

Messiah Lutheran Church Council Minutes – November 16, 2021

Present: Jared Myers, Bev Dehn, Bob Leis, Tom Mitchell, Kelly Beirl, Cheryl Follis, Heidi Kahlstorf, Carol Salminen, Julie Vadnais, Jeff Olsen and Michelle Lampson **Absent:** Pastor Nancy

Call to Order: 6:10 pm Bob Leis opened the meeting with devotions and prayers.

Secretary's Report – Bob Leis / Bev Dehn moved to approve the October 19th minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – We are \$319.40 in the black for November, \$39.44 for year to date. Michelle Lampson / Kelly Beirl moved to approve the report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report

- 1- Requested to have Jocelyn Langholz preach on Dec 26th. Council approves.
- 2- Kaari, Bob Leis and Pastor Nancy met to share concerns. They came to understand they all want the same thing – that our youth grow in their faith and avoid being divisive.
- 3 – Two funerals – Nov 3 for Phyllis Thedens and Nov 13 for Dorothy Maki.
- 4 – GIFT will continue alternating in-person and Zoom meetings, Choir meets Wednesday, Nov 17th
- 5 – Pastor will be using \$1100 of her continuing ed funds to attend a Civil Rights Pilgrimage in January.

Ministry Reports

1 – Giving Update – This year's giving is substantially similar to what we received in 2019. Generosity Committee discussed ways to increase regular giving, especially via electronic means. One suggestion was to send everyone in the congregation a reminder about all the ways they can make regular gifts to the church.

2 – Window Project – The Generosity Committee brainstormed various ways Messiah might have to finance the window renovation project, including congregational fundraisers, tapping into Thrivent funds, loans and financing offered by the renovation company. Jared suggested that due to the project's complexity, a committee of selected individuals be formed to do the necessary researching and planning. This committee would then bring their recommendations to the Council for final approval. Council agreed with Jared's proposal. Council also asked to get references from the two companies we've looked at for this project.

3 – Holiday Fundraising – Bob Leis is aiming for a goal of 200 ham dinner orders. Rough count at the meeting had 29 from the calls we've made in the past week. Bob clarified that people can pay for their dinners in advance or when they pick them up.

New Business

1 – A/V Upgrade Project – Doug met with Jared, Michelle and Pastor Nancy on Wed, Nov 10th for a walk-through to clarify where the equipment will be placed, how it will be connected and who will operate it. We identified and solved issues involving wiring, our wireless Internet signal and camera placement. Current plan is to have a signal booster installed in the altar area that will extend our Internet all the way to the choir loft. Cameras will be mounted on the choir balcony, facing towards the altar area. We will use our existing audio systems and microphones. A “Zoom Usher” will control camera and microphone signals from a small desk in the choir loft near the piano. Thanks to Pastor Nancy for coining the term “Zoom Usher”! There will be no wires on the sanctuary floor, the cameras will not be readily visible and the system will be as easy to use as possible. The equipment can be expanded later to accommodate future needs. Proposed timeline is to have everything installed and ready to go before the Christmas Eve services.

2 – Christmas Worship Planning – Pastor Nancy has spent a considerable amount of time and effort trying to plan Christmas Eve worship activities that are both inclusive and as COVID-safe as possible. She recommended that we have three worship services on Christmas Eve – 3 pm, 7:30 pm, and 11 pm – with the middle service being Zoom only in an otherwise empty church because we do not have a pianist for that time.

The Council recommended that all three services be live, even if we don't have a pianist. They had several suggestions to take the place of live piano, including pre-recorded music, instruments other than piano, solo acapella performances and replacing hymns with readings.

3 – Resumption of Coffee Fellowship – This will be discussed at the Dec 5th Retreat meeting.

4 – Retreat Lunch Options – This will be handled via email.

A motion was made by Cheryl Follis, seconded by Michelle Lampson to adjourn. Motion carried.

Adjourned at 7:15 pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Michelle Lampson
Church Council Secretary