

Emmanuel Lutheran Church – Menominee, MI  
Minutes of the Monthly Congregation Council Meeting on August 10, 2021

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

Meeting called to order: at 6:10pm by President Ronda. Stacy motioned to approve agenda, Bill T. seconded, motion carried.

Opening Devotion: Pastor Mark read from the book “Let Me Tell You a Story” by Tony Campola including a reading from Matthew 13:24-30. He ended with prayer.

Secretary’s Report: Terrie presented June 8 minutes with one correction. Under Treasurers Report; Deb (not Matt) will contact Rob Jamo. Jeremy motioned to accept minutes as corrected, seconded by Matt, motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Debbie: **1.** Reviewed financial reports. **2.** Setting up a meeting with Rob Jamo. **3.** Using new Payroll system. Its working well so will cancel old payroll system to save \$800-\$900/year. **4.** Reminded Committee Chairs their budgets for 2022 are due by Sep/Oct.

Synod Assembly Report: Deb reported she attended the 5/10-5/15 assembly virtually, along with Pastor Mark, James & Terrie Porras. She felt it was a very worthwhile experience. Congregation members can watch assembly “workshops” online, on our website under Synod Assembly. She shared it felt good to be part of a gathering with our larger church family. The underlying message of the assembly was clear, “God is With Us”.

**ACTION ITEMS – where we’ve been. Old Business**

God’s Work Our Hand’s – Discussion led by Ronda. Decided to support Nursing Homes in our area through activity on Sun. 9/19 (also Rally Day). **1.** Will ask congregation for donations of note cards (blank inside) and purchase additional cards as needed. On Rally Sunday, as a group activity, we will write in cards then send to Nursing Home residents. **2.** Will collect gifts for Nursing Home staff to thank them for their service to our seniors, especially during COVID. Will ask congregation for donations of gift items such as; hard candy, mints, chocolates, snacks, lotions, chip snack bags, sport drinks, \$10 gift cards (to purchase coffee, muffins, fruit, subs, pizza for staff breaks). Patti will put collection poster and table in Narthex. Ronda will pick up baskets to pack gifts. Terrie will coordinate Out-Reach to help with packing, and write announcement for Messenger. Will collect from 9/5 - 9/26, can also bring donations to park on Rally Sunday. Council and Out-Reach will assemble the following week. **3.** At the start of our Rally Day Picnic, will “Walk Together” for those who can’t walk (Nursing Homes residents, COVID patients, on duty staff). Linda will bring wheelchair for those who can’t walk but want to participate.

Ignite Afterschool Program – Patti reported. See Youth and Family Ministry Report attached. **Motion** to approve this new program made by Linda, seconded by Betty, motion carried.

Coffee Fellowship – Ronda led discussion. To be held in the Fellowship Room starting on Commitment Sunday, Oct. 10 or 17 (Stewardship will set date). Might ask John Wills to provide music. First gathering to also be an Open House to show members the remodel updates.

## **REPORTS – where we are.**

Youth Advisory Council: Laura reported GLOW Youth will be at Camp Bird 9/11-12 to serve as mentors and leaders for confirmation students.

Youth & Family Ministry Director's Report: Patti presented her report as written (see attached). In addition, she took a Red Cross First Aid/AED course, taught by Linda, and is now certified.

President's Report: Ronda; **1.** Thanked Linda for teaching First Aid/AED course. **2.** Commented how wonderful it was to see VBS decorations and children in church 2 Sundays ago, an act of normalcy that brought hope. **3.** She virtually attended the July NGLS (Norther Great Lakes Synod) Congregation Presidents meeting of our 8-church conference. NGLS staff asked how they could help local churches more and become more known to congregation members. Ronda asks that we forward our ideas on this to her. She said it was helpful to share ideas with other church presidents. **4.** She reminded us that the "Walking Together" synod event is Sat. 9/18 at 9:30am in Porterfield. We would like 10 members to attend, sign up at next council meeting. **5.** Discussed NGLS "Northern Lights" newsletter, encouraged all to subscribe through the NGLS web site.

## Committee Reports:

Finance: See Treasurers Report.

Youth: Stacy – Have not met.

Learning: Bill T – Reported VBS was a success and shared a few funny stories. Teachers have been secured and curriculum has been ordered for fall Sunday school.

Endowment: Jeff – Have not met.

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

Fellowship: Ronda discussed 9/19 Rally Day. Will BBQ. All food will be purchased (no pot luck). Shopping for best food purchase pricing. Will put out a sign-up sheet in church to see how many will attend (previously planned for 100). No cost to members but will put out a free will offering basket at the park. All food will be plated and served by members wearing masks and gloves. Need more servers, Linda and Terrie volunteered.

Memorial: Pastor – Met, no decisions made.

Outreach: Terrie reported. Looking into a program called Project Give (collects snacks for school kids). Will meet soon to review calendar and plan this year's events.

Policy & Procedure (P&P): Pastor – Met and revised draft on P&P for Restricted Funds Policy (draft 9). Policy presented and reviewed. Motion to approve policy as revised made by Jeremy, seconded by Matt, motion carried.

Property: Matt reported: **1.** Working on lighting in outdoor mosaic window. **2.** Continue planning landscape around outside digital sign. **3.** Outside fascia/soffit/gutter work to start in Sep. (contractor behind). **4.** Request for snow removal bids sent out. **5.** Carol’s hours increased to 6-8/wk. as church traffic is up. **6.** “Crown on Cross” stained glass window repair completed and back in place. The window over the front entrance will be repaired first of the year. **7.** Working on 2022 budget. **8.** Planning removal of overgrown front bushes. **9.** Working on best way to reseal 2 windows that leaked in the past. **10.** Will work with Linda on butterfly garden. Need top soil and mulch. Plan to be done before Labor Day.

Stewardship: Jeff – Have not met.

Worship: Pastor Mark – Have not met.

Pastor’s Report: Report presented as written. Thanked Patti and Marilyn Mouritsen for their work and successful VBS. Pastor coverage is needed for Sun. 9/12. Linda volunteered to do a music service. Bonnie and Tom Strohl are no longer able to store church games and trailer. Linda said her grandpa, Al Rasmussen, will store items in his garage and will also work on refurbishing our games!

#### **ACTION ITEMS – where we are going. NEW BUSINESS**

Walking Together - See President Report. Pastor will forward any new information as received.

Other – Pastor reported he received a resignation from council member Bill Kuhnlein. He will continue to serve on property committee. We need to fill this position by next meeting.

**LONG TERM PROJECT/GOALS** – See new business, Coffee Fellowship

Meeting adjourned at 8:40pm on a **motion** by Bill, seconded by Jeremy, motion carried. Pastor Mark closed with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Terrie Porras, Council Secretary

Note: Jeremy needs new member picture taken. Jeremy, please see Patti.