

St. John's Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes January 15, 2019

Members Present: President Kathi Bokano, Vice-President Melissa Westrick, Secretary Jamie Inman, Treasurer Kelly Barhorst, Krista Teschler, Joe Tinson, Sr., Paul Meteyer, Christine Snooks, Pastor Roger Facione

Members Absent: Licensed Lay Minister (LLM) Enoch Carlton

Guests: Deborah Carlton

AGENDA ITEMS

Call to Order: 7:00PM, by Council President Kathi Bokano. (Jamie Inman arrived late due to another meeting he was attending this evening.)

Opening Prayer: Pastor Roger Facione started the meeting with two prayers: "A Litany of Rejoicing" by Desmond Tutu and "A Blessing" author unknown, borrowed from Canterbury Home, modified by Roger Facione.

Minutes from the December 18, 2018 Church Council Meeting were reviewed. Paul Meteyer made a motion to accept the December 18, 2018 Church Council minutes 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 John Wegner (2 hospital visits), Russell Dussett (2 visits), Norb Hageman (2 visits), Dee Inman (1 visit), Jim Penzien (1 visit), Clara Schoen (1 visit), Marie Johansson (1 visit)

- **Christmas Services- Attendance:**

Pastor Roger extended many thanks to all who were involved in making the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services so sacred and meaningful. He presented a sheet that shows the attendance of those services in the years 2016, 2017, and 2018. Weather does impact attendance. In 2017 the weather was very snowy, while 2016 and 2018 were both cloudy and cool. Using the list we can compare two years with comparable weather (2016 and 2018), and one snowy year, 2017. The information was shared with the church committees at the January 2019 meeting.

Christmas Eve Service Attendance:

The 4PM service attendance was in 2016 (116), in 2017 (119), in 2018 (125).

The 7:30PM service attendance was in 2016 (48), in 2017 (38), in 2018 (80).

The 10PM service attendance was in 2016 (50), in 2017 (25), in 2018 (35).

Christmas Day Service Attendance: in 2016 (20), in 2017 (10), in 2018 (27).

Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Attendance Totals:

In 2016 (234), in 2017 (192), in 2018 (267).

- **2019 Winter Bible Study Has Begun:** The winter book study is underway. The group is studying the book "Grace" by Max Lucado. The morning session had five participants and the evening session has 15 participants. Five books remain for purchase whether members participate in the study or just want to read the book for themselves.

- **2019 Lent and Easter Devotional Materials and Music:** Pastor Roger provided a list of proposed Lent and Easter Devotional Materials. Pastor Roger and Minister Enoch prepared the list and reviewed it with the Worship & Music Committee at the January Committee Night. The total cost is \$271.15. The cost last year was \$251.45. There is a small increase because we would be ordering for a few more children and adult material to accommodate the growth in congregational worship over last year.

Adult Devotional Booklets: "Hope-full Living" 80 booklets x .85/booklet = \$68.00.

Lenten Litanies (Sunday Worship): Series titled "Cross Marked," different theme each week. Set of 6: 5 weeks, Plus Ash Wednesday x 100 = \$37.00

Teens and Young Adult Devotional Booklets: "The See-Son of Lent" by David Meade, 20 booklets x .99 ea. = \$20.00

Kids Sticker and Activity/Devotional Sets: "Jerusalem Journey" 11 x17 Centerpiece and Stickers. Walk the road Jesus walked during the 40 days of Lent. 35 sets x \$1.69/set = \$59.15

African Palm Crosses: Hand made from Tanzania. 2 sets of 50 = 100 Palm Crosses = \$30.00.

Three-Nail Easter Coins: Coins feature three nails on one side with words "Father Forgive Them." The other side has a verse from 1 Peter 2:34 – "He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree. By his wounds you have been healed." It hooks on a keychain. 100 coins x \$.57/coin = \$57.00.

A motion was made by Joe Tinson, Sr. to purchase the Lenten and Devotional Materials with support from Paul Meteyer. Motion approved unanimously.

- **Ash Wednesday Day Services:** At the January Worship & Music Committee Meeting, we reviewed the Ash Wednesday Liturgy Service and having the Confirmation Class again lead the service this year. Ash Wednesday is March 6th this year. We had two Ash Wednesday Services last year. One was at Noon for those who didn't want to / or couldn't travel at night, and one evening service at 7PM. The choir sang at the 7PM service.

