

Messiah Lutheran Church Council minutes for July 21, 2020

Jared called meeting to order. Pastor opened with asking everyone to check in. People shared their highs and lows. Several mentioned how living during a global pandemic and everything else going on in our country and world leaves us with a sense of unease, anxiety, struggling, and a “sludge” around our legs.

In attendance: Jared, Bev, Bob, Cheryl, Carol, Heidi, Jeff, Julie, Kelly, Tom, Pastor Absent: Travis

KEY: M/S/C = motion made, seconded and carried.

Secretary’s Report - M/S/C to approve June 23 council minutes.

Treasurer’s Report – At the end of the first six months; Messiah is over \$6000 in the black. M/S/C to receive treasurer’s report. Having the Payment Protection Plan grant paid the monthly \$5780 CHRISM payment. Cheryl referred to the letter Pastor emailed today referring to the events leading up to “being in the black.”

Pastor’s Report Pastor asked the group to give feedback on the first “Whatever You Do” video project.

Comments included: I loved it, the happiest thing I saw all day, I enjoyed it. Open and light, Great job of video editing, loved the gardens, it is actually a way to help us get to know each other, maybe to even keep us together, perhaps indicate which church the people are from, nice work, like the music, well done, several comments about an elk hoof, and an appreciation for comments about God is in the garden, seeing things grow. Pastor will be on vacation from August 3 to 17. Tom Mitchell will learn how to set up the sound system.

Stewardship & Finance Report-Karen Novachek plans to set up a meeting soon.

Ongoing Business: Several council members will continue doing “how are you?” phone calls.

Council positions of Vice President and Secretary remain open and need to be filled.

Jared asked for council comments on the July 19 parking lot worship service. Comments included ones from council members and those who were called: try having the pastor, microphone, piano all in the center of the school wall rather than on the far right corner, remind people that this FM radio frequency only works near the parking lot, it is nice to have the front row exit first so last row can wave, nice to hear the names of people who are in attendance, several people would prefer to sit outside rather than in their cars, some commented on the good sound that comes from the radio, “I like helping and noticed that as people left the parking lot, they looked happy.” Could the holy communion cups be passed out so it feels more like church? Keep working on how to park the cars so everyone can see the front, better than nothing, need more bulletins, On a windy day, the sound is probably best inside the car with the FM radio. Thank Owen and Jack for their great music. Check in with Bayfield Cty Health Department on the Friday morning before the parking lot worship.

Jared reminded council that at the July 5 worship the COVID numbers were smaller for Bayfield County. On Friday, July 17, before the July 19 worship, Bayfield County numbers had risen so much so that we called the Bayfield County Health Department, wondering if they might tell us to not have parking lot church. They assured us that this would be safe if we wore masks, and practiced social distancing. This local COVID spike led Pastor and Jared to decide to ask people to sit inside their cars on July 19. After much discussion, the council decided that sitting outside can work for the next parking lot services as long as cars are at least 8 feet apart, and people sit in front of their vehicle and wear masks (rather than moving around to find the shade).

All on council are asked to keep this question in their hearts, “How can we help parents, children, singles, elderly, etc. experience God’s love while they are physically distancing with COVID?”

Meeting adjourned with prayer & blessing at 7:12 pm. Next meeting is August 18 at 6:00 pm.

Submitted by Pastor Nancy