

Congregational Council

St. John's Lutheran Church | Northfield, MN

August 25, 2020 | 7:00 p.m.

Meeting via Zoom due to COVID-19

Present: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, David Nitz, Ruth Dahl, Martha Erickson, Suzy Taggart, Marilyn Calcutt, Suzanne Pfau, Craig Schultz, Jenny Nystrom, Allene Moesler, Kathy Shea, Kris Vatter, Mary Hoff

Not Present: Mark Gleason

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by David Nitz.

1. Opening Prayer - offered by Suzanne Pfau
2. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Continue to be cautious with spending due to so many unknowns.
3. Pastors' Report
 - a. Confirmation will happen one child at a time, with family present, this fall.
 - b. Two more outdoor services have been planned for this fall, weather permitting.
 - c. We are hopeful that Emmanuel's VISA will go through in a couple weeks.
 - d. Christy Hall-Holt is taking a leave of absence until October 10 to devote herself full time to working as an enumerator for the census.
 - e. Bible study, Pub Theology, and Adult VBS have all had good attendance.
 - f. Blood Drive is coming up September 11.
 - g. Pam posed two questions for the application to Congregations in a Secular Age (CSA):
 - 1.) Talk about a time, big or small, when God showed up in your congregation's life. The following are the council's responses to that question:
 - Reconciling in Christ.
 - End of service music.
 - Coming together for campaigns.
 - 150th Anniversary - support Grace Overflowing Fund, and coming together to celebrate.
 - Gathering, camaraderie.
 - Wednesday Night Meals.
 - Christmas Dinner.
 - 2.) What do we think is the greatest challenge our congregation faces in the next few years. The following are the council's responses to that question:
 - Aging population and growing with young families' participation and support.
 - Youth and faith.

- Figuring out the new normal.
 - Building a more diverse congregation.
4. Council Action Items & Updates
 - a. Stewardship Board is thankful for everyone's participation in their survey.
 - b. We are up for Meals on Wheels in September. Sign up has begun.
 5. Consent Agenda Items
 - a. Ruth Dahl moved to approve the July Council minutes. Craig Schultz seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - b. Allene Moesler moved to approve the July Treasurer's Report. Suzanne Pfau seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
 - c. Kathy Shea made the motion to designate \$800.00 Thrivent Choice Dollars for gift cards for TORCH student care packages. Jenny Nystrom seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
 - d. Mary Hoff made the motion to endorse applying to participate in Luther Seminary's CSA. Ruth Dahl seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
 - e. Jenny Nystrom made the motion for continuation of health benefits for Emmanuel through October, if necessary. Craig Schultz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
 - f. Kathy Shea moved to designate \$2,000 in Foundation Funds to the CAC (\$1,000 to CAC for financial assistance and \$1,000 to CAC's Pajama Project). Martha Erickson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
 - g. Craig Schultz moved to approve a bid of \$9,407 from Scott Swanson for installation of new courtyard-facing windows, funds to come from Courtyard Designated Fund (\$4,968) and Grace Overflowing Capital Fund (\$4,439). Jenny Nystrom seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
 - h. Craig Schultz moved to designate \$2,000.00 from Grace Overflowing for painting the walls in St. John's Hall. Allene Moesler seconded this motion. The motion carried unanimously.
 - i. Evangelism and Communication made the motion for up to \$2,500 (\$988.90) from St. John's Media Fund and (\$1,511.10) from St. John's Fund for purchase of technology to enable us to livestream our services. Craig Schultz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. A closing prayer was offered by David Nitz.

7. Meeting was concluded. Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.