

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER  
Monthly Council Meeting Agenda  
January 12, 2021

1. Call to Order – President
2. Opening Devotions – Barbara Nemchek
3. Adoption of December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes
4. Old & New Business –
  - a) Annual Meeting – January 31st
  - b) Common Food for Common Good Garden Plot Request
  - c) LEAP use of Crib-n-Crawl Room Request
  - d) Purchasing Card (P-Card)
  - e) Redeemer business cards/contact information
  - f) Mutual Ministry Proposal (presented by Sharon Hearn)

5. Pastor's Report

January 12, 2021 [since Dec 9, 2020]

*Worship*                      3 Advent Wednesday services; 1 outdoor Christmas Eve; 2 indoor Christmas Eve; 1 Christmas Day; 1 Epiphany Service

*Staff Meeting*              9  
    Fran                      2  
    Stephanie                1  
    Diane                     3

*Bible Study*                3  
*YouTube Videos*        3  
*Pericope*                    3  
*Teaching/Events*        3 Sessions - Music/Recording for Redeemer Christmas video  
    1 Stewardship Meetings  
    2 Confirmation Zoom classes  
    3 Zoom coffee hours  
    5 Worship walk-throughs with Stephanie and Fran

*Committees*                Stewardship; Mutual Ministry  
*Visitation*                6 phone calls  
    2 Home

*Worthy of Mention*      Thank you to all who helped with the Nativity Breakdown  
    Thank you to YOU, council, for helping get us through 2020!!

*High Priority*              Congregational Meeting: Jan 31, 2021;  
    TIME – 11:30am – 1pm  
    No restrictions in Church Constitution about format  
    Propose 1 Zoom meeting; 2 hour;  
    Quorum 46 people (465 on roll);  
    Create online Signup to insure quorum  
    Voting:

- 1) make the chat exclusively communication between the attendees and the host/administration on zoom; Make Barbara the host, and polling “anonymous”.
- 2) ~~Votes can be dropped off during a specific time (Ex. 11 and 11:30 am).~~
- 3) ~~People can call the office of the church to cast their vote.~~

*Upcoming*                      Picking up with our Core Values Project

*Pastoral Business*        Curating New Facebook Friends/worshippers;  
On hold- prospective to new members: Ponath (6); Hudson (1); Schleicher (4); Spinelli (4)

## 6. Financial Reports

- a) Treasurer’s Report – Larry Thompson
- b) Financial Secretary’s Report – Fred Ufferfilge
- c) Motion to Accept Financial Reports

## 7. Council Committee Reports - Highlights and Questions

- a) Christian Education– Heather Layng
  - i) Sunday school
    - (1) “Flat Nativity” PDFs were distributed to Sunday School families as an Advent and Christmas activity. Photos were collected by Stephanie and posted on Facebook and website.
    - (2) Advent weekly newsletters were distributed to families.
    - (3) Sunday School on Zoom
      - (a) 9-9:25 Toddler – 2nd Graders
      - (b) 9:30-9:55 3rd – 6th Graders.
      - (c) 11:30-12noon 7th Grade “Preconfirmation”
  - ii) Virtual VBS – Christmas Edition
    - (1) December 28-31 on Zoom from 9:30am – 10:30am on Zoom. 14 kids (7 Redeemer and 7 non-Redeemer) and 1 adult attended. Thank you to Connor Behrmann, Ryan Layng, Dylan and Luke Pacenza for helping out by leading online activities!
  - iii) Confirmation
    - (1) December 13th was the 2nd Faith Mentor Sunday of the school year. The 3rd Faith Mentor Sunday is scheduled for January 31st. On-line classes continue twice a month.
  - iv) Adult Education
    - (1) Bible Study Wednesday mornings at 10am socially distanced in person in Fellowship Hall and on Zoom.
    - (2) Seven-part series entitled “Dialogues On: Race.” Classes meet the last Monday of the month at 7:30pm on Zoom. Each Dialogues On: Race lesson includes perspectives from thought leaders challenging the legacy of racism within the American church. Next session Wednesday, January 25th at 7:30pm on Zoom on “American Amnesia: Christianity and the Erasing of Native American Stories.”
  - v) Boy Scout Sunday: February 14<sup>th</sup>
    - (1) 2nd Sunday of February is traditionally Boy Scout Sunday at Redeemer. Can the 1st Amendment exemption be used for February 14th where up to 25% or 45 people be allowed to attend worship, limiting to Boy Scout families only?
  - vi) Extravaganza 2021

