

January 12, 2021 Council Reports

Visits & Communion Report- Jim Puhl

1. Office
2. Livestream, call to Fountain View for blessing
3. Passed out bulletins and 18 Hosts, Office
6. Sunday Service
7. Office
8. Office
9. Livestream
10. Office, Pass out Bulletins and 19 Hosts
13. Church Service
14. Office
15. Office
16. Livestream, Office
17. Pass out Bulletins & 19 Hosts
19. Wreath across America
20. Church Service
21. Office
22. Office
23. Livestream, Pass out Christmas and Regular Bulletins with both Hosts.
24. Christmas Eve Service
28. Office
29. Office
30. Office
31. Pass out Bulletins & Hosts, December & Year End Reports

Treasurers' Report- Rick Taylor

1. I suggest ordering checks for the "Luther League" account. We don't know who are authorized to sign, so we will have to find out from First Merchants. I don't think I am an authorized signer for the account, but they will probably tell me who is if I contact them. There seemed to be a mountain of "Papierkrieg" – bureaucratic red tape – involved in changing the account name last time I asked. The name Luther League is misleading, and will become more so in the future for new members.

2. (From December report): Although requests for forgiveness of PPP loans can be submitted up to 10 months after money was received, I would like to submit our request by the end of December or early January. Suggested documentation to comply with PPP guidelines:

- Copy of check and invoice for all utility payments for the 8-week period.
- Copy of check and Federal/State forms (obtain from quick books or intuit?) for all payroll expenses, including employer's portion of state/federal taxes.
- Probably Complete Form 3508S. Form 3508EZ is more complicated.

We should plan to finish this by the end of January.

3. Some preliminary observations regarding new Payroll Protection Plan:

- Limited to businesses with less than 300 employees; might be better terms for those with 10 or less employees.
- In a cursory scan, I found nothing excluding churches or other nonprofits from the plan.
- To qualify, must have a reduction of 25% income in one quarter in 2020 from the same quarter in 2019.
- Must use 60% of funds for payroll expense. Not sure if there is a partial payback requirement if less than 75% spent on payroll.
- Maximum loan amount: 2.5 x monthly expense.

4. With no services in church on Sundays, bank offerings mailed or sent to the church are counted and deposited by two people who come to the church office each week. It is usually the same two people, which would not be deemed satisfactory by most insurance companies. Church Mutual to my knowledge has not questioned our procedure for handling offerings.

Worship, Music, & Art Report- Bernal Koch

WMA meeting minutes December 10, 2020

In attendance remotely: Pastor Lew Carslon, Minister Jim Puhl, Bernal Koch, Linda Taylor, Molly Spittler, Mariana Steffen, LuAnn Flick

Christmas Eve Service is scheduled for December 24 at 7:00pm. It will be a virtual service. There will be some chamber music before and during the service including 2 vocal soloists. There was some talk about having a small dinner (sloppy Joes, vegetable tray, dessert, chocolate bombs) before the service for the musicians. Linda Tayler said she would organize it. (Concern for COVID safety was voiced at this meeting and at a later zoom meeting and it was decided to forego the meal.)

Zoom meeting coffee hours are going to resume after church services on Sunday. We discussed ways to improve our streaming service.

Wednesday, Dec 23rd, a representative from Gabby's Ladder will be featured. We are considering featuring them as an outreach for the Lenten season.

We have purchased the CCLI license and Augsburg License for our streaming services.

Feb.17th is Ash Wednesday. Linda Taylor has agreed to look at the Lenten program that Pastor Lew would like to use.

It was suggested we have a Storytime on Wednesday nights. Short stories or even one Act plays could be performed.

We discussed Grief counselling for those who have lost loved ones due to COVID or otherwise as a mission for our church. Money could be donated. It will be discussed at the Dec. 23rd worship service.

Annual Meeting is January 24, 2021 at 11 a.m.

Music, Worship, and Art Committee Minutes - January 7, 2021

Members present remotely - Bernal Koch, chair, Pastor Lew Carlson, Minister Jim Puhl, Mariana Steffen, Molly Spittler, Lu Ann Flick, and Linda Taylor.

Lenten themes and emphasis were discussed. February 17th is Ash Wednesday. Pastor Lew and Minister Jim will offer ashes on a drive-in basis that day. Anyone interested in receiving ashes can drive up to the front of the church (west entrance facing Lewis Ave.) from 1:00-2:00 pm and 6:00-6:45 pm. Our ministers will be using COVID safety procedures in administering the ashes (masks, gloves and Q-tips).

Our theme for Lent is “Season of Healing”. We will be using some daily devotional booklets - “The Road Back to God” and “The Teachings of Jesus.” We will be supporting “Gabby’s Ladder” through donations and material items needed for its mission.

