

**St. Matthew Lutheran
Church Congregation Council
April 16th, 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

Also In attendance: Sandy Andrews in person and Brian Harris on Zoom.

Roll call of attendees started the meeting.

Opening devotion was given by Jen. Before opening in prayer, she shared a story with us on acts of kindness that she experienced at Old Navy as well as other examples of expressing kindness. She was in awe as to a woman's confusion as she was receiving an act of kindness from Jen. Jen offered the woman to go ahead of her in checking out as she only had one item and Jen had a cart full. The look on the woman's face was overwhelming and saddening to Jen. It is so sad that simple acts of kindness seem to be rare. She then opened with prayer.

Reviewed last month's minutes. No corrections were needed. Teri made a motion to approve last month's minutes, seconded by Kristine. All in favor.

Pastor's Report:

Affirming new members to join the Church. It is about 15 individuals. There are a couple members that are considering Associate membership. Associate membership is covered in our constitution. No voting rights but actively involved in any other way. They could serve on committees. The example discussed were snowbirds. They are members in two churches.

Deacon's Report:

No other information to add that isn't included in her packet.

President's Report:

Silent Book Club starts Monday April 22 at Faith House 6:30-8:00.

Vice President's Report: Nothing to report

Secretary's Report:

- Nothing to report just questioned how long to keep the individual voting ballots after being recorded. They are able to be shredded at this time.

Treasurer's Report:

- Teri went over the financial highlights.
Good month in March from offerings To put it into perspective, we did have five Sundays in March putting us \$5000 over.
Geinke money was moved from property renovation to memorial funds. Memorial funds can only be used with council approval. Pastor Steve said he has one other member to get a hold of to know how they want their memorial fund designated. He will let Teri know as soon as he hears back.
Teri said the Evangelism and Communication Committee is running way over budget in advertising. They are at 72% of their budget and should be at about 25%. Jim will address this with them to get this under control.
Organist and Choir budget is also running high but will get back on track in the summer months when we only have one service a week. It will even out.
All licenses have been paid at the beginning of the year.
Postage is also running high but it seems as though this may be due to not correctly charging the correct departments with postage and it's all coming out of one bucket.

At Large Officers Reports:

- Amanda said she may have an idea for a fundraiser she's working on. Waiting on instructions from Melody in regards to the setup and take down of the coffee bar. Amanda will then create a signup genius for members to assist with this endeavor. Coffee Bar will continue all year.
- The Personnel Committee met and discussed that Deb requested to change her hours allowing her more time to devote to office work without interruptions. Hours would be Mon-Thurs 10:00-3:00 (which they are now). She would also add 2.5 hrs to her day with a sign on the door stating the office is closed allowing for uninterrupted time to complete office duties. She would still maintain 30-32 hrs a week. Also, discussed possibly using volunteers to answer phones/doors to help.
We still need a nursery assistant.
- Jim mentioned the tree of life classes being held on Sunday. The first class was conducted by Maureen Watts from Waite Funeral Home. The second meeting was conducted by Barb Woodard and Melanie Brown. They prepared and handed out booklets to everyone containing valuable information regarding end

of life planning. The last meeting will be this Sunday. We recommended having extra booklets on hand. Jim will check into this.

Prayer group meets on Thursday at 2:00. (approx. 8 members attend and 5 on the phone) All requests are confidential. We also need to consider an end time for how long prayer requests should remain on the list.

- Bruce talked about the LGL Samaritan Fund met currently in the Akron Community foundation and is being moved to the Medina County Foundation. He talked about the distribution of these funds. Next meeting May 9th at 9:00am
- Bruce will be putting meeting information in the bulletin on the Mission Investment Fund for interested members to attend. The Finance Committee is hosting Rev. Kent Peterson at 5:15 pm in St. Matthew fellowship hall. He will inform us of features and benefits available.

All taxes for St Matthew have been paid including the Rita taxes.

The Property Management Team met and the Spring Clean up is planned for May 11th.

Moving forward with the paving of the parking lot. There is an Amish group doing the work. Joyce got estimates and the Amish were the lowest. They will also look at fixing the concrete on the property as well as the water fountains.

- Operation HOMES ended this week.

Old Business:

- Letters went out to inactive members on Monday. This process will need to be reviewed again next year after we switch to Church Windows. It will provide more accurate reporting.
- Jen and Kristine- 'Future as I See it Committee' has a new name; 'St Matthew Cultural Collective'. They still need one more member. Need to determine the best way to get people to participate so we don't get into another situation we had in the past. Pastor Steve said we need to publicize who's on the various teams and who to contact if there's an issue.
- Risk Management/Safety- A group attended a presentation in March at Medina Fire Department. They will be coming to the church to do an assessment on

April 30th at 10:00 The purpose is to identify any risks/weaknesses. It will be up to us to act on their findings.

- Leadership manual is on track. Pastor Steve has four meetings scheduled to organize and determine what's needed.
- Project Isaiah 43 conference to talk about how we relate with other churches. Those attending are Pastor Steve, Jen, Amanda, and Delores. This will be held on May 5th.
- Organ Quotes: Pastor Steve has two quotes. He's meeting with Schwans to get a quote from them as well. Cindy is checking into an electric organ to replace our current organ if necessary. One quote received on our current organ is \$50K. An electric organ sounds bigger and better and has more capabilities. If we need to invest \$50K to upgrade our current organ, it may be in our best interest to do a fundraiser to raise an additional \$30K and replace our organ with an electric one. With an electric organ we wouldn't have as much maintenance and no annual tuneups needed. More research will be done before deciding. This is something to be considered.
- Paychex HR services is closed. No longer needed.
- Renovation Committee: Teri had a conversation with Troy on another matter and he indicated he is ready to get back in and involved with the Property committee and move forward. Pastor Steve stressed how important it is to get the second phase back on board. This will be circled back at the next meeting.

New Business:

- Silent Book Club will be introduced in the bulletin and the Shout Out. Jen explained how this will work. This starts April 22nd.
- Fun Fellowship is up and running. Helen did a Good News Moment last Sunday for the congregation introducing this committee. Jen is also on this committee and said plans are in place and will be communicated soon.
- Potluck following the Spring Cleanup.

Next meeting May 14th at 5:00 in the fellowship hall.

Jen closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Delores Ivan