

The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Minutes of the Congregational Council Meeting - April 13, 2021

Present: Pastor Linderman, Barbara Nemchek, John Manke, Heather Layng, Kristen Kunz, Gwen Pra, Gerhart Lempp, Judith Schaefer, Kirsten Buerkle

Absent: Larry Thompson, Carol Dunbar, Lauren Niederauer

President Barbara Nemchek called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Devotions were led by Judith Schaefer.

Adoption of the March 9, 2021 minutes with agreed upon updates. John Manke moved to accept, Judith Schaefer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Old/New Business:

a) Adhoc Staff Committees: Barbara Nemchek will reach out to Denise Bogatch, Sharon Vogel, Jen Hommez, Mark and Melissa Oliver and others via e-mail to help research the necessary information to properly address the two motions resulting from this year's Annual Meeting. Once volunteers are on board they will be split into teams and Barbara and Pastor Linderman will give each group specific information to research - including job descriptions, benefit packages, compensation data, etc.... Once this has been accomplished the groups will put together a report for Council to review. Council will then refine this information (as per Pastor Linderman) for presentation to the Congregation.

b) Sunday School Teachers: In order to resume Sunday School Zoom calls two adults must be present at all times. Pastor Linderman, Stephanie Doyle, and Heather Layng will discuss recruiting volunteers next week.

c) Common Food for the Common Good Garden request: Barbara Nemchek will reach out to Church Mutual to find out what type of Certificate of Insurance is necessary for this project to begin and how much coverage is needed. Soil samples are to be taken tomorrow and sent to Rutgers for analysis to make sure there is no arsenic - otherwise the beds will need to be raised. Will investigate whether garden fencing can be considered temporary. Once these tasks have been completed then Council can vote on whether to proceed with this project.

d) LEAP use of the Crib and Crawl Room: Barbara Nemchek will check with Lorraine and Patti regarding the outcome of testing for lead paint and asbestos. When other groups (ie...Leisure Club, etc...) meet in Fellowship Hall during school hours (during Pre-K class) all students will use the bathrooms in the Education Building. During AI-Anon meetings on Thursdays, Pre-K class will meet in the Education

Building until 12 pm and then will resume class in the Crib and Crawl Room. In the scenario of a funeral, class would be held in the Education Building for that day.

e) Purchasing card: This issue has been tabled for now.

f) Business cards: Diane will research business cards for Pastor Linderman with Vista Print, Minuteman Press, and Staples.

g) Carillon System: Pastor Linderman, Fran, Gerhart and Ken met to discuss the system. Installation will take approximately 2 to 4 weeks.

h) Mutual Ministry ideas: Sharon Hearn is looking for input from Council on things Mutual Ministry can do to help assist Redeemer. Pastor Linderman will speak with her about this in the near future.

i) Status of forgiveness for the PPP Loan: Barbara will research what information will need to be submitted in order for Redeemer to receive loan forgiveness (salaries, payroll, utility bills, etc...) and will get the process started.

Pastor's Report: Pastor is currently focusing on Holy Week. He has a full slate of volunteers for all services to be offered. Pastor is currently researching how to merge the sign-up process for all volunteers and attendees of services. Pastor also thanked Phil Mones for taking the time to snake the Church building bathroom line out to the street. The Council Retreat is scheduled for May 1st from 9am-12 pm. The focus will be to discuss how to implement Redeemer's Core Values after Covid. The NJ Synod Assembly is scheduled for May 7-8. Pastor is looking for one Council member to attend with him on Zoom. The Bishop's Challenge, which will also be discussed at the Synod, focuses on racial equity this year. Fundraising and related activities for Congregations will be shared at the Assembly. Regarding the Easter Season, two services (8am and 10:15 am) will be held for dates 4/18, 5/2, and 5/23. Cleaning will occur in the pews using the fumigator between and after services. Disinfectant wipes will be used to wipe down all door handles, tables and touch points. Two baptisms will be held on April 18th and May 2nd during the 10:15 am service - only the families and friends will be present. On these dates the 8 am service will be open to the Congregation. Confirmation Sunday will take place on May 23rd at 10:15 am during which 5 Confirmands and their families will be present. Again, on this date the 8 am service will be open to the Congregation. In this way Redeemer will not exceed its maximum participation rate of 30 persons at this time. As restrictions ease Council will revisit ministry efforts in order to accommodate more services and more worshippers at services for purposes of Communion and a shared table for all. Hopefully this will begin for the season of Pentecost. Pastor has also been asked by the Ramsey School Board to join the "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee". Quilt Sunday will be held June 6th this year.

Financial Reports:

- **Treasurer's Report:** Larry Thompson - See report.
- **Financial Secretary's Report:** Fred Ufferfilge - See report. Envelope giving is a little behind this month.

- **Motion to Accept Financial Reports:** Barbara Nemchek made a motion to postpone accepting the financial reports until next month. Judith Schaefer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Christian Education: Heather Layng - See report. VBS scheduled for August 2nd - 6th. Will discuss all Covid considerations regarding VBS in May.

Evangelism: Carol Dunbar - Pastor Janelle is returning from assignment in Rwanda. Redeemer will now have the opportunity to pick a new missionary. Council will discuss in the near future.

Fellowship: Gwen Pra - See report.

Finance: Lauren Niederauer - See report.

Property and Grounds: John Manke - See report.

Social Ministry: Regina Karch - The Social Ministry budget has approximately 2K to fund this year's Meal Packaging Project. Volunteers can contribute additionally to the costs of running this program. The project should be completed in 5-6 working sessions this Fall. Regina Karch also made a motion to change the two donations for Lutheran World Relief to one donation and reallocate and add the second donation to Family Promise in 2021. Barbara Nemchek seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Stewardship: Judith Schaefer - See report.

Worship and Music: Gerhart Lempp - See report. Palm Sunday was a very active service and included singers and musicians. For the next couple of months Sundays will have a mix of single and double worship offerings depending on the events scheduled that day. Redeemer hopes to be moving back to offering two services per Sunday in the near future as restrictions ease.

Youth Ministry: Kirsten Buerkle - See report. A generous donation was given to the Youth Program this year. Heather Layng and Stephanie Doyle will research to see where this donation can be based used. They will report back to Council shortly. Baccalaureate Sunday is scheduled for June 13th this year. Tonight will be Kirsten Buerkle's last meeting. Thank you Kirsten for all of your hard work on the Youth Ministry Committee.

Standing and Special Committees:

- **Endowment:** John Karch - No report.
- **Redeemer Reminder:** Reminder articles due by April 15th.
- **St. Stephen's Grace:** Meredith Dykstra - No report. Regular donations to St. Stephen's Grace have been continuing.
- **Cemetery:** Dave Daehnke - No report.

- **Website:** John Manke - No report.
- **Mutual Ministry:** Sharon Hearn - No report.

Standing and Special Committee reports will be available in May. A motion was made to adjourn tonight's meeting. Judith Schaefer moved to accept. Kirsten Buerkle seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 pm and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Kunz

Congregation Council Secretary