

**St. Matthew Lutheran
Church Congregation Council
March 19th, 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.

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

Opening devotion was given by Deacon Lindsay. She shared a devotional with us on Joseph before opening prayer.

Pastor's Report:

It's Lent and a very busy time. Most of his information is in the packet.

Added Project Isaiah 43 from the Northeastern Ohio Synod to his report. Focuses on the future of the Lutheran Church. We are the Northwest Conference.

Meeting May 5th, 2:00-4:00. Pastor and a few council members will be attending. (Jen, Delores)

Synod Gathering June 1st in Akron: Pastor and Deacon will be attending as well as Kristine Neate and Teri Uttech.

Deacon's Report:

Information is included in her packet. Youth Gathering is only about \$2000 away from goal; Additional fundraising will be announced in the next few weeks. Adults can no longer be in the same room as any of the kids so their budget was higher than expected. This is a well worth experience. Calendar has been included but not for publication to the masses.

Bruce questioned the \$6000 in the budget for this gathering. Deacon will cover this in new business.

Jen didn't have anything to add unless anyone had any questions for her.

Delores didn't have anything to add other than her goal is to be as accurate as possible so she welcomes feedback on the minutes so corrections can be made.

Teri went over the financial activities being worked on. We have a treasurer's manual. Bruce is working with Rev. Ken Peterson to come on April 24th. He will come in and talk to the finance committee to explain investment opportunities we can take advantage of. A select group of people will be included in this meeting. Pastor Steve cautioned us not to fall back into our old ways of limiting people. We could overlook a valuable resource.

Jim talked about the Evangelism and Communication meeting. Brian and his committee met and discussed how services will be streamed to ensure safety as well as live. Voting will be done by cell phone. A disclaimer will be established for parents to opt out their children. Visiting children can wish not to go up if they are uncomfortable. Possibly have the disclaimer in the bulletin or on one of the slides. Brian's committee will work on this. Motion was made by Pastor Steve to move forward with this and Deacon Lindsay seconded the motion.

Amanda talked with Heather Haycook and mentioned that with the elimination of the small groups team, participants from before are not stepping up. Pastor Steve spoke with Heather to find out their intentions and she indicated none of them wanted to participate. Pastor Steve reached out to other members to see if they wanted to coordinate this committee as it is part of the fellowship group. Joyce Davis and Helen Graf are willing to coordinate this committee. Events are being planned for this fellowship committee to include all age groups.

Delores mentioned the coffee bar was taken care of by small groups but has fallen back on the ushers. Not all ushers know what to do. Discussion surrounded this topic and it was mentioned we should have a sign up available to all members to take turns arranging for the setup and take down of the coffee bar. Amanda said she could create a sign up genius for this. Deacon Lindsay and Amanda will work on the instructions.

Old Business:

Reviewing the congregation list of members to determine who the letter needs to go to inactive members. Parameters to be considered inactive are not to have communed or contributed to the church. Needed to wait for Mary Dunham for additional input. It's a sensitive issue and we want to be cautious. Kristine said the Care Lists will be updated once we get a firm confirmation.

Voting process and children's sermons and live streams are being worked on.

Jen and Kristine will get together to go over the future as we see it. Will receive an update next month.

Jen verified the list of participants to meet at the Medina Fire Station to see a presentation on Safety in Places of Worship.

Leadership manual is being worked on.

New Business:

Silent Book Club will be introduced in the bulletin and the Shout Out. Jen explained how this will work.

Restricted Funds: Pastor Steve explained that the donation by Roy and Mary Gienke was given as unrestricted but the previous council voted to restrict it. They thought it was a good idea at that time. As time went on, we realized that we should never change a donation from what its original intention was. As a result, we voted to revert this donation back to unrestricted. Our organ is in dire need of maintenance. This is one of our church's main investments. There were a lot of issues that have not been addressed over the years. Pastor Steve is getting in touch with other companies for estimates. Our organ is full of dust. The stops don't work to control the volume as they should. It's really in bad shape. We never had a maintenance agreement on the organ. Additional discussion on the lack of maintenance on the organ continued. We will circle back on this next month.

Deacon Lindsay also mentioned the adults are \$3000 short for the youth gathering. The Gienkes were always supportive of the youth and would want this fund used for this. She asked Teri about using some memorial funds to help with this shortage before using the Gienke fund. Deacon Lindsay will report back next month as to whether we are on track. Hopefully the fundraising will bring in enough to cover the shortage.

Other issues that need attention are renovations to the church. Troy is still very active in the refresh project as well as Bill Knaggs. However, it's unfortunate that we are not seeing more activity in moving forward in this endeavor from the congregation.

Bruce questioned if memorial funds could be used to support the adults deficit. It could but the motion on the floor is whether or not to unrestrict the Gienke fund.

Pastor Steve motioned that we as the current council vote to unrestrict the Gienke fund as it was originally intended. Jen seconded this motion. All in favor but one.

Teri explained how Paychex could assist in establishing our HR handbook. Jim believes his committee could accomplish this handbook without their assistance.

Discussed using Church Windows instead of Realm. This is more user friendly and less expensive. Deacon Lindsay gave examples as to how Realm has burned us in the past.

Resorts are not accurate with Realm. Church Windows works better and will cost us less and provide us the information we need. Pastor Steve mentioned that June Trenty's son could do the data entry and it would not cost very much.

Eclipse/Operation HOMES: Hotels are not accepting MMHA vouchers during this weekend. Asking that we extend HOMES into that weekend. We have the resources to assist. Bruce said we don't have the ability to accommodate this request. Sandy said we have plenty of bedding and cots to accommodate. Joyce Davis was also at the meeting with Sandy and agreed.

Jen closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Delores Ivan