Pastor Roger recommends we have two Ash Wednesday Services again, with the evening service at 7PM. That gives members time to get home from work and have dinner before the service. If we want to change the time of the day service, Pastor Roger believes we have the flexibility to do so. That's up to the Council.

Pastor Roger also recommends that like last year the Council sponsor a dinner for the Confirmands and their teachers - whether at the church or at Little Camille's. It's a nice way of thanking them for helping with the service. Council action is required for this.

A motion was made by Melissa Westrick to have Ash Wednesday services at Noon and 7PM. Support from Kelly Barhorst. Motion approved unanimously.

A motion was made by Melissa Westrick to sponsor the dinner at Little Camille's for the Confirmands and their teachers. Support from Chris Snooks. Motion approved unanimously.

- **Five (5) Goals in Two-Year Plan:** Pastor Roger recommends at the January 27, 2019 Congregational Meeting we include on the agenda a progress report on the completion of our five Two-Year Plan goals. We did this last year and Pastor Roger believes this can occur as follows:

The Committee Chairs will have their year-end reports for their committees, four of the five goal areas will be addressed in the Committee Reports. Pastor Roger is glad to update the congregation on the progress made in St. John's participation with the Blue Water Conference Ministers Group and our local Anchor Bay Ministerial Alliance.

Last year the Church Council sponsored its annual retreat including church Committee members and others from the congregation interested in participating, on October 20, 2018. That retreat focused on progress towards completion of our Two-Year Plan. It's not too early to consider a date for the 2019 Retreat. If we set a date, we can announce it at the upcoming Congregational Meeting when we discuss the progress towards completion of the five goals in the Two-Year Plan with the congregation.

A motion was made by Kelly Barhorst to set the 2019 Retreat date as September 17, 2019. Motion supported by Melissa Westrick. Motion approved unanimously.

- **January Ministerial Meetings:**

Blue Water Conference: The Blue Water Conference is having its meeting of ministers from various Lutheran churches on Tuesday, January 15th, at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Port Huron. Pastor Roger and Minister Enoch are planning on attending.

Anchor Bay Ministerial Alliance: St. John's will be hosting the Wednesday, January 30th Anchor Bay Ministerial Alliance meeting at Noon that day. We are expected to provide lunch and Pastor Roger thanks the Council for taking the lead to do so.

There is an opportunity to provide a brief update on our church and its ministries on the agenda. Pastor Roger is meeting with the chair of the group, Pastor Lerrin Wentworth on Wednesday, January 16th to discuss some ideas that Pastor Roger would like to see the ministers group consider. Pastor Roger's intent is to see if Pastor Wentworth agrees with the ideas and is OK with discussing them at the meeting on January 30th. Pastor Roger is glad to speak a bit more about this during this Council meeting.

- **Additional Item-** Pastor Roger has spoken to non-member Corey Marston, who has asked to be married at St. John's in September 2019. Pastor Roger will meet with him. Corey has been attending a number of our services.

A motion was made by Joe Tinson, Sr. to accept Pastor Roger's report. Support from Chris Snooks. Motion approved unanimously.

Minister Enoch Carlton L.L.M. Report- Minister Enoch is unable to attend the Council meeting tonight. He is taking online courses to keep his schedule flexible. One of his online courses has a required online chat session with the instructor tonight. This is the only one scheduled for a Tuesday evening. He apologizes and hopes the Council understands. He has submitted his written report for Council review.

- **Visitations:** Minister Enoch went on visitations to Russell Dussett (2 visits and three more scheduled for January), Norb Hageman (2 visits, and three more scheduled for January), 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 and Pastor Roger had the pleasure of making these visits to our congregation members. Along with a blessing of Happy New Year, our members received gifts of a New Year's Blessing poem and cookies from our Sunday School students, Confirmand students and their teachers. Special thanks to Christine Snooks for the delicious cookies. Our brothers and sisters extend a measure of thanks to the church for the gifts and kind wishes.

- **Youth Ministry-** The next youth led Worship Service will be the 10:15AM service on January 20, 2019.
- **Youth Fun Day and Upcoming Events-** Kyle Larsen and Minister Enoch are working on details for an overnight lock-in at the church. Hopefully the details will be ready for the next Council meeting.
- **Blue Water Conference Meeting-** Pastor Roger and Minister Enoch met today with other clergy from the Blue Water Cluster at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Port Huron. There were about fourteen in attendance. After a brief devotional, the group shared some Synod news that included ceremonies throughout the Synod recognizing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Also there has been talk the Synod office may be moving, but that is just in the talking phase.

