

## **November 10, 2020 Council Reports**

### **Visits & Communion Report- Jim Puhl**

2. Passing out church bulletins
4. Church service
5. Start to see ward in Toledo, call to Vibrant on Jackman
6. Meeting with Pastor, zoom, filled court papers for guardian
7. Taping, Bible study, Vibrant, 15 general service
9. Pass out bulletins, get ready for Sunday
11. Church inside first time.
13. Funeral
14. Taping, bible
15. Passing out bulletins
18. Church service, visited George Moomey family he is in Hospices, called back to family, George Moomey passed away
19. Plan visit to ward, not able to because of red level
21. Taping, food closet give away
23. Pass out bulletins
24. Funeral for George Mooney
25. Sunday service
28. Vibrant 6, taping, pass out bulletins
29. Pass out the rest of bulletins
30. Change clocks

### **Treasurers' Report- Rick Taylor**

*Not submitted.*

### **Worship, Music, & Art Report- Bernal Koch**

#### **Worship, Music and Art minutes - October 20, 2020**

In attendance remotely - Molly Spitler, Pastor Lew Carlson, Bernal Koch, Mariana Steffen, Linda Taylor.

Pastor comments - He thanked everyone who participated in Trunk or Treat (October 19 after church from 11:00-12:00). 153 children participated. Sarah, our secretary, promoted the event on Facebook and the WIC discussion Board. Thank you, Sara.

\*Mariana comments- Because we are streaming, posting on social media and YouTube, we need more licensing. We have CCLI Praise Songs licensing but we also need to get licensing for the Augsburg red hymnals. Although we own many hymnals we do not have permission to

use the music online. The total cost is \$277.00. We have already paid for the CCLI license so Pastor will have to check on how much we still owe and bring it to Council to okay.

A lengthy discussion followed between Pastor and Mariana about changes that should be made to improve our streaming services. Beginning and ending services should be more formal; too much talking before the service begins; less camera motion during the service were a few of the items mentioned. We encouraged them to work it out between themselves and the camera crew.

Individual bags of communion wafers will be available at our services. You may pick them up before the service before entering the church. Please save them until the communion part of the service. We will partake of them together after the Pastor has blessed the host. No wine will be served at this time. Linda Taylor will make up the bags.

\*Thanksgiving service - Pastor suggested honoring members at this service who were instrumental in the early formation of our church. The committee suggested having some criteria for such an event, specifically who would be honored as most of the original members are not with us. WMA does not want to offend anyone who might be left out. Pastor should bring this item to the church council. Pastor also wondered about a sermon topic on how we as a church can build on the idea of Thankfulness especially in connection with our support of Black Lives Matter.

Christmas services - We are planning on having two services on Christmas Eve - one at 5:00pm and one at 7:00pm. Because of limitations on the amount of people who attend each service, we are going to ask families to make reservations with our secretary.

Epiphany Sunday January 6 - Pastor would like to do special things for this service - getting some Frankincense and Myrrh and passing our gold chocolate coins to all in attendance.

Next meeting is November 17 at 5:00 pm via zoom.

Bernal Koch, WMA chair

### **October 13<sup>th</sup> Council Minutes Report- Molly Spitler**

Present: Ray Balduf, Dean Yarger, Linda Meinhart, Linda and Rick Taylor, Pastor Lew Carlson, Ron and Bernal Koch, Kathy Mozena, Thomas Yarger, Molly Spitler

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 P.M.

Pastor Lew led the group in devotion centered on the new roles of the church during the pandemic and dealing with transition and change.

Linda Taylor moved to accept all reports. Second by Dean Yarger. Motion carried.

## JIM PUHL

Jim has been out in the senior communities and doing what he can with COVID-19 restrictions.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

It is noted that the back pew was removed from the sanctuary not the middle pew to aid in streaming

## TREASURER'S REPORT

First Merchant's Bank shows Rick Taylor is not officially authorized to handle the general fund account. The church is not getting statements for the PPP account. Rick filed a new application for our tax exempt status with the assessor's office on Friday. First Merchant's Bank no longer requires two check signers but the church constitution does. Rick will find out who is listed as a signer at the bank. The mix up with the pantry account has not been fixed. Rick will go over the bank statements with Sarah and try to check them out online.

## WORSHIP MUSIC AND ART

The church was opened October 11. The church service went well and people followed social distancing protocols. Heather Parker is looking into an online program called SERMONS FOR KIDS. She may be requesting funding for the program but will need to see some of it first. Pastor Lew will try to get a free trial. Trunk or Treat is scheduled for October 18 after the service.

## CHRISTIAN ED

Volunteers are needed for Trunk or Treat-also candy donations. The preschool and church members will be invited.

## PROPERTY

The hornet's nest on the south side of the church was taken care of by Frames. Ray moved the used fluorescent bulbs into the large shed until they can be safely recycled. Dave Irons rebuilt the pump on the heating system. We are getting a used compressor for the heating system also.

