

## **Council Meeting, May 24, 2011**

Members present: Pastor Rob Schmidt, John Rivett, Kathy Smith, Bonnie Miller, Cathy Schulz, Cindy Frazier and Marsha Paetz. (Carol Little attended briefly for the missionary discussion which follows.)

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by John Rivett. Pastor Rob offered a prayer. We jumped briefly to new business to allow Carol Little time to discuss the two missionaries from New Guinea approved by the Bishop who will be in the area in June. They will offer a presentation on Monday, June 27 at Resurrection Lutheran at 7:00 p.m. A sign-up sheet will be put up in the foyer for people to attend.

Pastor offered scripture from Romans 8:15-28. The discussion following scripture was based on how we see creation (other than humanity) suffering and longing to be claimed again by God. A brief report was given regarding the focus of synod assembly being centered on the care of creation. Members shared how we see nature and creation react or seem out of control with such bad natural disasters happening all around us. We also discussed the beauty and power of God coming to us through creation and our call to live with God's creation, not take advantage of or exploiting it.

**MINUTES:** The minutes from April's Council meeting were distributed with the agenda. After reviewing, a motion was made by Cathy Schulz and seconded by Cindy Frazier to approve the April 2011 Council 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. The General Fund is up \$6,800 from last year. Money collected for Saginaw Metro Ministries was \$286 from noisy offerings plus \$214 contributed by the Executive Council – a total of \$500. There was discussion on insurance money due for the church and trying to be sure everything is covered and the policy includes everything needed.

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

0 used 24 remain – vacation weekdays  
1 used and 3 remain – vacation Sunday

Funerals: none  
Baptisms: none  
Weddings: none

Continue with Spiritual Director.

Service on Wednesday will go back to the continuation of the previous Sunday.

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

Pastor Rob organized community participation with National Day of Prayer on May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Rob is currently planning community baccalaureate service with the senior class.

Sponsorship of One Youth Baseball team continues –Pastor is not coaching this year.

Synod Assembly - Ralph & Peg Flatt and Sue Schmidt were registered attendees. There was discussion about merging into one Synod. There was also discussion on gun control and many other topics.

**Action item:** It was moved by John Rivett and seconded by Cindy Frazier to accept Phyllis Bell Schultz as an immediate member of Zion Lutheran Church by affirmation of faith effective immediately. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**Action item:** Pastor has two financial accounts: Pastor's Discretion Account and the Good Samaritan Account. Pastor asked to have these two accounts placed entirely into his hands, including his own checkbook as it's becoming cumbersome to always ask for reimbursement. A motion was made by Kathy Smith and seconded by Cindy Frazier to release all funds in the Pastor's Discretion Account and the Good Samaritan Account to Pastor Rob, for his discretion and use, and to open a new account at the bank of his choice, with a review by the Council Vice President on a quarterly basis. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Children's Church will begin this Sunday, May 29 with guidance from Sarah Wagner.

**Concerns for Pastor:** None reported at this time.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**Long Range Planning Committee:** Pastor Roger Hardy will be here Thursday at 7 p.m. to begin the long range process. The next meeting is June 9 of the Long Range Planning committee at 7 p.m.

**Community Garden:** Ground will be broken behind the Woman's Building soon. We will move forward and organize as we proceed.

**Next Meeting Date:** June 21, 2011

### **MINISTRY REPORTS:**

**Deacons** – The Deacons met with Pastor on Sunday, May 22. They discussed multiple ideas, concerns and areas of growth. The Deacons and Pastor will be meeting quarterly.

**Education** – Sunday School ended on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. They had animals from the Midland 4H come to complete our theme for the year. Children's Church is beginning this Sunday offered by Pastor and Sarah Wagner during the sermon. Vacation Bible School has 32 adults and 24 kids signed up.

**Elders** – nothing to report.

**Property** – nothing to report.

**Worship** – The Worship Committee is in the midst of planning a new approach to summer worship. Focusing on the Feast of Pentecost, we hope to initiate a summer theme that investigates the gifts of the Holy Spirit. As part of this investigation, worship training continues with an emphasis on assisting with communion, lecturing, and other forms of worship assistance. (1) H. S. Education; (2) Spiritual gift inventory and (3) Time and Talent. In addition, a new program is being initiated during the 10:30 service. Spearheaded by some of our young families, "Children's Church" will take place after the

children's sermon and will provide our youngest parishioners the ability to stretch their legs while enabling parents the opportunity to focus on the sermon.

**Women's Board** – They made \$464 on the silent auction designated to the canvas fund. Bonnie Vasold has gotten bids. They are short approximately \$900 and are requesting to use the money designated as "pavilion" under General Fund. Motion by Pastor and seconded by John Rivett (with thanksgiving) that we approve and encourage the Woman's Board to proceed to purchase the pavilion canvas for use by the entire church. Motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Motion by Pastor Rob and seconded by Cindy Frazier to move the entire balance of the pavilion account money toward the purchase of the pavilion shades and the pavilion expense account be closed. Motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

**In/Reach – Out Reach** – Denny Gatz's scholarship fundraiser is being coordinated. They are scheduled to have a picnic on the Sunday before the confirmation kids leave (July 10). August 14, there will be a Loons baseball day and tickets will be \$8.

**Stewardship** – Met May 2. Steward Stories were discussed for the Newsletter. Ministry of Property will be highlighted in June and the Decorating Committee in July. Ralph Flatt and Jan Hennink attended a Stewardship Fair sponsored by the Synod. They are following up on our Fall Stewardship Campaign to determine if it's resulting in an increase of offerings. They are discussing the possibility of running the coming Stewardship Campaign in September instead of October. The next meeting will be held on June 6.

**Music** – Choir has officially ended for the season. Family sings have ended as well. Jenny is preparing VBS material. She's still working with the strings/gospel group. The organ has been updated to transpose notes on higher songs to make it easier for the congregation to sing. In addition, the pianos were tuned this past month.

**Endowment** – Nothing to report.

Pastor Rob offered a closing prayer.

A motion was made by Cindy Frazier and seconded by John Rivett to adjourn at 8:27 p.m. There was no discussion. The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kathy Smith, Council Secretary*