Pastor Joyce Partyka Staib from St. Peter shared that her church wants to host a young Christian singer named Iseiah T. Pastor Joyce and her youth met him at the most recent gathering and felt strongly about having him perform at their church. She asked for the cluster to support the event, but did not ask for financial help. Minister Enoch believes if St. John's Youth ministry does attend, we could make some sort of contribution. Minister Enoch will discuss it with Pastor Joyce and bring more information to Council. It is hoped the event would take place the first or second week in November.

After the meeting Pastor Joyce discussed with Pastor Roger and Minister Enoch more ideas and events we could share with her church. One example is an educational and training seminar about the opioid epidemic in Macomb and St. Clair Counties. Minister Enoch found an Oakland press article from 2/1/2018 by Jameson Cook stating "For the fifth straight year in 2017 Macomb County set the record of the most fatal drug overdoses in its 200-year history. County Medical Examiner, Dr. Daniel Spitz revealed the dubious accomplishment during a town hall meeting Wednesday night saying the number of drug deaths in 2017 exceeded 400, meaning more than one person per day in Macomb died due to overdosing on drugs." The ages of the deaths ranged from 16-92 years old. A medication, "Narcan" is available to counter an opioid overdose. Macomb County gives free seminars on the topic, along with a free overdose kit. Pastor Joyce would like us to host this event, according to her seminars are not available in her area. Minister Enoch will speak with Pastor Joyce, gather more information and bring it to Council for consideration and approval.

Pastor Joyce also extended an invitation to our high school students to attend a seminary trip to Gettysburg's ELCA seminary in February. Minister Enoch will share more information as he receives it. Minister Enoch feels fortunate this relationship has been established and that our youth and our church body will benefit from it.

- **Southeast Michigan Synod Lay Licensed Ministry Winter Retreat, January 19th and 26th 8:30AM-5:00PM.** – A reminder that Minister Enoch will be attending the Crucial Conversation Seminar at this retreat. The seminar includes Crucial Conversations Training which provides high leverage skills for effectively holding conversations where there are high stakes, opposing opinions, and strong emotions. Throughout the training he will have the opportunity to apply Crucial Conversation skills to real life challenges we may be facing. Minister Enoch will bring the information he receives to the February Council meeting.

Financial Report: Kelly Barhorst presented the Treasurer's Report as of December 2018 (Budgeted Expense), Treasurer's Report as of December 2018 (Current Expense), Consolidated Fund Activity Report as of 12/31/2018, Treasurer's Report as of December 2018, and the 2019 Budget with amendments to be discussed.

Kelly outlined the changes that are needed for the 2019 budget:

- Choir Accompanist salary was proposed as \$1760, adjusted to \$1,980 to cover 45 events instead of 40.
- Church Secretary salary proposed as \$9348.00, adjusted to \$9720.00 to cover extra hours worked.
- Employer FICA/Medicare was proposed as \$5651.00, adjusted to \$10,000. An error was made in the FICA calculation for 2018. That has been corrected for 2019.
- Worker's Compensation Insurance was proposed as \$500.00, adjusted to \$550.00 based on invoice history.
- Church Electricity was proposed as \$2200.00, adjusted to \$2500.00.
- Payroll Service was proposed as \$1500, adjusted to \$1100.
- Piano/Organ maintenance was proposed as \$1000, adjusted to \$500.00. This was for 2 tune-ups each for the pianos (Ed, bldg. and church) and organ tune-up. The pianos have been removed from the church and Ed building and replaced with a digital piano which does not require tune-up.
- Lawn Maintenance/Snow Removal was proposed as \$3600, adjusted to \$4200 due to price increase.
- Adult Education was proposed as \$300.00, adjusted to \$1500 to cover the cost of Devotional materials that were not indicated in original proposed budget.
- Member Care was proposed as \$2750, adjusted to \$2500.
- Church Staff Recognition/Gifts \$650.00 is added to proposed 2019 budget to cover Pastor's birthday gift and Employee Christmas gifts.

