

**St. Matthew Lutheran
Church Congregation Council
January 16, 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

The meeting started with a roll call.

Also in attendance was Sandy Andrews.

No changes needed to be made at the previous meeting. Teri made a motion to approve the minutes from 12/19/23. Jen seconded the motion.

Pastors report:

Nothing more to add to what he'd already written in his report. His door is always open. Pastor Jim of Zion will handle emergencies while Pastor Steve is out of state. Prefers emergencies are truly an emergency if calling him while he's away from the office.

Deacon's report:

Nothing more to add to what she'd already written in her report. Deacon Lindsay received the assigned housing for the Youth Gathering and it happens to be at the same hotel Pastor and Deacon stayed at for the Gathering Extravagans they just attended. The tobogganing had to be postponed due to weather. It is rescheduled for Jan. 28. Deacon Lindsay encouraged everyone to read the chunk. They won't be able to continue with it because they are not always in their office to work on this. If they aren't in their office, they most likely are out meeting with someone else or at another commitment. Seminary teaches them to plan their day in chunks. Rostered leaders aren't on a straight 9:00-5:00 schedule. Their day is determined by the needs of the congregation and other organizations. If a member needs to speak with Pastor Steve or Deacon Lindsay, they should call and make an appointment. Just because they are not in the office doesn't mean they are on a day off.

Kristine questioned if there was something else the council members could be doing to help them. To help with time commitments of Pastor and Deacon, liaisons will be set up for each committee, but they will not be leading the committee. However, be aware

that not all meetings require a physical presence. Some meetings could be handled with an email. Jim questioned how the committees are held accountable. Pastor Steve said this is already in place. He also questioned if they (Pastor and Deacon) keep their own calendar or are they on a church calendar? They keep their own calendar because of the changes that pop up.

Jen suggested we put something in the Shout Out with highlights of the council meetings. Teri also mentioned that not all questions or concerns need to be directed to Pastor or Deacon, they can come to a council member as well.

Teri will be preparing the financial report and get that out. We want to help our members when possible.

Old Business: Jen asked if we all got the email from the Systems Synod Team. We did not. She was going to send it out to us and apologized. They liked the letter. The team is going to get together and will establish a date to get together. Pastor Steve gave some highlights of their response. Basically they were very pleased. They did say they know it still won't please everyone.

Jen said they approved our constitution. Be sure to mark your calendar for Feb 25. One church service at 9:30, Annual Congregation meeting to follow (approx 10:30). This meeting will be for the one item only which is to ratify the constitution. Pastor Steve said we need two weeks verbal notification and two weeks written notice. We did everything else at the Bylaw meeting in November.

Per the revised Bylaws, the required committees are Personnel, Mutual Ministry, Audit, Nominating, Property, and Finance. Volunteers to be a Liaison for a committee are as follows:

Personnel-	Jim Woodard
Mutual Ministry-	Jen Knaggs
Audit-	Teri Uttech
Nominating-	Jen Knaggs
Property-	Kristine Neate
Finance-	Teri Uttech

In addition to the required committees, there are other committees to serve as well. Amanda asked what is expected at these meetings. Pastor Steve said the liaison is not expected to attend all or any of the committee meetings. The important things the liaison needs to know is (1) when they met, and (2) what they discussed. This information is then to be relayed at the next council meeting. Encourage the committee to meet, preferably once a month. Two committees will not meet every month such as the audit and nominating committee. Council members cannot be the chair of the committee. Pastor Steve explained the committees are like a tree. You have the roots

which are the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The trunk of the tree is the Church, (St Matthew) and the branches. Just like a tree, some fall off and new sprouts grow.

Additional Committee/Groups

- Care Connection (Kristine)
- LGL Samaritan (Bruce)
- Prayer Group (Amanda)
- Endowment (Bruce)
- Care Package (Deacon Lindsay/ Jen Knaggs)
- Worship Team (Pastor Steve)
- Social Concerns (covered as needed)
- Fellowship (Amanda)
- Stewardship (Bruce)
- Evangelism/Communication (Jim)
- Comprehensive Youth (Deacon Lindsay)

Discussion to present this information to the congregation.

New Business

New Members:

Richard and Barbara Dasch. Pastor Steve made a motion to accept their membership and Deacon Lindsay seconded the motion. All council members were in favor. After speaking with Barbara, she requested they be formally welcomed when we receive our next class.

Amanda questioned if we have a welcoming committee. Once we get to that point Pastor Steve will reach out to someone to coordinate a reception.

Outgoing Members:

Letters received from John Burke, Corey Neururer and her family, Linda Kostelnik, and Tim Rhodes.

Members are considered inactive if they have not communed or given in the last calendar year. In this case, a letter needs to go out to them asking their intention. Pastor Steve is working on a letter for this purpose but it is a sensitive subject. You don't just want to remove a member without knowing the why.

At the October Dandelion project meeting, the only two people there were Pastor Steve and Deacon Lindsay. For various reasons the other people who were appointed to serve are no longer able to commit. Since this project is to be led by church members, not rostered leaders. As a result, Pastor Steve had a conversation with Pastor Dave Dahlbert who is the head of this project, and he would be willing to work with our

congregation. For the time being, this project has been paused. Pastor Steve will have further discussion with Pastor Dave as to when he would like to start this project back up.

Pastor Steve said he will reach out to form a small group to work on handbooks for employees and leadership members. He has some information that we can use as a baseline and revise from there. His goal is to get this done in 2024. The last handbook was in 2018. Pastor Steve will work on updating the Wedding policy and funeral policy as they are outdated. The constitution will be reviewed every three years. Deacon Lindsey said we do have a social media policy but it's more of an opt out if you don't want your children to be shown in any articles.

Jen adjourned the meeting and offered a closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Delores Ivan