

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

### **Virtual Council Meeting on Zoom – Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

**Present:** Pr. David Parsons, Anne Voorhies, Allison Struthers, Fran Onne-Fong, Laura Gruenburg, Tammy Johnson, Deborah Maltby, Marc Youngblood, Jolynn Johnson, Lynda Anderson, Jodi Cook.

A quorum was present

**Excused Absence:** Andrew Kjoller, Katherine Anderson.

**Also Present:** Deacon Eric Johnson.

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:37 PM

**Secretary:** Fran Onne-Fong

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

**Approval of Council Meeting Minutes:** A motion was made, seconded and adopted to approve the minutes of the Council's meeting held on February 7, 2023 as presented.

#### **Reports:**

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Parsons presented oral and written reports to the Council. He reported that the attendance has been good with consistently 55-65 people attending in person and 20-30 people online. In contrast, midweek services have had small attendance and he asked the Council for suggestions on how to increase the size. Deborah Maltby volunteered to talk to the congregation about how wonderful the midweek services are to help boost the attendance.

**Finance Report:** Tammy Johnson, Treasurer, reported the Financial Report for January 2023 looked very good and noted that there were no big expenses so that we were under the spending budget for that month.

**Worship:** Pastor Parsons initiated discussion about whether we should eliminate every other pew seating. Palm Sunday and Easter are coming so attendance will be higher

and we, generally, are having better attendance. It was suggested that we write a line in our worship bulletin the week before actually removing all the seating signs and ending every other pew seating.

**Unfinished/Continuing Business:** Pastor Parsons reminded all Council members to fill out the Church Directory form because the Directory should have all council members in it. We will announce our goal of \$3000 for the Koinonia campaign to the congregation.

In the past, raising money for the ELCA Youth Gathering, the families paid one third/ raised one third/ and the Church gave one third for the \$2000 needed for each child. There are about 10 children who might go to the Youth Gathering in Minneapolis, MN. There was discussion that fundraising for Koinonia might conflict with the Youth Gathering one. It was decided that the Koinonia campaign will end before the Youth Gathering fundraising begins. Anne Voorhies removed the hoods from all the Acolyte robes and washed them.

**New Business:** PS 124 on 4th Ave between 12th & 13th Streets which is a dual language school has had an influx of migrants and their children who attend the school. They need volunteers to give support and "buddies" to offer the adults English conversational opportunities. They have two possible locations to offer English classes and Pastor Parsons offered Erskine Hall on Tuesday & Wednesday evenings for conversational groups if needed.

**Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

**Next Meeting:** The next regular meeting of the Council is scheduled for 7:30 PM on Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

Submitted by:

Fran Onne-Fong