-Licensed Lay Minister Mileage Reimbursement was proposed as \$2000, adjusted to \$1400. Training/Further Education is being added to proposed 2019 budget as \$600. Kelly explained a mistake in calculating FICA in 2018 was discovered, corrected and the correct calculations are reflected for the amended 2019 budget.

Comparing Current Expense to Disbursements we are about \$2300.00 in the black. There was discussion about the adjustments amending the 2019 budget, what effect that will have, do our trends indicate we will meet expenses or fall in the red (negative)? The pledges received through the Stewardship Committee effort cover about 62% of Current Expense. But not everyone indicates a pledge, yet supports the church financially. We don't calculate an Income Budget.

At the January Congregational meeting the amended 2019 budget will be explained and noted that while 2018 was a good year for St. John's financially; to make 2019 a sound financial year our Congregation must continue to give to St. John's.

A motion was made by Paul Meteyer to accept the Financial Reports and the amendments to the 2019 budget which was approved at the November 2018 Congregational Meeting. Amended 2019 Budget to be presented at the January 2019 Congregational Meeting. Support from Melissa Westrick. Motion approved unanimously.

Committee Reports:

Christian Education Committee Report: Chris Snooks presented the Christian Education Committee Report. The Committee wants to host a Bingo night for St. John's families on Saturday, Feb, 23 from 2-4PM. There will be snacks and prizes, plus a nacho bar, ice cream bar, popcorn and beverages (water and lemonade). A free will offering will be collected.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) the planning stages. We would like to host VBS the week of July 29-Aug 2, 2019 in the morning. The Committee is reviewing different programs before deciding which one best interests the Committee. First Congregational will be contacted to join St. John's.

St. John's Ministry Projects are going well. Three more are scheduled before the school year ends. Those dates are February 24, March 24, and May 26.

Sunday School and Confirmation Classes collected change for God's Global Barnyard. This year we collected \$75.00

Sunday School and Confirmation Programs are going well. The Sunday School students did a wonderful job presenting the *Birth of Jesus* on Christmas Eve. The Confirmation students will be leading worship service 7PM on Ash Wednesday.

Melissa Westrick made a motion to approve the February 23, 2019 Bingo party from 2-4PM. Kelly Barhorst supported the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Worship & Music Committee Report: Kathi Bokano presented the Worship & Music Committee Report. The Committee reviewed and selected music for the Lenten and Easter Seasons.

The Lay Leader schedule covering February-June 2019 is being planned.

On 1/12/2019 starting at 9AM we will take down the Christmas decorations in the church.

Worship & Music Committee Report- cont.

Ash Wednesday 3/8/2019 will be a youth led service at 7PM and the Choir will perform at the service. The Committee recommends including a Noon Ash Wednesday service like last year.

Lent- The Bible Study, Max Lucado's "Grace" and "Fearless" book study will end the week before Holy Week. Lenten materials for the congregation and youth are being presented to Council for approval. The cost is \$271.15.

Palm Sunday 4/14/2019
Maundy Thursday 4/19/2019
Good Friday 4/20/2019
Easter 4/21/2019

Altar Guild- Regarding the status of Altar Guild supplies, Alison White is ordering more communion cups. We are asking for more people to sign up to help the Altar Guild.

Communion Bread schedule:

January- Stephanie Lindsey
February- Tim Steffens
March- Roger Bokano
April- Carol Olivares
May- Tom White

Choir-

Disposal of the baby grand piano in the church.

Purchase new Yamaha digital piano, need a new lamp (\$30) and different piano bench (\$100). Debb Carlton has shown interest in the upright piano in the Educational Building. No one else has come forward requesting it. She needs to make arrangements for delivery to her home.

For Good of the Committee, Technology Update- There is a meeting scheduled with Nomax on Thursday 1/10/2019 to receive a quote.

Member Care Committee Report: Debb Carlton presented the Member Care Committee Report. Committee member Nancy Steffens suggested hosting a Souper Sunday on February 3rd after the second service from 11:30-12:30. It ties in with Super Bowl Sunday and provide fellowship. It would be nice to offer this once a month.

The Committee discussed putting together welcome packets for new members and the Confirmands. The packets would provide a letter, basic information and history of St. John's. The Committee, with Council's approval, would like to start distributing these packets next month. A tri-fold brochure would be created for guests.

Debb Carlton and Krista Teschler provided information about using an online directory for St. John's. The Committee discussed the features of the online directory and

compared the information with the needs of the church. The Committee agreed that this online directory has the potential to be a great resource at St. John's and asks the Council to consider approval.

