

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
August 7, 2018

Opening Devotion and Prayer: led by Susan Lassi, she read Philippians 4:4-7
Above all else prayer will help us through our difficult times. We lift up our thanks to God and we bring him our concerns and the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds.

Adoption of the Agenda: On file.

Motion to approve the Agenda: Sue Lassi
Seconded: Barb Gibson
Approved

Minutes of Prior Meeting: On file.

Motion to approve Prior Meeting Minutes: Barb Gibson
Seconded: Jake Trybulski
Approved

Visioning and Discussion: Pastor Whitesel presented a reading to council titled, "How to effectively minister in different size churches" Article is on file.

This is an important read for our church leaders as we prepare for the call process. As we move forward we need to consider what we already have and complement our other staff and their strengths. This article gives us some language and concepts to aid in our conversation during the call process.

Financial Manager's Report: on file.

Beginning balance: \$141,629.26
Ending balance: \$118,005.54

Major disbursements include:

Ed Building Maintenance \$2,267.59 for lawn care, plumbing, and HB+VAC
Painting – taken from Memorial fund - \$6,880
Insurance - \$8,863.74
Parsonage taxes - \$3,022.61

Benevolence was discussed. We're slightly behind in our pledge.

Pastor Sarah made a motion to bring benevolence up to our June payment pledge.
Seconded: Sue Lassi
Approved

An approximate \$3,000 will be included in the August payment Council recommends putting an appeal in the bulletin for both Benevolence and Building Fund support.

Council reviewed the budget. No action was taken at this time, because of future changes that need to be made concerning day care facility use. Audit has been going well. No serious problems have been discovered so far.

Motion to approve Financial Report: Pastor Whitesel
Second: Allison Graybill
Approved

Trustees: No report.

Trustees are meeting August 8, 2018

Cemetery: No written report.

\$38,000 balance in the savings account; this should be enough to see us through till the end of the year.

There were four burials in July

Interim Pastor's Report: No written report.

Outreach – no report

Evangelism – Alpha Course is starting September 12. We're encouraged to attend this informational class.

Baptism – there's a Children's Garden family that Pastor Whitesel is in conversation with about our church

Pastoral Care – Pastor Whitesel is holding a class the last Sunday in September for people who are interested in becoming Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Worship – 4 PM Saturday and Sunday services are now canceled, because they didn't feed into the fellowship of the congregation

There's a Worship and Music meeting on August 16th at which time the team will take a look at the schedule for next summer and what other options we have

Communion will always be by intinction. We will stop using the individual cup as a way to simplify communion for members and visitors

Coffee – Pastor Whitesel would like to see a coffee pot be available in the narthex to make people slow down to talk with each other

Associate Pastor's Report: On file.

Thank you for everyone who helped with VBS

Sunday School teachers are all lined up for the 2018-2019 School Year. We are looking at changes to the opening and opinions are welcome.

Pastor Keilholtz told us about the first year seminary students' program to work with a church as their mentor and serve as a teaching parish. The cost is the reimbursement of the student's mileage. For the 8 month period it would be approximately \$1000. Once or twice a month a church family is asked to host them for lunch. Pastor Sarah would like to take on the mentor role for this program.

Pastor Sarah made a motion that we apply for 18/19 school year to put our name on a list at the seminary as a teaching parish for first year students.

Second: Shannon Kincaid

Approved

Reports from Coordinators: Meeting September 10.

Youth Director's Report and Financial Reports: On file.

Children's Garden Director and Financial Report: On file.

Council reviewed the Day Care Budget. Several concerns were raised.

Inconsistencies on how much they're going to pay St. Johns and what St. Johns is asking them to pay

Salaries lumped together. What are the salaries of the director and assistant director?

We do not receive minutes from their board meetings. What qualifies the board to determine raises?

We need to coordinate our budget time and their budget time.

Pastor Whitesel made a motion to accept the day care budget

Seconded: Susan Lassi

Discussion

Motion Defeated

Council President, Bob Finn will meet with the director and assistant director to get answers to council's concerns.

The Day Care would like to put on a Christmas play titled, "Glory to God in the Highest" using our church sanctuary.

Pastor Whitesel made a motion to approve the day care performance of "Glory to God in the Highest" in our sanctuary

Seconded: Susan Van Zile

Approved

The Day Care is holding a Fall Festival on October 6 from 11 – 2. They would like to advertise in the church's publications and open up support from the congregation.

Pastor Whitesel made a motion to accept the Day Care's Fall Festival on Oct 6 from 11 – 2 and subsequent advertising

Seconded: Susan Van Zile

Approved

Petitions and Communications:

The Orris family is putting a team together for a walk committed to raising \$2500 to Crohn's Disease. If donations are \$250 or more a lawn sign is placed on the walk's path advertising the donation.

Put it in the bulletin to match it up to \$250

Pastor Whitesel made a motion to advertise the church would match donations up to \$250 in support of the Orris family.

Seconded: Barb Gibson

Approved

Unfinished Business:

Staff positions:

Sexton – no one at this time

Discipleship Coordinator – Beth Bard will begin this position as soon as the secretary position is filled. We are immediately advertising for a part-time secretary receptionist.

Council Openings:

We welcome Allison Graybill as our newest council member completing Andrew McCarty's term

Shannon Kincaid agreed to be the Vice President in place of Andrew McCarty.

New Business:

A request was made by Mike Kadjeski to allow BYOB at the Trivia Night to be held in October.

Discussion raised concerns about liability. Our facility request form states no alcohol on the premises.

Council reviewed our Mission and Vision Statement and do not see a connection. No motion was made.

No vote for action.

A cemetery concern was brought to the attention of council. We have a liability with the current caretaker who is on the cemetery's payroll. We pay him a salary plus he receives money for a Saturday burial fee from the family or removal of rock fee from the family. The audit team said he's either an employee or a subcontractor, but not both.

There are also current problems with the caretaker not placing foundations in a timely manner.

Sue Lassi made a motion that we investigate the other options available to manage a cemetery because of the audit, the complaints by our recent email contact, and various other complaints.

Seconded: Barb Gibson

Approved.

Pastor Whitesel made a motion that we employ Gingrich to put in the foundation and we pay the cost.

Seconded: Sue Lassi

Approved

Pastor Whitesel made a motion to put a moratorium on selling any more plots with the exception of contacts already made till we get a handle on the situation.

Seconded: Pastor Keilholtz

Approved

The church council discussed whether we're equipped to handle a cemetery as a business. Perhaps it's time to hand it off to a management company. Church Council thanks Gary Gardner for his dedication and diligence in managing the St. John's Cemetery for all these years.

Bob Finn is going to talk to Kevin Kincaid, Malpezzi Funeral Home, Mechanicsburg Cemetery, and Gingrich Memorial.

Barb Gibson will contact Musselmans for information on cemeteries.

Motion to Adjourn

Motion: Shannon Kincaid

Seconded: Jake Trybulski

Approved

We closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Council Attendees: Bob Finn, Barbara Gibson, Allison Graybill, Pastor Sarah Keilholtz, Shannon Kincaid, Susan Lassi, Jake Trybulski, Susan Van Zile, and Pastor Rick Whitesel

Council Absentees: Tammy Novick

Elder Attendee: Gary Gardner

Non-Council Attendee: Beth Bard

Respectfully submitted,
Beth Bard, Recording Secretary