

**St. Matthew Lutheran
Church Congregation Council
June 18th, 2024**

President	Jen Knaggs	P On Zoom
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.

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

Opening devotion on good news and prayer was given by Bruce.

Reviewed last month's minutes. There was one clarification requested as to when annual letters would be sent. They will be sent annually to inactive members, however, will not be repeatedly sent to the 45 members originally sent a letter. Bruce approved the minutes with this addendum and Pastor Steve seconded the motion. All in favor.

Pastor's Report:

One class left for new members to complete. There are a total of 17 in all. Two were approved earlier and are attending classes with 15 others. Names of new members for council to approve are: Brian, Alley and Clark DeWitt, Joe and Sarah Robinson, Craig and Karen Zavotka, the Landis family- Wendy, Jeremy, Carter, Cameron, Kyle, and Kara. Clyde Wolfe (Wendy's dad) , Bret McNab, and Barbara and Richard Dash (Barbara and Richard were welcomed earlier but are included in the New Members class to be formally welcomed by the congregation). The Landis family and Clyde Wolfe request to be Associate members. Pastor Steve made a motion to accept the new members and it was seconded by Deacon Lindsay and Jim Woodard simultaneously. All were in favor.

Pastor Steve mentioned the LifeWise organization that he attended a meeting. He doesn't agree with their teachings as they differ from those of the ELCA. Bruce asked for an explanation of this group and Pastor Steve gave his understanding as well as it is

in his written report.

Deacons Report:

- Nothing more to report other than what is in her written report. Youth gathering is all paid for which is a good thing.

President's Report:

- Nothing more to report. Thank you for all your support while she was off for surgery.

Vice President's Report:

- Nothing to report.

Secretary Report:

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

Treasurer's Report:

- Three of the four checks have been received from the Robert Law estate and \$63+ deposited into the memorial fund. The executor of the estate mailed everything so we are expecting one more check.
- She is coordinating the Good New Moment on memorial funds to be on the same Sunday as the financials are in the bulletin to educate the congregation. This way they will see where it appears in the reports.
- There are two 13 month CD's they are working on from Promise Place. The CD's are up for renewal but Huntington doesn't have the interest rates that will be available for a 13 month CD. They will still offer 13 months and will let Teri know when and what the rate will be.
- Offerings for May were not great but everything else was pretty much normal.

At Large Officer's Reports:

Amanda said the Shoe Collection is off to a good start. She bagged 15 bags of shoes and our goal is 90. Shoe drive will be July 14 where the community can drop off shoes as well.

Bruce reported on the Samaritan Fund team (LGL). They lost one member but Barb Woodard found a replacement to present to the Board. Stepahnie Hess is the new member selected. Barb is waiting for a resolution from Medina County Community Foundation to move the funds from Akron to Medina. They are waiting on the

percentage rates. The Property Committee is meeting tonight to discuss 2024. Bill Knaggs will be leading this meeting.

Jim said the Evangelism and Communication Committee met to discuss social media policies which need to be revised for legality and liability. Discussed the importance of Website and Social Media policies that need to be updated. This will be discussed in new business for Council's approval.

Old Business:

- The topic of letters sent to inactive members was revised to reflect that the letters would be sent out annually, but there wouldn't be repeat letters to those who have already received one.
- Kristine Neate reported on Cultural Collective. The information to present to the congregation is mostly completed, however has not met with any members yet to get their ideas. We'll circle back on this topic next month.
- Risk Management information was put in the bulletin and the Shout Out to see if there are other members that would want to participate on the committee. So far Jen has Jim and Barb Woodard, Bruce Reed, Rick Grice, and Alan Ivan. This information will run in the bulletin and Shout Out for the next three weeks to garner any more interest. If not, she will have Deb pull it and we'll move on from there.
- The Music and Worship team is still working on the formation of this sub committee for organ recommendations. Information has been received as to what is needed.
- Amanda reported on the coffee bar sign up sheet and said no one has signed up as of yet. Discussion ensued as to whether or not the coffee bar should continue. Pastor Steve said if no one signed up that indicates to him that no one wants coffee. A few others agreed but Bruce and I feel differently about it. Several of the participants are elderly. We'd prefer to look for alternatives. Pastor Steve will make an announcement on Sunday.
- The Renovation Committee met tonight so nothing more on that right now.

New Business:

- The Northeastern Ohio Synod Assembly was a good gathering and we had full representation this year. Deacon Lindsay, Teri Uttech and Kristine Neate attended along with Pastor Steve. Full representation is important because they vote on issues discussed there. This year it was held in Akron but next year it will be virtual. This may encourage more participation from congregations. Holding it virtual will also save on benevolence dollars. Pastor Steve was elected to represent the Northeastern Ohio Synod as a "Clergy at large" position for the ELCA National Church Gathering, which is to be held in Phoenix, AZ, July 2025.
- Next meeting date will be Wednesday, July 24th at 5:00. Note: the change in the

day of the week for this meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

- The Evangelism/Communication Committee is looking for approval from council to update the Social and Website media policies to correct language as to what information should be shared keeping in line with legality and liability and how the information gathered should flow. Deacon Lindsay shared information on this topic. Once updated, we need to know where the policies can be found. Pastor Steve motioned to approve this request to revise. Kristine seconded the motion. All were in favor.
- Discussion on whether or not the Stewardship Committee should be a sub committee of the Finance Committee. Steve Pamer said that stewardship is more than just dollars. Stewardship used to fall on the role of the Vice President. However, Pastor Steve believes it should be broader than that. Possibly have a Stewardship drive as a congregation. This is still under discussion. Deacon Lindsay will take Council's thoughts back to the Stewardship Committee.

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