

## **St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel Lutheran Church**

### **Electronic Congregation Council Meeting on Zoom – Tuesday, April 14, 2020**

**Present:** Pastor David Parsons, Tammy Johnson, Marc Youngblood, Joseph Militello, Yonni Matson, Tom Reiner, Andrew Kjoller, Barbara Gruenburg, Fran Onne-Fong, Sarah Sampson, Anne Voorhies, Katherine Anderson.

A quorum was present.

**Absent:** Nitza Wagoner.

**Also Present:** Deacon Eric Johnson

**Prayer:** Opening prayer was led by Pastor Parsons.

The meeting was called to order at 7:38 pm.

**Secretary:** Fran Onne-Fong

**Approval of Agenda:** A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the agenda.

**Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the minutes of the Council's meeting held on March 10, 2020 as presented.

#### **Reports:**

**Finance:** The Financial statements for February 2020 were delivered through email and discussed at the meeting by Tammy Johnson, Treasurer. Her endeavor to apply for the government's Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) was not able to go forward at this time without information from the Senior Center Director. Andrew Kjoller, Vice President, reported that 45% through the electronic on-line giving platforms, Vanco (Simply Giving) and Faithstreet is not disrupted at present. However, 55% through checks and cash collected at Sunday worship is reduced by around 50% since we have suspended in-person worship.

There will be a finance committee meeting to plan the budget after our next Council meeting in May. There will be an Electronic Congregation Budget Meeting in June 2020.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Parsons presented an oral report to the Council. He reported that the virtual Sunday services on Facebook Live were well attended and well received. He praised our musical director, Mary Fasano, for being a pillar of the virtual services during the Lenten and Easter seasons. Pastor also offered his gratitude to Farah and Nelson Franqui, the Church's sextons, and for

the help of the Executive Committee, Vice President Andrew Kjoller, Financial Secretary Katie Cuttingham and Treasurer Tammy Johnson.

Pastor has been busy writing and sending out the Daily Connection during this Covid19 Pandemic Quarantine period of time. He is also a Dean of one of the conferences in the ELCA Synod which meets weekly. He has set the carillon bells to chime at 7 pm to celebrate the heroic doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals on the frontlines of this pandemic.

**Property:** Pastor reported that the racoons are back in the roof area and, unfortunately, they are continuing to compromise the roof which is still leaking. Gustav Roofing will not be able to fix the roof during this quarantine time. Deacon Eric Johnson will help Pastor Parsons get in touch with people to rid the area of racoons and cover the hole in the side of the Church where they get in.

**Stewardship:** Pastor Parsons will continue to reach out to members that read his Daily Connections, participate in the Wednesday Virtual Bible Study, and Sunday Virtual Worship and Coffee Hour about stewardship.

**Youth:** The virtual youth services for the younger class and particularly, the older class with Deacon Eric Johnson has many more students with both classes doing very well.

**New Business:** The Council discussed the possible opening process of the Church might look like. There are many unanswered questions that depend on when and how New York City will open and what the guidelines for opening will be. The Council wants the virtual stream on Facebook worship service to continue.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Tuesday, May 12, 2020.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by:

Fran Onne-Fong

Secretary