

St. John-St. Matthew-Emanuel Lutheran Church

Electronic Council Meeting on Zoom – Tuesday, September 8, 2020

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

A quorum was present.

Excused Absence: Nitza Wagoner, Yonni Matson, Sarah Sampson.

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 as presented.

Approval of Minutes and Congregational Budget Minutes : A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the minutes of the Council's meeting held on June 9, 2020 and the Congregational Budget Meeting held on June 10, 2020.

Reports:

Pastor's Report: Pastor Parsons presented oral and written reports to the Council. He reported that Kenneth Axen's death was related to Covid-19 and how it has deeply affected not only Kenneth Axen's family but also him personally. He decided to have a Zoom meeting for Church service rather than the Facebook Live with Mary Fasano in the Sanctuary playing the piano and organ. Everyone was at home on Zoom while Pastor Parsons and his family were in church.

Rentaria Construction has completed much of the work on the building and they are currently assessing whether the leak has been completely eliminated. Our superintendents for Sunday School, Carrie Thompson, Jennifer Herbert, and Allison Struthers have prepared a viable, engaging online program with packets for each student.

Pastor Parsons is hoping to begin outdoor service of Holy Communion to those who are not able to do it online. He feels it would be prudent to delay worship together until perhaps Spring 2021.

Finance: Tammy Johnson, Treasurer, reported that the bookkeeper only sent the budget for July 2020 and not a year-to-date budget. Monthly offerings have recovered reasonably well.

Worship and Music: The Council discussed the possibility of delaying reopening the Church until the spring and outdoor services for Holy Communion later this month. Possible procedures discussed were distributing Communion packets or wearing gloves to give a wafer and a small cup of wine or grape juice. Questions would be asked beforehand, seating would be designated, and obtaining contact information for contact tracing would be essential.

Property: All windows were treated - varnished, painted, wood frames fixed, and the roof leak repaired.

Youth: The Youth Summer Sunday School under Eric Johnson has been well attended and successful.

Con't Business: Pastor Parsons Discretionary money has been used to buy food for our free pantry, donated to Roots Cafe community food program which gives out and delivers food to people in need, and also donated to Trinity Lutheran Church in Sunset Park food pantry. Our Senior Center stopped having people in the garden once a week. The Staff calls to check on each and every member and delivers food to them. There is a homeless man that sleeps in the front yard of Church who has a fold-up wheelchair and who has not been aggressive or offensive. He is a veteran and has sustained injuries. Pastor Parsons has offered him assistance but the homeless man has refused it.

The Christmas tree sale is probably not going to happen. The Council discussed possibly fundraising for an organization by offering a flyer from the church to a participating store or restaurant that would agree to give a certain percentage back to the church for our charitable cause.

Next Meeting: The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for 7:30 pm on Tuesday, October 13, 2020.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 pm with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by:

Fran Onne-Fong

Secretary