Pastor has also suggested having a “Christmas in July” celebration to do the holiday as a congregation which we could not do last month.

Next WMA meeting is scheduled Tuesday, February 2 at 5:00 pm.

Dec. 8th Council Minutes Report- Molly Spitler

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 P.M. Present were Rick and Linda Taylor, Kathy Mozena, Dean and Thomas Yarger, Ron and Bernal Koch, Pastor Lew Carlson, Ray and Lona Balduf, Linda Meinhart, and Molly Spitler.

Pastor Lew led the group in devotion. Sunday is Elizabeth, John the Baptist’s mother’s Sunday. Elizabeth had a difficult life and influenced Mary the mother of Jesus. How will we be changed by the COVID-19 and how is God using us for good?

Lona Balduf has made Christmas cards and needs a list of all parishioners. It was decided that stewardship will be addressed in a separate letter in January. Dean Yarger moved to accept all reports. Second by Bernal Koch. Motion carried.

JIM PUHL

Jim has been busy with nursing homes and shut in’s. He requested his day off be Friday instead of Thursday. Council had no objection.

SECRETARY

No corrections.

BOOKKEEPER/TREASURER

Rick Taylor will meet with Ron Koch to balance Quick Book records with bank statements. It appears we are losing funding and a stewardship program is needed. Ron, Pastor Lew, Rick Taylor, and Lona will meet to review the stewardship letter this week.

WORSHIP MUSIC AND ART

Services will be virtual through Christmas. There is one virtual service planned for Christmas Eve at 7:00P.M. Jim Puhl will deliver the host to parishioner’s homes. The next committee meeting is December 10th.

CHRISTIAN ED

Another craft bag give away is planned since only 18 were given out at the last event. It was suggested that we get e-mail addresses or other contact information from the participants to be able to invite them to future events.

PROPERTY

Ray Balduf reports he took care of some plumbing issues downstairs and installed a new toilet seat. Rick and Linda Taylor were thanked for helping with leaf removal.

SOCIAL MINISTRY

The committee is distributing food to around 14-18 families each month. The Angel Tree still has three ornaments left and food and gas cards are needed for parents. Kathy Mozena requests all donations by December 18th.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Lew thanked the congregation for their thoughts and prayers after the death of his father. There was a crisis where a child was dropped off at the church by his mother. Heather Parker was able to provide clothes, beds, and essential items to the grandmother to care for the child. McKenzie has been using the church library to study. The importance of visits and phone calls to shut-ins was emphasized.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

No additions.

OLD BUSINESS

Another CCLI license is needed to stream material from the red hymnal. Molly Spitler moved to purchase the One License for 12 months for up to an additional \$277. Second by Dean Yarger. Motion carried.

The BLM sign has been repainted. Four people are needed to put it back up so we can continue our mission of becoming an antiracist church. A mutual ministry meeting will be scheduled before the next council meeting to go over employee evaluations. Rick Taylor and Lona Balduf will set up a fee schedule for church funerals.

The annual meeting is January 24th at 11:00 A.M. Pastor Lew and Molly need to meet to select nominations for officers and committee members. Some parishioners may need help hooking up with Zoom and it was also suggested we broadcast the meeting to the parking lot and allow people to socially distance in the church building.

Dean Yarger is looking into contracts and policies for employees with the Mutual Ministry committee. Linda Taylor received Thrivent funds for the synod stewardship program.

Bernal Koch moved to pay Sarah Henes for four extra hours to be able to look at YouTube instructional videos on Quick Books. Second by Rick Taylor. Motion carried.

Ron Koch reports Pro Audio came in to evaluate the sound system. The soundboard was found to be faulty, not the microphones. A filter can be bought for \$100-\$200 to keep the power constant. There is a repairman in Toledo who can fix the existing board but he has not called back. Ron is recommending the board be repaired not replaced and that we get a quote for a new board.

Pastor Lew led the group in prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 P.M.

Christian Education Report- Linda Meinhart

Advent Bags were given away. In each bag were items for kids to enjoy as they prepared for the Birth of Jesus. We had two Sunday handouts. Bags were given to the Daycare. Bags were also given out with the gifts for the Angel Tree and during the Food Closet.

Another project we were involved in was for the care facilities that Jim visits. He was able to provide items to two homes this year. Thank you to all that provided items and helped with the handouts.

We will continue to find ways to reach the children of our community.

Property Report- Ray Balduf

- Met with Frame's Pest Control
- Unplugged toilet in downstairs Girl's Toilet
- Replaced light bulbs
- Met with Fire Inspector, everything is okay

Social Ministry Report- Kathy Knackstedt

December was a very busy month. We were able to help 18 families with food boxes and meat at our December 19 distribution.

