

## The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer

### Minutes of Congregational Council Meeting – September 8, 2020

Commented [RK1]:

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

**Absent:** Regina Karch

President Barbara Nemchek called the meeting to order at 7:33 am.

Devotions were led by Kirsten Buerkle.

Adoption of the July 21, 2020 minutes – Judith Schaefer moved to accept, Heather Layng seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted.

#### **Old Business/New Business:**

LEAP opened with a smaller number of students this year and introduced smaller class sizes. The health screenings prior to entering the building went well. The children are accessing the playground in small groups. Pickup has been orderly as the parents wait outside to receive their children. September's rent of 6K was received and LEAP purchased a new refrigerator for Redeemer. Thank you for your generosity LEAP! John Manke successfully worked to resolve the downed fence between Redeemer and 40 Ackerman's property. John was able to work with our neighbor to split the cost of a replacement 6-foot wooden fence (2.6K). A down payment of 1.3K was placed and the necessary materials have been ordered and should arrive at the end of September. The fence should last approximately 30 years. Regarding A/C updates at this time – we are still hopeful to be purchasing the mini-split system in the near future. So, at this time we will hold off on purchasing alternate A/C solutions at this time.

John Manke asked Council if a Ramsey resident (who has a relationship with LEAP) could use our parking lot to teach exercise classes at 5:45 am and 8:15 am. This individual has her own insurance. Council asked for more information before making a decision including the following: What days will the classes be held? Who will be monitoring the participants regarding Covid-19? How many participants will be in each class? What will the format of the classes be and will there be music playing? Will the classes interfere with LEAP parking? Then Council can make a decision on this going forward.

#### **Pastor's Report:**

Summer did not go exactly as planned. Pastor now has clarity regarding Redeemer's Fall schedule. He is extremely grateful for the work of Peter Layng, Judith Schaefer, Gerhardt Lempp, and John Manke for setting up outdoor services and for facilitating the streaming of indoor services as well. Generous contributions have been made to the Redeemer Covid-19 Fund. To date the combination of seed money, Congregation donations, and matching funds has totaled 26K to date. Thus far Redeemer has donated 7K from the Covid-19 Fund. Redeemer has donated \$1,000 in Shop Rite gift cards to St. Paul's Food Pantry. Pastor Linderman would like to give 3K in assistance to a local family that has been displaced. This assistance would allow them to move back into their former apartment. Redeemer also gave 5K to Ramsey Responds to help with rent assistance, utility assistance, medical insurance coverage, and for the purchase of Shop Rite gift cards. Discussed Redeemer's Phased Reopening Plan:

- Stage 2            Outdoors = 500 persons or less  
Indoor = 25% of room capacity or 25 persons, whichever is less
- Stage 3            Indoor = 25% of room capacity, Redeemer open for regular business hours
- Stage 4            Indoor= Can go beyond 25% of room capacity keeping social distancing and wearing masks

Possible to claim an exemption based on the First Amendment – up to 100 persons indoors.

Presently two different groups would like to meet at Redeemer. These would be exceptions to the Phased Reopening Plan. The first is the Ramapo Valley Youth Chorus. They would like to meet in Fellowship Hall on Monday nights with a group of 8-10 students (ages 8-12 yrs). The second is Redeemer’s adult Bible Study Group. John Manke made a motion for Council to accept the Redeemer Phased Reopening Plan as prescribed by Pastor Linderman with the 2 exceptions for the aforementioned groups above provided that the participants adhere to social distancing, the wearing of masks, the completion of a Covid-19 questionnaire and waiver of release. Judith Schaefer seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted. Council also discussed other precautions to be taken to ensure the safety of all groups meeting at any given time including the following: sexton to clean before and after a group meets, waivers to be signed by all participants, temperatures to be taken, Covid-19 questionnaires to be completed, no food or drink to be permitted, need names and contact numbers for leaders of groups and all participants for contact tracing purposes.

Regarding worship services this Fall – there will be 2 outdoor services for September, 2 outdoor services for October (1st Holy Communion/Confirmation) and 1 indoor service on October 18<sup>th</sup> should NJ move into Phase 3, and 1 outdoor service in November.

**Financial Reports:**

- a) **Treasurer’s Report:** Larry Thompson – Still favorable to the budget 15K. See report.
- b) **Financial Secretary’s Report:** Fred Ufferfilge – Only 62 pledge envelopes – demonstrates redistribution of giving within the Congregation.
- c) **Motion to Accept Financial Reports:** Barbara Nemchek motioned to approve the Financial reports. Gerhardt Lempp seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously accepted.

**Christian Education:** Heather Layng – Will continue with Zoom Sunday School at this time. The Adult Education Series Dialogues on Race will begin. See report.

**Evangelism:** Carol Dunbar – Nothing to report at this time.

**Fellowship:** Searching for Fellowship Committee Chair replacement.

**Finance:** Lauren Niederauer – Redeemer’s cash position is 145K strong. 37K is Pastor Linderman’s Sabbatical Grant money. 52K is the Endowment receipt from March 2020. And 37K is the money granted from the Government PPP loan. All of these funds are earmarked specifically for their stated purposes. The PPP Loan forgiveness date is October 21, 2020. The Endowment Fund is valued at \$1.17M and Redeemer has recouped all losses sustained as of March of 2020. The Endowment Committee will be meeting next week with updates to follow.

**Property and Grounds:** John Manke – Has adjusted clock for bell to ring at exactly 10:10 am. All AV upgrade equipment has been ordered and will be installed by the end of September. Used \$3,598 for down payment on AV equipment from the Covid-19 Fund. The rest will be taken from the Memorial Fund.

**Social Ministry:** Regina Karch – Because we will not be able to have a typical food drive this year, we instead are asking parishioners to donate money or \$25 ShopRite gift cards. We will then divide the donations between St. Stephen's and the Center for Food Action. We are also in the process of finding a safe and effective way to collect for our Giving Tree this year.

**Stewardship:** Judith Schaefer – Pastor Linderman and Judith attended a virtual webinar regarding stewardship on September 1<sup>st</sup>. They will decide this year's campaign theme and calendar. Most likely the campaign will run during this November. The Covid-19 Fund has had 20 donors to date – approximately 10K has been donated. Approximately 26K has been received in total for the Fund.

**Worship and Music:** Gerhart Lempp – Waiting to see if NJ moves from Phase 2 to Phase 3 so that live services can resume. The AV update should allow Redeemer to successfully live stream our outdoor services and eliminate past glitches that were occurring. Pastor Will Moser's sermon from September 6<sup>th</sup> has been posted online so that the Congregation can access it.

**Youth Ministry:** Kirsten Buerkle – See report.

**Standing and Special Committees:**

- a) **Endowment:** John Karch - Endowment Committee meeting this week. No report.
- b) **Redeemer Reminder:** Reminder articles due by September 10<sup>th</sup>.
- c) **St. Stephen's Grace:** Meredith Dykstra – No report.
- d) **Cemetery:** Dave Daehnke - No report. Outdoor service to be held at the Cemetery on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Need help with the setup and markup of the lawn.
- 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. Gerhardt Lempp seconded the motion.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Kunz

Congregation Council Secretary