**Messiah Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes**

**December 16, 2014, 5:30 p.m.**

**Attendees:** Bob Leis, Harriett Elliott, Bob Follis, Cheryl Follis, Ginny Pedersen, Keith Holm, Pastor Nancy Hanson, Dede Maki, Linda Coleman, Jim Thoreson

**Absent:** Cyndi Belanger

**Guests:** Ed Gruhl, cub scouts, Rev. Teena Racheli, Bill Kaufmann

Meeting called to order.

Ed Gruhl with the Cub Scouts thanked Messiah for sponsoring the unit. They have 10 kids participating and will be doing a pancake breakfast at Messiah on Sunday, February 15th. Ed presented the charter authorizing Messiah’s sponsorship of the scouts.

Opening devotions by Rev. Teena Racheli. After thanking Messiah’s council members for their leadership in ministering to the LGBT community, Rev. Racheli opened the meeting with prayer.

**M/S/C to approve the secretary’s report as presented.**

**Treasurer’s report:** The Treasurer reported a loss in November. It was reported that the annual Lutefisk Dinner raised $1,741. The silent auction raised $681. Special thanks to the Gowdy’s, Harriett Elliott and Margie Motiff and all of the others who volunteered.

**M/S/C to approve the Treasurers report as presented.**

**Pastors Report:** A written report was presented**.** Pastor Nancy reviewed the Strategic Plan with our focus on youth. There is an issue of finding volunteers to be in charge of communications with our families with kids. A possible suggestion was to add hours to our Parish Assistant who could be in charge of member communications. No decision was made at this time. It will be considered in January during the budget discussion.

The SOS (Survivors of Suicide Group) is thinking about starting again. Dianne Heapy will attend the meetings. She carries liability insurance. Cheryl will check with Messiah’s insurance agent to see if the church has coverage or what it might cost to add coverage for these kinds of services.

Pastor Nancy reported that we have some donated funds to help with transportation plans. We are still researching all options.

Council members were reminded about the annual meeting on February 1, 2015. Members will be invited to submit comments on RIC in the church bulletins on January 18 and 15.

**Worship Ministry:** No Report

**Learning Ministry:** No Report.

**Support Ministry:** Bob Follis reported that we received a bid from John Nyara to replace windows in the church basement and in the parsonage basement. **M/S/C to approve the bid as presented with work to begin as weather permits.**

**Miscellaneous:** Bob Leis reported that Heaven’s Helping Hands provided a scholarship for a student in Tanzania. There were 60 tags on the Sharing Tree. 50 were picked up. HHH will take care of the remaining 10. Sixth Street Market is donating some meal baskets. HHH will donate them and provide some gift certificates from the IGA to those in need.

It was reported that Messiah is under the ELCA umbrella as a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. Cheryl will get the exempt number from the Synod.

The Parsonage Committee met and discussed options with what to do with the parsonage when Pastor Nancy and Robert purchase a home. They will continue to meet and report their recommendation to the council at a future meeting.

Messiah Church Projects. **M/S/C to approve using the Church Project form developed by Dede Maki when considering new church projects or programs.**

New Council Retreat. There will be a three hour retreat for all council members on Saturday, February 7th from 9:00am to Noon at the church.

**M/SC to adjourn at 6:55pm**

Submitted by, Keith Holm