## SOCIAL MINISTRY

26 families were served during the September food distribution. Donations of Thanksgiving food items are needed. The next distribution is scheduled for October 21.

## PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor thanked the congregation for allowing him to spend Mondays and Tuesdays with his father. Thanks to Heather and Kaden Parker for continuing to work on the quality of the live streaming. Our CCLI license does not cover live streaming of the music and liturgy. Mariana is looking into the cost for adding the additional license. Pastor is requesting birthday letters be sent to Tony in prison-cards are not allowed. Sarah will collect and mail them. More singers are needed for Wednesday and Sunday services. A new chamber group was started and will be performing.

Mutual Ministry is meeting before Thanksgiving to look at employee evaluations. The church has received thank you letters for putting up the BLM sign. The antiracist church study is going well on Thursday nights. It was mentioned that people were unable to find the U Tube site to watch the live streaming. A link to the page will be put on our Facebook page. We are still working on sound quality and zooming in.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The bank will evaluate how to file for forgiveness on the PPP loan. Without the PPP loan giving is down. It was suggested that giving statements be sent out to the congregation. The synod offers a stewardship program with a cost of \$450. The synod can reduce the price by \$100 and Thrivent can help with up to \$250. Dean Yarger moved to purchase this BEGINNING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY program from our synod at a cost of up to \$450 from the pastor's continuing education fund. Second by Bernal Koch. Motion carried.

## OLD BUSINESS

The Thursday night book study needs to be re-advertised to get more people involved. The director of the Blizzard Fest needs to be called to see if the event is still on for next year. Linda Taylor agreed to work on the possibility of bring communion back to the services safely for Reformation Sunday.

Pastor Lew led the group in prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 P.M.

### **Christian Education Report- Linda Meinhart**

We want to get together a drive thru Advent Handout for November 29th. We are hoping that we have as much involvement as we did with Trunk or Treat.

We would like to schedule it for 11:00 - 12:00 on Sunday 29th, the first Sunday in Advent.

Bags of Advent/Christmas projects will be handed out. Any members of the congregation can donate coloring books, crayons, colored pencils and any items they believe would be well

received by the children of our community. All donations should be donated by November 22 so the bags can be assembled in plenty of time. Items can have a religious theme or Christmas theme. Thrivent funds have been approved for this project.

An additional project is also being planned. Busy Activities for Fun will gather items for a care facility that Jim Puhl visits. This facility has a very small budget for activities and the residents have a small amount of monthly income for personal needs. Items being requested to be donated are adult coloring books, colored pencils and pencil sharpeners, decks of cards, No. 2 lead pencils and items that can be enjoyed individually or in small groups. If the donations exceed the needs of the roughly 90 residents the items will be taken to other facilities that Jim visits. All items will be taken to them on 12/15/2020. All items should be brought to the church by 9:30 on Sunday 12/13/2020. Thrivent funds have been requested for this project.

Thank you once again to all who worked to make the Trunk or Treat Event such a success. Let's bring 2020 to an end with service projects.

#### **Property Report- Ray Balduf**

- Replaced some light bulbs down stairs
- Patched concrete at North entrance
- Met with Frame Pest Control
- Began Fall cleanup of property

#### **Social Ministry Report- Kathy Knackstedt**

We were blessed this month through many food and monetary donations including a gift of \$100, a donation of food from Resurrection PCC and from Nick C. and also a friend of Jim's.

We spent about \$215 in Oct. We were blessed to distribute food boxes to 17 individuals and families on Oct.21st. Our seniors at Ivor Lindsay were delivered to also.

We have begun to collect names of families for Thanksgiving and also Christmas from Head Start and the preschool. We have about 8 families so far.

Our difficulties concerning our bank account have been corrected and we are waiting for the October bank statement to make sure. Many thanks to Rick and Linda who helped to finally get everything straightened out. We truly are grateful for your time, effort and patience.

Thank you for your continued support.

## **President's Report- Ron Koch**

Payroll Protection Loan funds are in a special bank account and are being used for payroll and utilities. We are preparing to work on loan forgiveness. Rick may have more on this.

I have done a little research on the need for additional licensing and will share during old business.

Council reports and meeting minutes are now available for viewing. They can be found under the Staff heading. Thanks Sarah!

I have contacted Phillips Pro Audio about the intermittent static that is coming through the sound system. Hopefully someone will get back with me soon and we can arrange a service call.

I have received a letter regarding concerns about payment for services for funerals. I will be appointing a group to look into this in new business.

Let's continue to work to continue to make real and documentable progress on our goals. What are your thoughts on where we are and where we should go?

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:**

- CCLI
- Tax Exemption Response
- Black Lives Matter/ Anti-Racism Work
- Blizzardfest
- Soundproofing of Pastor's office
- Employee evaluations
- New Check signers
- Appreciation for Sandee Bowman
- Review of Goals

### **New Business:**

- Funeral Guidelines
- Nominations for 2021 Council
- Annual Congregational Meeting

### **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.