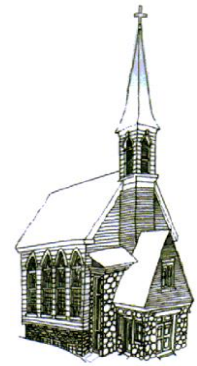




**Messiah Lutheran Church  
Washburn, Wisconsin**

*"Living in God's grace, we reach out  
to welcome all with Christ's love."*



**Council Minutes**

**Tuesday, April 17, 2018**

**Call to Order** – Ginny called the meeting to order at 6:10 p.m.

**Present** - Ginny Pederson, Julie Vadnais, Dede Maki, Travis Tulowitzky, Diane Heapy, Kelly Bierl, Linda Coleman, Pastor Ron Hanson

**Absent** – Bob Leis, Cheryl Follis, Jim Thoreson

**SECRETARY'S REPORT** - From March 20, 2018 – Secretary's report approved. Motion by Diane/2<sup>nd</sup> by Travis. Motion Passed.

**Opening Devotions:** Thank-you, Pastor Ron for leading opening devotions.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor Ron has been busy during the short time he has been at Messiah. He has conducted 2 baptisms and 1 funeral. He is working on bridging gaps with people he has known in the past and making connections with others.

**MINISTRY AREA REPORTS**

- Heaven's Helping Hands - Bob Leis – No Report.
- Stewardship/Finance and Save the Steeple Update, Review "walk thru" video – Dede Maki – Updates shared. The video of the proposed changes to the fellowship hall will be shared with those interested during several meetings in May. The Council asked questions about the proposed project. The loan application will need to be approved by Council and the congregation before any money is received. The next committee meeting is May 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Reconciling in Christ Update – Ginny Pedersen – This committee is currently looking for a new Chairperson.

**Informational Items**

- ELCA boiler plate recommended constitution review – Keith Holm is working with this. It has been delayed. Keith is seeking more input from others before presenting. It will be presented at the May Council meeting.
- Suggest ways in which we can improve communications at Messiah. – Discussed many ideas. See attachment.
- We need more people to host coffee fellowship. This continues to be a challenge. One suggestion is to identify a small group of people (3-4) that will make the coffee every week and then the host(s) would do the rest of the set-up, clean up, and provide the treats. Making the coffee seems to be a barrier to some potential hosts. Use the serving counter from the kitchen would make set-up and clean-up easier. This will be explored more once the Fellowship Hall remodel is completed. Encourage different church committees/groups to take a Sunday. Move the sign-up sheet right by Coffee Fellowship and encourage people to sign-up.

- Outreach and Evangelism Grant Application due June 1, 2018 – Ginny shared Bob’s grant proposal. This project, if funded, will provide nutritional help to a few low-income families in the community with children during the summer months. The proposal requested \$1000 with a match of \$1000. Question: Where will the matching funds come from? Linda moved to approve this proposal application if the financial match is coming from Heaven’s Helping Hands account. If other funding is need for this match, the proposal will come back to the May Council Meeting for approval. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Travis. Motion passed.
- Ginny would like one more person to join the nominating committee. Discussed. Interested people should contact Ginny.
- Ginny and Dede have not yet worked on rewording the “continuing resolution” proposed at the March council meeting which was intended to intentionally limit time of council meetings to less than 1 ½ hours. We will get this done for our May meeting. Some Council members expressed concerns about this policy. The Council discussed how this could be worded as an intent or guideline rather than a strict policy.

### **New Business**

- How can the council support Pastor Ron as he challenges the congregation to “match” Pastor Nancy’s search for spiritual renewal and growth? This action would support the Sabbatical portion of our Mission Action Plan, “Encourage congregational members to participate in the Messiah community during this time. (Worship, events, meetings, projects, etc.)”  
Pastor Ron Hanson’s comment: “My hope is that I can challenge the folks at Messiah by telling them that since their pastor is doing a lot to renew herself during her sabbatical, they should try to match that by getting themselves renewed and recharged as a congregation.”

Questions discussed: Where is the church going? How do we go beyond quick fixes? We need to go deep.

Pastor Ron and Ginny will lead a book discussion on Canoeing the Mountains by Tod Bolsinger. This book has been recommended by the Bishop for leadership development within the Church. Council members and other congregational members are encouraged to participate. Copies of the book are available from Pastor Ron. The book discussions will be held every other Thursday. There will be a session in the afternoon and another in the evening.

There will be a congregational meeting following worship on **Sunday, June 3, 2018**. The congregation will be asked to vote on the new constitution and building loan application.

**TREASURER’S REPORT** – No report was available. Ginny will get the current report and disseminate it to Council members.

**Adjourn:** Prayer & Blessing – Diane moved to adjourn the meeting. Julie 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, May 15, **6:30 pm** Fellowship Hall presentation at **6:00 pm**.

Who will lead council devotions next month? Julie.

## Suggestions for Improving Communications at Messiah

- Put the wall monthly calendar of events back up. Ginny will work on this.
- Have copies of the minutes available for pick up at the church.
- Update the webpage?
- Newsletters – Have these more often. Go back to a monthly publication instead of every other month. Information about upcoming events often is ready two months in advance for an every other month publication. Wait for Pastor Nancy to return to implement this. Also, we need to know when it is coming out and the due dates for article submissions. Are there other people that can help prepare the newsletters for mailing?
- Have Temple Talks and Coffee Fellowship Info Sessions
- Open invitations to Council meetings. Encourage other members of the congregation to attend.
- Reimplement the reminder phone calls for Council meetings.
- Passing clipboards during worship – Though these can be a good way to encourage people to sign up and participate in different efforts, they are distracting, and some people do not like them passed during the service. They are distracting and sometimes don't get passed. Suggestion: Have the coordinator of the event stand towards the front of the line at the end of service and encourage people to sign up while they are waiting to shake hands with the Pastor. Another suggestion: Have clipboards down at Coffee Fellowship to sign up for various events.
- Ask members of the congregation for ideas on what they would like to see for communication techniques.