

Meeting brought to order by President Jared Myers. Pastor Nancy read the Leadership Covenant and led opening prayer.

Attendance: Jared, Tom, Julie, Bev, Jeff, Carol, Travis, Bob, Cheryl, Kelly, Heidi and Pr. Nancy  
No one absent. Council voted to table voting on the Earth Day Proclamation until our next meeting on Tuesday, March 24. Some did not have a chance to see it. Jared will get these documents to Tom Mitchell. If anyone else needs a copy, please call or email the church office 715 373-5378

M/S/C to receive Feb. 18, 2020 council minutes.

M/S/C to accept treasurer's report. Cheryl reported that due to a variety of things, a surplus of funds has accumulated in the CHRISM account so that instead of paying the usual \$5780 to CHRISM, Messiah will only need to pay \$2500 for the month of March. This is great news. First Lutheran in Port Wing will have a proportionate reduction for March.

Julie V made the motion and Carol seconded to follow the Wisconsin Governor's emergency proclamation to prohibit mass gatherings of ten or more. Discussion included: our first amendment rights, wanting everyone to be healthy and safe. Memorial Medical Center can't hold a large amount of people, so we should do all we can to reduce the numbers of people getting the virus. Funerals of more than ten people will not be allowed. Nancy will make sure all our user groups know they will not be able to meet. This motion passed unanimously.

Next motion had so much discussion that it is a challenge to write it. After lots of amending, we voted on this motion: Bob Leis made a motion that Messiah's side door on 3rd Avenue will be open when there is at least one staff member in the building and that signs need to be posted with a message that includes, "Welcome to Messiah. Please use hand sanitizer when you enter and when you leave. We are following the Governor's emergency ban to prohibit mass gatherings of ten or more, so no worship services or group meetings will be held at Messiah until further notice. If the door is locked, we still want to speak with you. Call 715 373-5378 and leave us a message or in case of emergency, call Pastor Nancy at 715 209-1100. We care about you!"

Bev seconded the motion. Discussion. This motion passed with one vote not in favor.

Regarding this building use motion, we will create a different policy when we discover a confirmed case of the virus in our area counties. At that time, we may choose to keep the building locked.

Jared asked the group if we could meet more often during these times. All said yes. Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 24 at 5:30 pm. The conference call method will be used again.

Jared asked each council member if he or she would be willing to make two phone calls to check up on parishoners. Most everyone said yes. Pastor Nancy will get names to all. If you have two people you know you would like to call, please let Nancy know. Meeting adjourned around 7:30 pm or so

**Council notes from Tuesday, March 24, 2020.** Jerod brought meeting to order. Pastor Nancy led in prayer. Group discussed the Earth Day Proclamation. Council voted to not endorse this document at this time of coronavirus. Group reported on phone call conversations.

**Council notes from March 31, 2020** Perfect attendance

After opening prayer, Cheryl gave a treasurer's report. Due to the one time reduction in what we owed CHRISM, last month we paid \$2500 when usually we pay \$5780 plus, we received \$700 income due to sale of snow blower and miscellaneous things from Robyn Meyerson, and some extra checks as a result of the mailing, Messiah at the end of March is in the black by over \$2000. Everyone cheered. We know that April will be a challenging month due to no worship due to the coronavirus.

Pastor Nancy offered the following guidelines during the global pandemic: Whatever we do during the coronavirus global pandemic, Messiah members and staff will be guided by these questions: 1- Does this help us CONNECT as the body of Christ?

2-Does this promote safety and follow the Governor's Safer At Home guidelines?

3-Does this let parishoners know Messiah is trying new ways to reach out and welcome all with Christ's love? 4-Does this receive the OK from the Bayfield County Dept. of Health?

5-Does this show concern for those who work on the "front lines" such as workers in medical professions, postal workers, stores, etc.

(for example, communicating by phone or email rather than U.S. mail if possible would show concern for postal workers) There were no additions or edits to her suggestions so pastor and staff will operate with these guidelines until new information comes along.

Council discussed the pros and cons of supporting Messiah's Youth Ministry Team Resurrection Garden craft and holy week devotional packet. The Bayfield Health Department has approved this activity; however, four parishoners have told Pastor they do not approve of Messiah doing this during the coronavirus. They think Messiah is setting a bad example and does not follow the guidelines-Safe At Home means stay home. Girl Scouts are not passing out cookies, for example. We discovered that Girl Scouts revised their policy so that scouts can drop off cookies.

Plan: Dirt, grass seed and devotional material are assembled by three people or less. These three people are using the 6 feet apart social distancing and hand washing as they assemble the kits. Messiah families are called to see if they want a kit. If they say no, they can get the instructions by email. For those who say yes, these kits will be on the sidewalk in brown paper bags on Monday, April 6 from 11-1 pm for pickup. After discussion Travis made a motion Bob seconded that Messiah's youth ministry team proceed with assembling the Easter Resurrection garden kits, done using best practices. Once these kits are complete, they will be dropped off at Messiah Lutheran Church. Pastor Nancy will put them on the sidewalk on Monday April 6 from 11-1 for families to pick up. 8 voted in favor, 2 abstained, motion passed.

Pastor asked for council input. May I continue filming the weekly sermons using the empty church?

Altar guild is willing to decorate the church for Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. During the filming, the two people in the church will be Pastor and her camera person, most likely Robert.

Council discussed the safety of where pastor records her sermons, in the church or at home. Council decided that either location is OK as long as pastor and Robert are the only ones in the building.

Altar guild will change paraments and do some Easter decorating. This will be only two people or one person at a time. They need to come to the building when it is empty. For now, no one is in the building with the exception of Pastor coming in occasionally and Cheryl coming to do financial recording. Tracy is now working from home.

Jared asked if the group could meet weekly for a while for 30 minutes to check in. Pastor asked that people continue to do their phoning. The next meeting will be April 7 at 5:30 pm.

Conference call on April 7, 2020. Group went around the circle to report on phoning. The group decided to take April 14 off. Next meeting is April 21 for a regular council meeting by conference call at 5:30 p.m.