

The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Minutes of the Congregational Council Meeting – July 21, 2020

Present: Pastor Linderman, Kristen Kunz, Barbara Nemchek, Judith Schaefer, Carol Dunbar, Heather Layng, John Manke, Regina Karch, Gerhardt Lempp, Kirsten Buerkle, Larry Thompson

Absent: Lauren Niederauer

President Barbara Nemchek called the meeting to order at 7:36 pm.

Devotions were led by Barbara Nemchek.

Adoption of the June 16, 2020 minutes - Judith Schaefer moved to accept, Heather Layng seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Old Business/New Business:

- a) Regarding the memorial donation in honor of Dorothy Linderman – would just ask that the funds for each of the \$500 donations come from Redeemer's Operating fund rather than the Memorial Fund. Will revisit the details of this during the upcoming September 8th meeting. Received a phone call from Patti Brown regarding LEAP's reopening this Fall. The school will open commensurate with Ramsey School District's reopening plans this August or September. LEAP would like to know if they could set up some tents in the church breezeway to facilitate daily temperature checks. And also, would this affect Pastor Linderman and his staff should the temperature checks start at 830 am? In the event that LEAP is forced to close due to COVID they would attempt remote learning for their students. Under this scenario they would only need to utilize their office not the classrooms. Should this occur would Redeemer consider rent relief as LEAP's revenue would be greatly reduced due to a decrease in tuition payments due to the switch to remote learning? Redeemer would reevaluate its cash flow scenario should this occur at some point this upcoming Fall. Hopefully a combination of Redeemer not needing to repay its PPP Loan and perhaps scaling back on its capital projects could allow for some rent relief for LEAP. Barbara will reach out to TD Bank to find out the status of our loan forgiveness.
- b) About the Redeemer Reconstitution Plan this summer – the first outdoor service is scheduled for July 26th at 930 am and the first indoor service is scheduled for August 16th. All information to be published in eBlasts. Judith, Gerhardt, and John making preparations for first outdoor service in parking lot. Heather Layng asked if we could host services outside throughout the Fall during the nice weather. Pastor explained that it was logistically harder and took longer to set up services outdoors. Each outdoor service takes about 1 ½ hours to set up. John Manke explained Joe our Sexton would be cleaning the Sanctuary and the bathrooms prior to the first Sunday service. Things to consider for outside services – ask attendees to sign up in advance on line for service attendance, print out service guides at home, non-contact thermometer, wipes, gloves, masks, hand sanitizer dispenser, need to work out flow of parishioners, only bread to be distributed during communion and flow to be worked out, no singing, no live coffee hour, set up of tent, PA system, and marking of parking lot. Things to consider for inside services – no use of

hymnals, no acolytes to assist for now, no use of A/C, open all of the windows, plexiglass barrier for Communion, and all other applicable items listed above from outdoor services.

- c) Pastor Linderman performed a service at the Redeemer Cemetery. Will also be performing a service at Calvary Church as it will have been properly cleaned prior to the service.
- d) Thank you note received from the Linderman-Vento Family.
- e) COVID-19 Goals – Should we reach the intended fundraising amount of 21K the funds which be apportioned accordingly:
 - 1) 10.5K for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund
 - 2) 10.5K for the appropriate AV Upgrade for future live streaming of Redeemer Services

Pastor's Report:

- a) Pastor attended 2 Ramsey Alliance for Social Equity rallies to date.
- b) Discussion of Redeemer COVID-19 Fund donations. Monies raised will be used in part for Social Ministry and AV Upgrade for future streaming of Redeemer Services. Will need to evaluate based upon how much is donated to COVID-19 Fund.

Financial Reports:

- a) **Treasurer's Report:** Larry Thompson – see report.
- b) **Financial Secretary's Report:** Fred Ufferfilge – At last count there were 79 recorded pledges and receipt of only 60 envelopes. Pledges have dropped off significantly at this point in time. However, some positive news can be reported regarding pledges. At this point in time we estimated pledges to be at approximately 90K when in fact they are at 97K. We will need to watch the level of pledges going forward this year.
- c) **Motion to Accept Financial Reports:** John Manke motioned to accept the financial reports. Judith Schaefer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Christian Education: Heather Layng –VBS was held twice this summer – the first time from July 6th-July 10th for one hour in the am and 1 hour in the pm and then again from August 3rd-August 7th. It was deemed a big success. Stephanie Doyle's A/C is no longer working. If we could look to replace this for next year – it would cost approximately \$400-\$700. Does someone have an A/C unit we could borrow for the summer? John Manke getting a quote on the mini-split to handle the whole office going forward. Will report back to Council on this. Regarding the start of Sunday School again – we are just waiting to see if and when Ramsey School District decides to open again.

Evangelism: Carol Dunbar – Just looking for opportunities to help out in the community at this time. Carol e-mailed Bruce Vozech regarding Redeemer's Ramsey Day participation.

Fellowship: Searching for Fellowship Committee Chair Replacement.

Finance: Lauren Niederauer – Checking account is favorable at this time – enough to cover taxes and payroll at this time. Includes 37K in Sabbatical Grant and PPP Loan). Endowment Fund is slowly regaining ground.

Property and Grounds: John Manke – All good with recent fire inspection. The Borough Zoning Board contacted us regarding a dilapidated fence at the end of the property. It is Redeemer's fence so we must

replace it. Will get fence requoted with wood and PVC. If neighbor would prefer PVC then we will ask them to help pay for difference above and beyond the wooden replacement. Parking lot was successfully replaced and restriped. The Parsonage refrigerator is not working properly. A repair would be between \$300 and \$1,000. Because of its unusual size a new replacement would cost \$2,000. Council decided because the cost of repair could be up to \$1,000 it would be prudent to purchase a new refrigerator. A motion was made to approve a new refrigerator for the Parsonage not to exceed an amount of \$2,000. Barbara Nemchek made a motion to approve this purchase and Larry Thompson seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted. The AV Technical Upgrade was approved via e-mail vote (8 yeas, 1 no, 2 no responses). Will need to wait to determine where exact percentages of funding will come from for this capital project.

Social Ministry: Regina Karch – Quilters Sunday is on August 23rd – Regina worked with Karin Pralle on this. The quilting group is celebrating the making of their 500th quilt. They will have their 499th and 500th quilt on the Communion Rail on this Sunday. Pastor will bless the quilters and their quilts on this Sunday.

Stewardship: Judith Schaefer – Judith and Pastor Linderman will be attending a virtual conference called Generosity. The Stewardship Drive is looking for a new theme this year to support their fundraising efforts. Tithely is being used intermittently by about 10 parishioners at Redeemer. This will Stewardship will be receiving monies from the COVID – 19 Fund. Will update Council regarding funds collected.

Worship and Music: Gerhardt Lempp – There is a steady virtual participation to date. Just a few details to be worked out for the July 26th Outdoor Service. Will finalize the live in-person service for August.

Youth Ministry: Kirsten Buerkle – No updates regarding Sunday School at this time.

Standing and Special Committees:

- a) **Endowment:** John Karch – No report.
- b) **Redeemer Reminder:** Reminder articles due by July 23rd.
- c) **St. Stephen's Grace:** Meredith Dykstra – No report.
- d) **Cemetery:** Dave Daehnke – No report.
- e) **Website:** John Manke – No report.
- f) **Mutual Ministry:** Peter Layng – No report.

A motion was made to adjourn tonight's meeting. Heather Layng moved to accept, John Manke seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:20 pm and closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Kunz

Congregation Council Secretary