

Council Meeting, February 22, 2011

Members present: Pastor Rob Schmidt, John Rivett, Kathy Smith, Kathy Bell, Jeff Schram, Marsha Paetz, Cathy Schulz, Tom Laatsch, Cindy Frazier, Hillary Norfleet, Gary Miller, Brenda Bluem, Bonnie Miller, Margarete Diechman and guest Bob LaDuke.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. by John Rivett.

Pastor Rob began the meeting with prayer and devotion based on 1 Corinthians 1:18. We discussed the meaning of the cross of Christ, shared faith stories and experiences, and closed devotion in prayer.

MINUTES: The minutes from January’s Council meeting were distributed with the agenda. After reviewing, a motion was made by Pastor Rob and seconded by Brenda Bluem to approve the January 2011 minutes as presented. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The financial report was included with the minutes. Mission pledge is below expectations. Someone donated \$500 to be applied to the purchase of inclement weather shades for the pavilion – money will be transferred to the Woman’s Board who have already established a fund for this purpose. Nothing else unusual to report.

PASTOR’S REPORT:

0 used 16 remain – vacation weekdays
0 used and 4 remain – vacation Sunday

Funerals:

1-28-11 Edgar Shireline
2-12-11 Shirley Lonsway

Baptism:

2-13-11 Braelyn Belle Rytlewski

Wedding:

2-12-11 Jason Eberhart and Barbara Berthiaume

Boys Town Basketball continues.

Continue with Spiritual Director.

Lent services planned with the theme “The Road to the Cross”. Thank you to the Woman’s Board for purchasing 400 wooden yard crosses which will be given out to any family that wants one.

Designation of memorials still waiting for letters and contacts.

God Sighting Update – We have enough stories, chief editor Kathy Smith assisted by Jon McQuinn, Sarah Wagner and Sharon Frank; cover art by Carol Little.

Major Discussion:

Supporting ministry groups:

- a- What are you doing to support one another?

- b- How can we help (Prayer, logistics, support)?
- c- Is there an agenda with space for brainstorming and growth?
- d- Are you sending meeting notes to Kathy Smith u245840@gmail.com from meetings?
- e- Are you sending dates, announcements and advertisements to Marsha Paetz at marshapaetz@sbcglobal.net ?
- f- What goals are you working on?
- g- Know your responsibility and that we support you.
- h- Share your decisions; seek council and advice when needed.

Action Required: – none

Concerns for Pastor: - none reported

NEW BUSINESS:

Welcome New Council Members: John welcomed the new officers to Council. Every ministry was present at this meeting. He extended a warm thank you for attending.

Performance Review Committee Report: Pastor and Marsha stepped out of the meeting. Jeff distributed the recommendation of the Performance Review Committee. The housing allowance should be taken into account next year and added to the budgetary process. After considering the recommendation and budgetary concerns, the committee recommended a staff 2% increase to the Council. This includes a secretary increase of \$472 + SS \$19 = \$491; a music director increase of \$428 + SS \$17 = \$445; a custodian increase of \$108 + SS \$4 = \$112; and a Pastor increase of \$1,042 + Pension \$104 + SS \$42 = \$1180. Subject budgetary limits were set by the congregation.

A motion was made by Hillary Norfleet and seconded by Margarete Diechman to approve the compensation committee's recommendation, and to include a \$500 cost of living adjustment if so noted in the Synod website. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Thrivent Designated Funds: Each year at this time, Council designates money for Thrivent fund donations and how we want them spent or applied. (There is a program within Thrivent Financial for Lutherans called "Thrivent Choice" where all Thrivent members can designate their "Choice" dollars to a charity of their choice. Zion is registered to receive "choice" dollars so members who have qualified Thrivent products "can if they choose" designate their Thrivent Choice Dollars to Zion if they so desire.) A thank you announcement will be put in the bulletin for donations to the fund and names will not be included. Cathy Schultz will report how much money has been received at the next meeting. Cathy will ask Diane Dahley to draft an announcement.

Directional Committee? Dick Wirtz will lead this newly formed ad-hoc committee to address the needs and direction of our church and church membership. A motion was made by Pastor Rob and seconded by Bonnie Miller to empower Dick Wirtz to conduct a review/project/study of the congregation and work with church and Council to discover the next focus area within the church. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 22, 2011. Marsha will put this new date in the church bulletin. A motion was made by Hillary Norfleet and seconded by John Rivett to move the March 15 Council meeting to March 22 at 7 p.m. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

MINISTRY REPORTS:

Deacons – elected Jim Stirrett as Co–Chairman and Gary Miller as Chairman. Pastor will set-up meeting with the Deacons.

Education – March will begin a drive for Toys for Tots. Confirmation Camp is having another scrapbooking fundraiser on Palm Sunday weekend. Pajama and movie day was held last Sunday. Sunday School Bake Sale will be held April 17. Sunday school will be wrapping up on May 22. Confirmation Camp will be held the week of July 11. Vacation Bible School will be chaired by Marsha during the 3rd week of July. We need to communicate with Sunday School teachers throughout Lent to encourage children to bring items to the cross.

Elders – prayed – no new business.

Property – Tom Laatsch will set-up an account at Myers Oil for the purchase of gasoline for the mowers. Cathy Schulz will get a credit card issued for Tom Laatsch, as Bob LaDuke's credit card has his name on it. Spring Cleanup will be April 16 at 9 a.m.

Worship – Tim Cole is a new member of this ministry. The committee is working on a training workbook. Two unique, separate services will be held during lent: Sunday and Wednesday.

Women's – meeting cancelled twice due to conflicts. Upcoming events are the Pampered Party, LWR Baby Shower, Cookbook fundraiser, and the Mother/Daughter Banquet. The annual scholarship letter is being sent out to 2011 graduates. 400 crosses were made by prisoners and are at the church – they will be incorporated into Lent. Kathy Smith has added this ministry to her Council responsibilities.

In Reach/Out Reach – looking to welcome any new members. Currently brainstorming what they can do in the March/April timeframe. Ice cream social? August 14 is Loon's Faith day. Bonfire at home games. Progressive dinner in December.

Stewardship – need new members on this committee. Pastor Rob and Marsha will suggest names of newer members that may be willing to serve on a church committee. A question was asked if church council can appoint members between congregational meetings? Anyone can be added to any ministry at any time – they just can't be a voting member of the Council. Steward stories have begun in the church newsletter. Stewardship campaign commitment cards will be distributed at the end of this month.

Music – included with the agenda.

Endowment – met last week. No report.

ANYTHING ELSE? The office computers are acting up. We need to look into new ones. Pastor Rob will include in his report at the next meeting.

Pastor called the Executive Board back to order to ensure they remain direction-focused and pray together. No decisions will be made at these executive sessions – they are strictly a spiritual need that will be fulfilled.

Final payment has been made to Quam missionaries. Do we want to support another missionary? John will make a phone call to the Bishop's secretary.

A motion was made by Margarete Diechman and seconded by Hillary Norfleet to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 p.m. Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Smith, Council Secretary

Revised 3/20/11