We also served our 6 seniors with a monthly food box as well as a turkey breast and food for Christmas dinner plus a fruit and goodie bag. In previous years we provided 3

months of food for seniors in December since we didn't deliver during winter. Thanks to our friend Nick (who donates food each month in memory of Dave Frechette) offered to help us deliver to seniors each January - March.

We were able to support 12 families with Christmas meal &/or gifts including those from Head Start, Discover Our World and call in families. We wish to thank all who helped us with monetary, gift and turkey donations. The families we helped were so grateful.

We were also blessed with monetary donations from friends of the food closet as well as many food donations from Resurrection Catholic Church, anonymous donations and from Nick.

We spent \$507 during December on food, meat, gifts for the Angel Tree.

Thank you to all who have helped this year including volunteering at distributions, monetary and food donations. You are a very real blessing to this ministry.

We look forward to 2021 and what God has in store for our food closet. He has provided all our needs and know this will continue through our congregation and community.

President's Report- Ron Koch

I have received the invitation to the PPP forgiveness portal and will work with Rick to get this taken care of this month.

I have attached the quote from Phillips ProAudio for discussion under old business

As per your direction I have asked Sarah to view the 4 hours of YouTube videos that we discussed. I am also working on creating our new budget in QuickBooks which I hope will give Council and congregation a clear picture of where we are in a given month with relation to the budget.

Our congregational meeting is the next order of business. I am concerned that we make it accessible to congregants and get the reports to everyone that wants them. Thank you so much

for getting reports in, in a timely fashion! At the meeting, I would like to spend less time rehashing reports, and more time looking to our future, establishing our goals, and affirming our resolve to be intentional in living out our commitment to Christ and his teachings.

I really enjoyed and would like us to model a line from the stewardship information: History shows us that giving will remain strong in congregations even in times of recession as long as the leadership of the congregation does not inadvertently create a feeling of scarcity instead of abundance.

It is up to us to keep things moving, work on our goals, and lead St. Paul's to be all that it can be!

Old Business:

- Stewardship program
- PPP Forgiveness
- First Merchants & Quickbooks reconciliation
- Black Lives Matter/anti-racism work
- Sound system repair
- Children's sermons
- Soundproofing of Pastor's office
- Employee evaluations
- New Check signers
- Appreciation for Sandee Bowman
- Funeral guidelines
- Nominations for Council 2021
- Annual congregational meeting
- Contracts/policies for employees
- Review of goals

New Business:

- Budget



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Estimate
 PPA17245-Q
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C/O Rev. Lewis Carlson
 St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
 9144 Lewis Avenue
 Temperance, Mi 48182 Phone 419-206-7906 Fax _____ Date 12/14/2020

Power Conditioner Ron Cook

Qty	Product ID	Manufacturer	Description	Price	Extended Amount
1	PL-8C	Furman	Power Conditioner, Noise Filter	\$278.00	\$278.00
1		Pps	Mixer Rental		\$0.00
2	Hourly Labor	Pts	Mixer Repair Service Tbd	\$130.00	\$0.00
2	Hourly Labor	Service	Service Call - Install Temporary Service Call - Reinstall Repaired	\$130.00	\$0.00

Payment to be made as follows: Cash, Company check, Money order or C.O.D.
 Per Specification This quote is good for 30 days after that there may be addit

Pricing subject to Change With Out Notice

Comments

Additional Bid Band	
Misc.	_____
Labor /Installation	
Tax	\$0.00
Shipping/Handling	\$14.00
Total	\$292.00

Goals:

- Overarching goal: Be intentional; practice living our beliefs
- Supporting goal: Reach out to the local community, reach out to the world.
- Supporting goal: Practice being good stewards.
- Supporting goal: Try to focus our mission work to meet the needs of the Congregation and to maximize our ability to serve.

Goals for Pastor Lew and Church Council:

1. Hold regular (quarterly minimum) Mutual Ministry meetings. We should review with the congregation the function and value of the MM committee and revisit this with the congregation frequently.
2. Set reasonable boundaries on duties of the Pastor. Having the Pastor stay away from finances seemed to be of utmost importance.
3. Pastor and Council need to work together to not overpromise and/or overextend. All need to realize that there are limits to what we can ask of each individual.

4. Council needs to endeavor to be very clear with directions/guidelines to Pastor. Pastor needs to endeavor to follow the intentions of directions/guidelines from Council, and ask questions for clarification.
5. Council needs to find a way to keep the Pastor's office locked and to make it a place of privacy, either through soundproofing, white noise or some other technique.
6. Set up a system for regular employee evaluations.