Member Care Committee Report – cont.

The online directory would allow congregation members with email addresses to set up a login ID and password. An Administrator from the congregation would be the only one updating, and editing information provided. The online directory can be printed so members can have a hard copy. St. John's has a 30-day trial period and after that the church would pay \$80.00 a year.

Melissa Westrick informed the Council that a representative from Universal Directory is traveling to Port Huron to meet with her. This is the company that was at the church, taking photos to put together our directory. Universal Directory has to put it together, produce a preliminary copy and have St. John's approve it. Then we will get that directory. Melissa Westrick and Debb Carlton will explain the situation with the directories at the Congregational meeting.

Chris Snooks made the motion to proceed with the online directory with support from Melissa Westrick. Motion approved unanimously.

Kelly Barhorst made a motion to approve the Souper Sunday on Feb 3, 2019 following the second service. Paul Meteyer supported the motion. Motion approved unanimously.

Outreach Committee Report- Joe Tinson, Sr. provided the Outreach Committee Report. The Committee would like to have St. John's participate in the Bay-Rama parade with a float. To take this on they believe they will need a committee of six people to take on the planning and construction of a float. This will be a topic for the January Congregational meeting.

Blankets for Children's Hospital- the Committee believes we should start announcing in June about collecting the blankets.

Mardi Gras will be March 3, 2019 from 11:30AM-2PM, if Council approves. Melissa Westrick made a motion to approve Mardi Gras for March 3, 2019 from 11:30AM thru 2PM in the Educational Building. Support from Kelly Barhorst. Motion approved unanimously.

Facilities Committee Report- Paul Meteyer provided the Facilities Committee Report listing items that need to be tended to and items that have been finished.

- The church was power washed in the summer of 2018.
- Trees have been trimmed by the church and the parking lot.

These items need to be taken care of:

Spring:

- Glaze windows in parlor and paint window frames
- Repair lantern on front of church steps
- Repair and seal parking lot, need quotes

- Re-paint area going to classrooms and bathrooms
- Need door between classrooms and bathrooms
- Extra hand rail down front steps to classrooms
- Back steps handrails to bathrooms

Facilities Committee Report, items to take care of—cont.

Summer:

- Install motion detectors on porch for parlor and side door for Educational Building and replace motion detector on elevator spot light
- Paint gazebo
- Wash Educational Building windows
- Ready classrooms for Sunday School
- Hook up lights for the sign

Paul Meteyer is also organizing the baseball outing to Jimmy John’s stadium. The date of the game is July 19th. There are 20 reserved seats at about \$40.00 each. A deposit will be made in early March.

Kelly Barhorst made a motion to accept the Committee reports, with support from Melissa Westrick. Motion approved unanimously.

New Business

January Congregational Meeting Agenda

The January Congregational Meeting Agenda was reviewed and discussed by the Council. Chris Snooks made a motion to accept the January Congregational Meeting Agenda with support from Melissa. Motion approved unanimously.

2019 Council Terms and Church Leader Information

Kathi Bokano distributed an informational sheet outlining the 2019 Church Council terms. Another sheet with Church Leader contact information was passed around and Council members checked the information and updated as needed.

Building Rental Request

Carol Olivares submitted a request to use the Educational Building on October 4-5, 2019 for a Mini-Craft Retreat. Mark Johnston from Cub Scout Pack 82 requested use of the Educational Building, twice a month starting in January 2019 and running through the school year. Dates were provided.

Melissa Westrick made a motion to approve Carol Olivares’ request for use of the Educational Building, with support from Krista Teschler. Motion approved unanimously.

Krista Teschler made a motion to approve Mark Johnston from Cub Scout Pack 82’s request for use of the Educational Building, with support from Chris Snooks. Motion approved unanimously.

Piano Update- Kathi Bokano updated the Council about the pianos. The light has been attached and the new bench has been ordered (\$100). The clavinova has been moved to

the Educational Building. The upright piano in the Educational Building has gone to Debb Carlton.

Tech Update- Kelly Barhorst informed the Council a second company, Video Tech, has submitted a quote (\$10,000) for the technology update for the church. A representative of the company came out and checked over the church.

Motion to adjourn made by Melissa Westrick and supported by Krista Teschler. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Jamie Inman