

The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

Minutes of the Congregational Council Meeting – October 13, 2020

Present: Pastor Linderman, John Manke, Judith Schaefer, Barbara Nemchek, Larry Thompson, Regina Karch, Lauren Niederauer, Kirsten Buerkle, Kristen Kunz, Gerhart Lempp, Carol Dunbar

Absent: Heather Layng

President Barbara Nemchek called the meeting to order at 7:34 am.

Devotions were led by John Manke.

Adoption of the September 8, 2020 minutes – Gerhart Lempp moved to accept, Carol Dunbar seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Old Business/New Business:

LEAP is running a Kindergarten Enrichment Program starting at 130 pm. There are currently 13 children enrolled. This program will follow the same COVID protocols used during their regular school day. Also, there is no change to LEAP's current lease with Redeemer. The stockade fence was installed by Jan Fence marking the boundary between Redeemer and its residential neighbor. The cost of the fence was split evenly between both parties and the neighbor forwarded Redeemer a check for \$1.3K. Redeemer will send a check for 2.6K to Jan Fence.

Pastor Linderman, Judith Schaefer, and Fred Ufferfilge attended a Stewardship Webinar called Generosity Now. This webinar advocates for both the Financial Secretary and the Pastor having access to individuals' financial giving information. In this model Mike Ward explains that giving is part of a spiritual discipline and that these individuals should have access to this information to help benefit the spiritual health of their Congregation. Also, he added that all financial information would be held in the strictest of confidence. Because this is a change in the culture of giving Pastor suggested that we put this to a vote. At this time the motion to support this change was tabled. It was suggested the Council evaluate how this year's giving program is received and then perhaps this model can be revisited again in 6 months. Council members will be participating the Redeemer Stewardship Challenge. Council members will be donating up to \$200 per person providing that the Stewardship Committee can enlist 10 new pledging units at Redeemer for next year. Fred Ufferfilge will be contacting current non-pledging family units to see if they might consider contributing to Redeemer for next year. Barbara Nemchek made a motion that every Council member would commit up to \$200 (as part of a one-time offering) once 10 *new family units have completed intent cards for the 2021 Stewardship Campaign (Building a Culture of Generosity). Carol Dunbar seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted. Council members' pledges would be due by 12/31/20.

Pastor's Report: Pastor was extremely grateful for the recognition and plaque honoring the Anniversary of his 25th Ordination. He was extremely grateful to all those who made it possible for the 3 outdoor

services to be held this Fall. And he was extremely proud to report The Redeemer COVID Relief Fund has raised to date \$27K of which \$23K has already been donated to individuals in need and groups providing assistance to those in need. The rest of the funds are being held temporarily for a potential family in need. Pastor would ask the Congregation to keep an open mind about possibly fundraising again in the New Year should more hardships arise. He also thanked his staff for continuing all of the important work the Church does so successfully in a remote capacity. Pastor looks forward to the Stewardship Campaign and a full Fall schedule including Sunday School classes, 1st Holy Communion classes, Confirmation classes, and an Affirmation of Baptism to be held outdoors. Indoor services (accompanied by live online services) will begin in November. Attendees will be required to sign-up in advance in order to be able to attend in person as NJ has a 25% maximum occupancy capacity in the Sanctuary. Sign-up will be online. Seating will be marked out accordingly and masks will be worn at all times during services.

Financial Reports:

- a) **Treasurer's Report:** Larry Thompson – Income favorable at this time. See report.
- b) **Financial Secretary's Report:** Fred Ufferfilge – Pledges still favorable to the budget by approximately 12.9K. Currently we have 64 pledging units vs. 7 non-pledging units. See report.
- c) **Motion to Accept Financial Reports:** Carol Dunbar motioned to approve the Financial reports. John Manke seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted.

Christian Education: Heather Layng – See report.

Evangelism: Carol Dunbar – Will communicate updates about Pastor Moacir's and Pastor Janelle's communities to the Congregation. Carol is also asking the Congregation to donate \$10 ShopRite cards to be distributed to local hospitals and food pantries.

Fellowship: Searching for Fellowship Committee Chair replacement.

Finance: Lauren Niederauer – Lauren will be submitting the required ADP reports to apply for PPP Loan Forgiveness. This process will be completed online with TD Bank and should result in Redeemer's 37K loan to be forgiven after a period of 24 weeks. Lauren will report back on the status of this loan after it has been evaluated. Lauren and Kurt Pralle will be paying the upcoming November tax bill. The Endowment Fund is doing well. At this point in time the account is valued at \$1.2M – it has a year over year return of 13.9%.

Property and Grounds: John Manke – John is researching the cost of an outside outlet to be installed at the east end of the Education building so that tradesmen don't need to utilize any inside outlets going forward. Fred Conti worked tirelessly to install the necessary new equipment to successfully upgrade Redeemer's wireless network.

Social Ministry: Regina Karch – In lieu of hosting Redeemer's Thanksgiving Food Drive Regina is instead asking for donations of \$25 ShopRite cards. The proceeds will be split 50/50 between St. Stephen's Grace and Ramsey Responds. Regina would also like to continue the tradition of the Giving Tree this year. If Redeemer remains open for live worship services, she will display the tree complete with cards in the foyer for parishioners to take and return with donations. Should services remain online, she will figure out a way to setup this effort virtually.

Stewardship: Judith Schaefer – Judith has been working diligently on the Stewardship Campaign this Fall. A second Stewardship letter is being mailed to parishioners shortly. She is asking all Intent cards to be returned by November 1st.

Worship and Music: Gerhart Lempp – Many parishioners commented on the success of the outside services held this year. He commended Pastor Linderman and all of the volunteers that made these services such a success – including the service at Redeemer’s Cemetery. He and many others are looking forward to the start of indoor services in November. Fran is looking to enhance the Holiday Services by adding additional vocalists and instrumentalists. Pastor is giving permission for a group of volunteers to unscrew and move the first row of pews in the Congregation area to make room for these additional artists to socially distance and participate in these services. She and Pastor will evaluate how this will work for the additional participants once the pews have been removed.

Youth Ministry: Kirsten Buerkle – Virtual Youth Group is being held starting 09/20. This year’s Youth Retreat will be held virtually as well. The ECLA Youth Gathering has been postponed until further notice.

Standing and Special Committees:

- a) **Endowment:** John Karch – See report.
- b) **Redeemer Reminder:** Reminder articles due by October 15th.
- c) **St. Stephen’s Grace:** Meredith Dykstra – Gift cards will be collected in lieu of the Clothing Drive which is normally held this time each year.
- d) **Cemetery:** Dave Daehnke – See report.
- e) **Website:** John Manke – No report.
- f) **Mutual Ministry:** Peter Layng – No report.

A motion was made to adjourn tonight’s meeting. Kirsten Buerkle moved to accept. Larry Thompson seconded the motion.

This meeting was adjourned at 9:45 pm and closed with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Kunz

Congregation Council Secretary