presenting information about the Member Care Committee to the Confirmation students, as well as information on how they can serve as adults in May during one of their scheduled Confirmation classes.

Coffee Hour hosts are needed. The Committee discussed encouraging new people, solving access to the building, what supplies are available so out-of-pocket expenses can be eliminated.

Debb Carlton will set up a letter regarding the Giving Envelopes that are still in the Parlor and coordinate with Shirley Tinson. She also presented to Council and example of a Visitor's Information bookmarker from St. Mark's. Next Member Care Committee meeting is March 10, 2019.

Motion to accept the Member Care Committee Report made by Krista Teschler, support from Joe Tinson Sr. Motion passed unanimously.

St. John's Fish Fry- A motion was made by Krista Teschler to schedule St. John's Fish Fry for April 6, 2019 from 4-7PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Thank You Letter from Kevin and Meghan O'Bryan- Kathi Bokano read the thank-you letter from newly ordained Kevin O'Bryan and his wife Meghan. They are truly grateful for the gifts from St. John's upon Kevin's ordination. They appreciate the love and support from St. John's.

Motion to adjourn (9:10PM) made by Jamie Inman, support from Krista Teschler. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jamie Inman