

## **Council Meeting, March 22, 2011**

Members present: Pastor Rob Schmidt, John Rivett, Kathy Smith, Marsha Paetz, Cathy Schulz, Tom Laatsch, Cindy Frazier, Margarette Diechman, Jan Hennink, Kathy Bell, Jenny Harding and Jim Stirrett.

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 p.m. Pastor Rob began the meeting with prayer, scripture from Philippians 4:10-13 and devotion. Everyone was encouraged to identify aspects of maintaining gratitude in all circumstances.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from February's Council meeting were distributed with the agenda. John Rivett made a correction to include (under Performance Review Committee Report), "Subject budgetary limits set by the congregation." After reviewing, a motion was made by Pastor Rob and seconded by John Rivett to approve the February 2011 Council minutes as amended. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** The financial report was included with the minutes. Nothing unusual to report. We were \$2,665 below budget through January 31, 2011. We brought in \$902 in Thrivent Funds from 7 people from August, 2010 to March 8, 2011. Marsha's new computer is being looked into.

### **PASTOR'S REPORT:**

Vacation weekdays – 0 used; 16 remain

Vacation Sundays – 0 used; remain

Funerals:

3-4-11.1      Dick Nuffer

3-12-11      Jack Holtrop

Baptisms:      None

Weddings: 2-26-11    Johnathan Green and Brandi Jones

Boys Town Finished

Continue with Spiritual Director

2 services per week continue during Lent – each with unique liturgy

Designation of memorials – waiting for time to make contacts and send letters

God Sighting Update – completed. Cost was \$488.58 and was taken from line item budgeted Pastor's disc. Last year cost was covered as a gift.

### **Major Discussion:**

- a- Sympathy gifts, gifts of concern – Pastor has purchased gifts and is going to begin distributing them. Looking for help.
- b- The message for Easter: What do people need to hear? We can use God and Jesus right now. A message of hope. Hearing the Easter story reminds us that we are not alone. Renewal. The church is here for the people. Support is offered through this church.
- c- Moving from Idea to Implementation – brainstorming. Put ideas on a bulletin board and look for feedback? Take it back to your groups for discussion and suggestions.

**Action Required:** New families will be joining Zion this Sunday. Dinner will be held at Pastor's on Saturday night. The new members are Jennifer and Bela Lanczy (Jaron and Ava); Hugh and Ethel Stevenson; Judy Gray; Kate and Jay Savage (Chloe, Jake and Jack); Paul and Lisa Knoer (Calvin); Jay and Lori Brown (Paige and Jenna); and Jason and Briana Rutkiewicz (Emma and Matthew). A motion was made by John Rivett and seconded by Jan Hennink to accept these families as new members. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**Concerns for Pastor:** - none reported.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Thrivent Designated Funds** – Thrivent Choice dollars are usually distributed based on percentage of actual collected. In the past, they were divided between General, Admissions for ELCA, Good Sam and one other. This year, it was determined we should divide between Good Sam, General Fund and Mission Fund for ELCA's. Motion made by Pastor Rob and seconded by Cindy Frazier that beginning April 1, 2011, we would distribute Thrivent Choice dollars between Good Sam, General Fund and Mission fund for ELCA's. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**Visioning Committee** – Dick Wirtz has an adhoc committee for self-evaluation of the church. The process will begin within the next few weeks. He wants to make sure everyone has a voice and his desire is to come back and share info with Council.

Saginaw Metro Ministry has asked for a \$500 contribution from all it's supporting churches (approximately 11 or 12 churches) to be applied to their operating budget. It's been suggested we designate 4 Sundays of noisy offerings instead. The Executive Council has already approved to spend up to half of their \$500 Executive Council budget if there is a shortfall from the offering. Designated Sundays are March 27 through May 1 (not counting Easter Sunday). A motion was made by Pastor Rob and seconded by John Rivett to collect noisy offerings on these four Sundays and collect up to \$500, with any shortfall coming from the Executive Council's budget (up to \$250). There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Need two people to conduct an audit of the Treasurer's Reports for last year and it must be done by April 30. Pastor Rob and Cathy Schulz are going to seek two people.

**Next meeting date:** Was April 19<sup>th</sup>. Moved to April 26<sup>th</sup>. Motion made by Kathy Smith and seconded by Pastor Rob to move the April Council meeting from April 19 to April 26. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

## **MINISTRY REPORTS:**

**Deacons** – Nothing to report.

**Education** – Toys for Tots has been extended to the end of April. No Sunday School on April 3 and 10 due to Spring Break in Freeland, nor on April 24 for Easter Sunday. Pastor suggested creating a party invitation and to work with Marsha for kids to bring a toy on Easter Sunday for Toys for Tots. There will be a Bake Sale and Family Fun Sing on Palm Sunday. May 22 is the last day of Sunday School – there will be a petting zoo at the pavilion. Teachers are all lined up for Vacation Bible School which will be held July 18 – 21.

Elders – Any ministry that has a suggested missionary the church should support, please send in names to get on the next Council meeting agenda. Carol Little has expressed her desire to join this committee. She will join in the meetings and will be nominated at the next congregation meeting.

Property – Clean up is April 16.

Worship – Discussed a Lenten theme and training for volunteers. Discussed Easter worship.

Women's Board – The Women's Pamper Party was held March 7. The LWR Baby Shower will be held April 17 and the Spring Rummage Sale will be held April 28 – 30. 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Funds have been renamed to Women's Samaritan Fund. Looking for volunteers to help with the Cookbook. Things slow down in the summer months. We empower people (members and non-members) to volunteer all the time.

In/Reach – Out Reach – Spring Clean up – will provide lunch for the workers. There will be an Ice Cream Social on Mother's Day after the 10:30 service. Friday, June 10 there will be a Denny Gatz scholarship run/walk.

Stewardship – There was clarification that all ministry minutes should be sent to Kathy Smith at [u245840@gmail.com](mailto:u245840@gmail.com). The Synod Stewardship Fair will take place at Trinity, Midland on Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. It will include best stewardship practices. The Stewardship Committee hopes to include the *Simply Giving* brochure as an insert in the church bulletin, but needs to run it by Pastor first.

Music – choir is meeting again. David Wigton to come in and repair the church organ – nothing critical – just some things that need to be addressed. Last year, cost was approximately \$400 and he spent all day. A children's choir will sing Easter Sunday at the 10:30 service.

Endowment – have not meant since last month. Nothing to report.

Synod Assembly – Marsha has a list of names interested.

A motion was made by Tom Laatsch and seconded by Margarete Diechman to adjourn at 8:45 p.m. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kathy Smith, Council Secretary*