

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

### **Electronic Council Meeting on Zoom – Tuesday, October 13, 2020**

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

A quorum was present.

**Excused Absence:** Nitza Wagoner.

**Also Present:** Deacon Eric Johnson

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 pm.

**Secretary:** Fran Onne-Fong

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

**Approval of Council Meeting Minutes :** A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the minutes of the Council's meeting held on September 8, 2020.

#### **Reports:**

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Parsons presented oral and written reports to the Council. He reported missing having people in church, however, he feels it would be prudent to delay worshipping together in church until perhaps Spring 2021.

Pastor Parsons is hoping to begin giving outdoor services of Holy Communion to those who are not able to do it online.

**Finance:** Tammy Johnson, Treasurer, reported that we have a good amount of money in the bank from the Senior Center and the PPE loan. The July through August 2020 financial report shows that St. JME finances compared to July through August 2019 are about the same. Congregation offerings have been spot on except for the Covid19 months which were in the 2nd quarter (April through June 2020.)

**Worship and Music:** Zoom has been a better platform than Facebook for the weekly services and meetings. The audio for Mary Fasano, the Music Director, was better this past week but it continues to be a work in progress. Seeing everyone during the service made it feel more intimate and having Coffee Hour immediately following the service was enjoyed by all. The Council members agreed that we should continue to stream to Facebook but keep the Zoom as our main platform for the Sunday services. All the audio would come through on Facebook but we would not be able to see those who were speaking except for Pastor Parsons. We wouldn't be able to see Mary on Facebook but we would be able to see her on Zoom. Audio interface and a microphone, if purchased, would help make the audio for Mary better. Suggestions were made to have readers and prayers read by other people during the service to have more participation. We will switch off mute for those individuals who will be reading or participating in the service. We will have more congregants participate in the Zoom service i.e. readers or solo singers or family units singing Christmas Carols and we should remind the congregation to put Zoom on "speaker view" instead of "gallery view" at those times.

We are thinking about and hopeful for a modified form of the Christmas Tree Sale however, logistics and the spiking infection rate of Covid19 would make it more risky. Tom Reiner, Gary Heard and Joe Militello thought that they had better wait and see. Pastor is willing to take any suggestions.

**New Business:** Suggestions were requested for a special program for Advent and someone to put together a Children's Pageant on Zoom. Kathleen Axen is willing to write a script. A suggestion was made to have a small group for carol singing outside the Church in lieu of the annual Friday Night Advent Party. Discussion about our annual bags and giving to the Seafarer and International House was made and the possibility of helping the homeless who need clothing as well.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Tuesday, November 10, 2020.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 pm with a special prayer for frontline workers and those who have to go in to work daily and the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by: Fran Onne-Fong, Secretary