

Emmanuel Lutheran Church – Menominee, MI
Minutes of the Monthly Congregation Council Meeting on June 8, 2021

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Present: Pastor Mark Laatsch, Ronda Pedersen, Matt Vanni, Terrie Porras, Bill Taccolini, Jeff Hines, Jim Briar, Stacy Hansen, Betty Kohrt. Absent (excused): Bill Kuhnlein, Jeremy Sallgren, Linda Davis, Boni Nerat-Heckel, Laura Magrane. Present to Report: Debbie Villas, Patti Treptow.

Meeting called to order: at 6:05pm by President Ronda. Stacy motioned to approve agenda, Matt seconded, motion carried.

Opening Devotion: Pastor Mark read the 6/8/21 devotion from “The Word In Season” and spoke about its relevance to where we are today, coming out of the COVID-19 Pandemic. God is with us and has made all things new again.

Secretary’s Report: Terrie presented 5/11/21 minutes, no correspondence received. Betty motioned to accept minutes, seconded by Stacy, motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Debbie **1.** Reviewed financial reports. **2.** Requested church attendance report to be re-instated, Pastor will follow up. **3.** Discussed ways to reduce auto-payment fees. **4.** Discussed “Permanent Restricted Funds” Designation. A Fortune Lake Camp Fund exists that has been permanently restricted for 30-40 yrs., allowing only interest to be used. Interest rates are low, fund does not generate much income. Discussed contacting family members of those who originally set up the fund to discuss being able to use the principal. Finance Committee recommends we do not offer Permanent Restriction option going forward. **Motion** made by Matt to eliminate the option of “Permanent Restricted Fund” going forward, Jeff seconded, motion carried. **Actions:** Matt will contact Rob Jamo regarding use of “Permanent Restricted Funds”. If no legal issues identified, Pastor will call surviving family regarding using the principle. **5.** Recommended to allow “Restricted Funds”, after 5 years, to be re-directed as needed by Council. Policy and Procedure Committee to work on new policy addressing this and present to Council for approval.

Synod Assembly Report: Tabled until next meeting.

God’s Work Our Hands: Scheduled for 9/19/21. Ideas discussed: Clean up Hennes Park – Ronda will contact Mike Krah. Food/Snack collection for school children, week end bags for families (ready to eat food). Church collection in Sep. for money to purchase items? Patti will contact schools; Menominee, Marinette, Peshtigo.

Other: Use of Credit Card by members to make purchases for church discussed. Will not pursue. Will talk with committees and ask that they consolidate their spending so fewer re-imburement checks need to be written.

REPORTS – where we are.

Youth Advisory Council: Patti reported, GLOW is meeting the 2nd and 4th Sunday in June, July, and August. Many kids work and are involved in other events making it hard to get attendance except for big events.

Youth & Family Ministry Director's Report: Patti presented her report as written (see attached). Presented her and Pastor's idea for a new program they will call Ignite! (see attached handout). This will be open to the community, geared toward quiet kids, and celebrate each other's gifts. Council was in favor of this program. Patti and Pastor will develop further and look for a motion to approve in August.

President's Report: Ronda; **1.** We congratulate and celebrate with Pastor, his ordination anniversary, his upcoming July 7 Birthday, and being elected to the NGLS Discipline Committee! **2.** Discussed with Council and decided we **will not meet in July.** **3.** Reminded all to plan ahead for the Sat. 9/18/21, 9am NGLS "Walking Together" event being held in Porterfield. **4.** Instructed as we come out of COVIC-19 Pandemic, think about what we have learned; what do we want to leave behind, where do we go from here, what do we want to take with us?

Committee Reports:

Finance: See Treasurers Report.

Youth: Stacy – Have not met.

Learning: Patti/Bill T – VBS planning continuing.

Endowment: Pastor – Have not met.

Fellowship: Ronda – Continue work on 9/19/21 Rally Sunday at Henes Park. Next meet in Aug.

Human Resources (HR): Pastor - Have not met.

Memorial: Pastor – Met today. Open to purchasing chairs for "Coffee Shop", Council's long term project to create a space to "start a conversation". Next meet 7/15/21.

Outreach: Terrie – Handing out gifts to Father's on Sun., June 20 as they enter sanctuary. Working with Kathy Bero on new evangelism program to meet our neighbors and reconnect with inactive members.

Policy & Procedure (P&P): Pastor – Did not meet in May. Next meeting this Thur.

Property: Matt – **1.** Working on bushes in front of church, will be trimming and removing as needed. **2.** Wood frame around two front windows in poor condition. Will be scrapping, sanding and painting them. May need to wrap in aluminum. **3.** One stained glass window has been delivered to repair shop. **4.** Facia/soffit repair will start in Aug. **5.** Fire rating obtained for new

elevator flooring. Per State Inspector, slip resistance rating not required. Otis Elevator Co. has been contacted to pull permit. When permit received by the State Inspector, he will come in, inspect, and issue our elevator safety permit. 6. Looking into low maintenance, low-cost landscaping around new digital sign.

Stewardship: Jeff – Have not met.

Worship: Pastor Mark – Have not met.

Pastor's Report: Report presented as written, see attached. Read a correspondence received 6/7 from Cookie Kramer regarding her retirement from the stewardship committee.

NEW BUSINESS –

Worship Considerations – Pastor handed out and reviewed Updated Worship Practices (see handout).

Permanently Restricted Funds – See discussion under Treasurer report. Motion carried to eliminate option going forward.

July Meeting - Although we will be dark in July, Ronda will send out an email regarding a workshop to work on our “Coffee Shop” long term goal.

LONG TERM PROJECT/GOALS – Discussion tabled until August.

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm on a **motion** by Bill T, seconded by Matt, motion carried.

Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrie Porras, Council Secretary

Note: After meeting, Patti took new member pictures. Jeremy and Bill K. absent, will need their pictures taken at next meeting.