

**St. Matthew Lutheran  
Church Congregational Council  
September 17th, 2024**

President	Jen Knaggs	P
Vice President	Kristine Neate	P
Secretary	Delores Ivan	P
Treasurer	Teri Uttech	P
At Large Officers	Amanda Kotick	P
	Bruce Reed	P
	Jim Woodard	P
Deacon	Lindsay Stertzbach	P
Pastor	Steve Mahaffey	P

Roll call of attendees started the meeting. Guests included Rachel Knaggs, Kristin Weight, and Sandy Andrews.

Opening devotion and prayer was given by Teri with an article on being ready to listen to others; genuinely listen, like the Samaritan woman at the well. Listen with intention. Challenge yourself to be a better listener.

Reviewed minutes from August 20th. No corrections were needed. Amanda motioned to approve the minutes and Teri seconded the motion. All in favor and motion passed.

- The next topic discussed was from new business to be presented by our guests regarding the organ status (the complete committee consists of Rachel Knaggs, Kristin Weight, Helen Graf, Ellen Jakovcic, Larry Mohler, Carol Mulhbach, Kelly Obermeier, Cindy Piovarchy, and Susie Siebert.)
- We moved this discussion to the forefront so our guests could leave when finished. A healthy discussion ensued. The committee met with three companies so far (Leek, Holkamp, and Shontz). It would cost \$250,000 to repair our current organ and still not be up to par. The Allen organ was most promising. A full document was presented to the Council to review. Based on the information presented, the best option would be to replace our current organ with a digital one. It would cost \$30,000 and no maintenance is needed on a digital one with 40 ranks.
- We then listened to a CD of music played on a digital organ and it sounded amazing. The organ committee will be meeting with a few other companies as well before a final decision is presented to Council to vote on, but all were in agreement that we do need to replace and not invest more into attempting to repair.

**Deacons Report:**

- Nothing to add to her written report.

**Pastors Report:**

- Although there has been significant growth and healing taking place, we as a congregation continue to struggle at times with healthy communication practices. Pastor Steve wanted to commend the Cultural Collective for the work they'd put forth to help guide the congregation, and recommended the document they created become a part of the Leadership Manual.

**Presidents Report:**

- Jen will discuss her items in the new business.

**Vice President's Report:**

- Nothing to report.

**Secretary Report:**

- Nothing to report other than what is in the minutes.

**Treasurer's Report:**

- Offerings were about \$5000 below but this was expected in the summer months.
- A \$2200 grant was received for Loads of Love. A line item was added for Loads of Love on the financial report.
- Endowment fund matured and Teri got it renewed at 5% interest rate.
- Talked about Promise House and how certain items are applied on the financials.

**At Large Officer's Reports:**

- None to report at this time

**Old Business:**

- Kristin reported on how we can communicate information with the congregation. The Cultural Collective Document was prepared and sent to the council to review and determine how to get the message out to the congregation.
- Pastor Steve mentioned we should include this in the Leadership Manual.

- Risk Management Safety Committee- Jen is making contacts and we plan to meet again in mid October. Information is being sent to Jen on how to proceed. Some immediate things we can do that don't involve money are locking external doors when having committee meetings in the church. Discussed other items that will cost money, however, there are grants that can be written to help offset monies. Will have more information at the next meeting.
- Stewardship committee has two new members added: Bob and Carla Maas.
- 2025 budget numbers are all in and being worked on.
- God's Work Our Hands was very successful! The churches involved were very grateful.

### **New Business:**

- Grace House proposal- raise rent to \$1500 with a yearly lease or \$1600 for a month to month as of January 1st 2025. We had a lengthy conversation on this before we voted on it. Motion made by Pastor Steve and seconded by Kristine to accept this proposal. (7 yes, 1 no, 1 na). Separate document on voting results sent to the Congregation Council.
- Faith House proposal- Council discussed the information submitted by the Financial committee and voted to to rent this house. This proposal was also discussed at length. Rent would be the same as for Grace House to go on the market Jan 1st, 2025. Motion made by Pastor Steve and seconded by Kristine to accept this proposal (7 yes, 1 no, 1 na). Separate document on voting results sent to the Congregation Council.
- Memorial Funds Policy has been completed. Amending to remove the word "mission" and replace it with ministry. Motion made by Deacon Lindsay to accept this policy with the amendment and Delores seconded the motion. All in favor. (8 yes, 1 na)
- Medina Chocolate Walk coordinated by the Medina Arts Council set for October 26th. Email from Jen will be coming soon. Julie is making a chocolate trail mix to hand out. Watch for the sign up sheet.
- The topic of Deacon Lindsay's maternity leave and sabbatical. Council needs to vote on this. Deacon Lindsay excused herself from the meeting and voting and the remainder of council discussed this issue. After discussion, motion was made by Teri and seconded by Jim to provide this necessary time for Deacon. All in favor- motion passed (7 yes, 1 recused, 1 na). She will begin her maternity leave October 7th - April 1st and then be on a sabbatical for three months which is long overdue.

**Next meeting October 22nd, 2024@ 5:00 pm in the old brown room.**

**October Opening Prayer/devotions by Amanda.**

Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer recited by all.