

Quarterly Congregation Meeting
April 26, 2009

Present: 28 members, 3 Executive Council, and Pastor Rob Schmidt.

President John Rivett called the meeting to order at 12:05pm. A prayer was led by Pastor Schmidt followed by a brief introduction by President Rivett.

The minutes from the previous meeting were not presented to those attending the meeting due to trying to save on paper, ink, etc. They are available for review on the Zion website and if anyone wishes to have a paper copy, please forward your request to John Rivett or Patty Paisley.

The Financial Report was presented by Judy Warmbier. Judy went over the missions giving accounts so that everyone has a clear understanding of each. We have remained in the black. Still a bit behind with this year's budget – if everyone could add \$1 extra each week, we would make our budget. Judy asked if anyone had any questions on the format of the Financial Report presentation. First question: Are any/all funds for Music Ministry showing? A: Yes. Q: Are we still on track for the Music Ministry program? Do we need to increase the budget for this? A: We are still a bit behind. Q: With new members, how much time is there in-between new membership and receiving their offering envelopes? A: At the start of their official membership. Some members start giving before actually receive their envelopes. What about the “Seven Baskets” program? It's a good idea – but a 60/40 split. Not worth our time and money.

Kim Winchell presented information regarding the “Making Us One” project of our Synod. The Synod recently had a ground breaking ceremony for this project, which will be a “campus” incorporating an existing worship space (Christ United), a “Center for Mission & Ministry”, as well as new administrative offices for the Synod staff. The Synod has been renting basic office space for many years and the rent is fairly expensive. The only room there for meetings holds about 12 people. This new building will be much more practical, in terms of cost, plus is much more than just a building. It is a forward-looking vision for enhancing the way we are all "Synod" together. Our Synod is made up of all the members of the 129 congregations in the North/West Lower Michigan Synod.

The Synod is looking for participation from all congregations to help finance this building project. If each church contributed (or pledged) a minimum of \$1800, that would be enough for the Synod to secure a loan from the ELCA's Mission Investment Fund and to not have to carry a large debt. The property for this project (located in DeWitt, just north of Lansing) has been leased to our Synod by the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan for \$1/year. The building will also be made as “green” and energy efficient as possible. For any additional information, you can go to the Synod's website at www.Mittensynod.org and look for the “Making Us One” link.

Bob LaDuke presented the outcome of the Constitution update: Good news – the Synod has responded and approved the changes we presented. After today's meeting, we will be

under the new constitution. We matched/updated the current Synod constitution. The majority of changes were to the verbiage. We took the bylaws and pared them down to develop the continuing resolutions. Any changes to these can be changed by Council. This will enable us to keep all changes to our constitution current – and give us the ability to make changes as easy and quick as possible. We adopted 2 new ministries which will now have voting rights: the In-reach/Out-reach Ministry and the Stewardship Ministry. We also changed our Congregation meeting schedule from quarterly to annual. This meeting will be held in October of each year. Question: is there any way to keep the congregation informed of what's going on in church, i.e. Council Meeting Minutes? Will be placing out on website? Yes, that is something we are looking into.

Zion received a VERY big thank you from NW Lower MI Synod for our Mission Support. They also sent a video to show what these moneys go to. \$18,820 was our 2008 pledge, we were able to contribute/send \$17,961.52, which was short just \$318.48 (extremely great response from Zion).

Synod Assembly May 17 – 19: Anyone interested in representing Zion Lutheran Church at this meeting? Synod also sent a News insert – will be including in the monthly newsletter.

A topic suggested at the January Congregation meeting (council is ready to start next month): Two-minute Temple Talks – each ministry will be presenting at each Sunday service what they're doing, how and why.

A second topic discussed at the January Congregation meeting: starting an Endowment fund for Zion. The Finance Committee is almost done working on a presentation.

An Audit of Zion's finances was completed. Council was given a verbal O.K., with a written O.K. following – all looked good.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:10pm with a prayer led by Pastor Rob.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Paisley, Congregation Council Secretary