- (1) Stephanie will be attending the ELCA Children, Youth and Family Ministry Network annual conference, which is online this year, February 4-6. The Extravaganza is the premier event for faith formation leaders in ELCA congregations. Extravaganza 2021 will explore God's call to "Hold Loosely" and to trust in the one who comes to create, to redeem and to sustain. This is more important now than ever, as we live and do ministry in a time of pandemic, of racial injustice and unrest, of social division and political turmoil.
- (2) Conversation and learning at #ext21 will center around five questions:
  - (a) How do we help those we work with navigate the grief of losing "normal?" How do we navigate that same grief for ourselves?
  - (b) How do we care for ourselves in the midst of accompanying others in their pain?
  - (c) How do we navigate change?
  - (d) What should we do next?
  - (e) How do we find hope in the midst of chaos?
- vii) Vacation Bible School Summer 2021
  - (1) Tentatively scheduled for August 2-6
  - (2) Theme is Treasured: Discovering You're Priceless to God!
- b) Evangelism– Carol Dunbar
  - i) Thanks to the congregation donations at the end of 2020 we have the money to complete our yearly commitment to Janelle Neubauer's ministry in Rwanda.
  - ii) I will also be sending in the paperwork stating our \$1,000 Commitment for 2021.
  - iii) I received an email from Stephanie where she was tracking potential members from our on online services. I'm not sure what the plan is from here, but we will be glad to help with welcoming new members.
  - iv) If anyone has any other outreach efforts that can use our committee's assistance, please let us know.
- c) Finance– Lauren Niederauer
- d) Fellowship –
- e) Property and Grounds – John Manke
  - i) Electrical: N/A
  - ii) Plumbing: N/A
  - iii) General Maintenance: N/A
  - iv) A/V: Streaming seems to have stabilized
  - v) Parsonage: Footing drains to start this week. Thanks, Phil Mones, for donating insulation for foundation walls.
- f) Social Ministry – Regina Karch
  - i) December Congregation donations were fabulously generous! We collected \$25.00 gift cards for the following charities: Christmas Blessings Project/ Catholic Charities of Paterson received 41 gift cards, St. Stephen's Grace Church received 22 gift cards, 13 gift cards to Ramsey Responds and 11 to Emmanuel Cancer Foundation. That is 87 gift cards in total which is \$2175.00!

g) Stewardship – Judith Schaefer

i) Stewardship 2021 –Building a Culture of Generosity

I'd like to take a moment to thank all of you who have participated in our current campaign. This has been a difficult year with many different life pathways. We have communicated with social media as our new path to work, visit, learn, and attend church service. We all want to be able to visit with one another and I pray we will all continue to adapt to the "New Normal" as we live with the introduction of COVID vaccine and continue our Health Safety measures.

Our numbers have varied during the 2021 campaign, we have lost a few through moves, a few experiencing difficult times, and, sadly, some have passed on. The Church Council challenge was to have 10 new family units to receive \$1900, we tried diligently but we are thankful to have 9 new family units. We have 80 members who have pledged to our 2021 campaign, about 40% have increased their pledge.

ii) In October 2020, Stewardship challenged Council members to support Membership Challenge of 10 new family units. Each council member signed their personal intent. We got so close when we signed our 9<sup>th</sup> before 12/31/20. I plan to send my donation in as Envelope Revenue by end of January, I know others on council will join me.

h) Worship and Music – Gerhart Lempp

i) Since the last council meeting all indoor services were performed with a maximum of 10 people per state government requirements for indoor assemblies. All services were virtually streamed for all other members and friends of the congregation. During this last five weeks we had the highest accumulation of services in the church year:

- (1) Regular Sunday services
- (2) Midweek Wednesday evening Advent services
- (3) Two Christmas Eve services
- (4) Two Christmas outdoor lessons and carols events with 25 participants each
- (5) Christmas day service
- (6) New Year's Eve evening service
- (7) Weekly Messages by Pastor via YouTube

This extraordinary accumulation of events resulted in extreme engagement of Pastor, Stefanie, Fran and Diane and we are very grateful for their service during a difficult time with many obstacles.

- ii) In addition, we thank the volunteers from our congregation who engaged with extra efforts in decorating the Church during the Advent and Christmas time and the musicians who enriched our services.
- iii) A large number of volunteers also were engaged in setting up and removal of our Nativity which is admired by many people in town

i) Youth Ministry – Kirsten Buerkle

i) Young Adults in Global Mission

- (1) Applications for the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) program are now being accepted for the 2021-2022 program year. Young adults ages 21 to 29 can apply for YAGM by the deadline of Jan. 15,

2021. This is a wonderful opportunity to gain a better understanding of faith, identity, career and understanding of God's work in the world. Learn more at <https://www.elca.org/yagm>

- (2) Stephanie emailed this information to qualifying young adults and/or their parents in Redeemer's database
- ii) Extravaganza 2021
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  - (3) How do we help those we work with navigate the grief of losing "normal?" How do we navigate that same grief for ourselves?
  - (4) How do we care for ourselves in the midst of accompanying others in their pain?
  - (5) How do we navigate change?
  - (6) What should we do next?
  - (7) How do we find hope in the midst of chaos?
- iii) 2021 Virtual Youth Retreats at Crossroads: EXPLORE!
  - (1) EXPLORE! with Cross Roads this winter at virtual youth retreats. Over the course of a few hours, kids and youth leaders will EXPLORE the ways God is present in our world and in our lives. Play games, read stories from the Bible, get moving, worship together, and have fun! There are three EXPLORE! retreat dates and times for different age groups:
  - (2) Grades K – 2: Saturday, February 13 from 10 am – 12 pm
  - (3) Grades 3 – 5: Saturday, February 13 from 1 – 3 pm
  - (4) Grades 6 – 8: Saturday, March 13 from 10 am – 12 pm
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- v) Youth Gathering now 2022
  - (1) Youth Gathering 2021 postponed until 2022
  - (2) Boundless: God Beyond Measure, July 24-28, 2022 Minneapolis, MN
  - (3) Fundraising on hold for now

## 8. Standing and Special Committees

- a) Endowment - John Karch
- b) Redeemer Reminder – Denise Bogatch
- c) St. Stephens Grace Community – Meredith Dykstra
  - i) Meredith continues to request a monthly donation of \$355.00 for St. Stephan's.
  - ii) St. Stephan's often posts things on Facebook, if people are interested.
- d) Cemetery – Dave Daehnke
- e) Mutual Ministry Committee –

## 9. Correspondence

10. Adjourn, motion, 2<sup>nd</sup>, vote

11. Close – Lord's Prayer