

CONGREGATION MEETING NOTES: Sunday, October 28, 2018

CALL TO ORDER: Meeting was called to order with prayer at approximately 10:50 a.m.

FINANCIAL UPDATE: Tom Pfenning provided a 3rd Quarter Summary (*dated 10/23/18*). Big picture finances show tuition tracking as expected, though weekly congregation giving has been low for the past several months. We continue to make progress on converting processes to QuickBooks, which will merge all data from bill paying, tuition/fee income, member giving and budgeting into one transparent platform. We have implemented a new offering counting process that uses the QuickBooks interface to immediately log giving and create deposit slips. Thank you to Richard Davis, Henry Sauer and the team for many hours of effort, which continues. Other positive steps include renegotiating our loan down from \$5125/mo (which included line of credit costs) to \$3890 per month. We have paid off the new parking lot lights, replaced some AC units (which had failed), and replaced all non-flat roof areas. Pastor continues to work on a part-time, leave-from-call basis, which accrues no benefits. She is in communication with both the Milwaukee Synod (from which she is on leave) and the Chicago Synod (our synod), with the idea that while we can use this approach short term, we should re-address over the coming year or so. On an expense side, PreSchool is working to replace part of the playground fence using approximately \$4000 raised during the spring Anniversary Celebration. The worst places (safety issues) will be replaced now. The project will continue as money is available. Other expenses to watch include the patio doors in sanctuary, sanctuary sound system, office computer, office printer, parking lot repairs and tree removal (large pines in front are in bad shape). Range and refrigerator seem to be working again. Member has pledged to purchase new office computer. Long term, our finances have a great impact on our ability to exist as a congregation and do God's work in the community. Long term, we must continue to monitor our finances carefully and continue to determine our commitment to this ministry.

ORGAN PROJECT: To recap, Martin Digital Organs, Santa Fe Springs, CA, received nonrefundable \$20,000 in designated giving with a contract (signed March 13, 2014) to build a custom electronic organ. There is no delivery date noted in contract. \$9966.26 is still owed to the company at completion of the project, which would also require us to install conduit and improve wifi to facilitate to support installation. Council recommends ceasing work. Lynn Brandl received a verbal commitment from one of the partners (Christopher Martin) to ship us speakers, subwoofer and amps associated with this project in hopes that we can use that to repair existing sound system. Once that request is fulfilled, congregation directs Council President to sign Cease Work Order (as provided by Martin Digital Organs). Though we pay no taxes due to our religious organization status, we do have the contract documents to show our loss on this project.

***MOTION:** Leaders (Lynn Brandl) directed to negotiate with Martin Digital Organs in attempt to receive any available, usable physical assets from the organ project, and then sign an updated cease work order to formally end the organ project. Motion made by Lois Menis; Second by Richard Davis; Approved unanimously.*

BYLAWS AMENDMENT: In order to best support our PreSchool program, Council recommends the adoption of an amendment allowing the PreSchool Director the option to appoint one non-member guardian to board. Note that verbiage was updated to specify "one" and "guardian." Selection based on Director discretion taking into account involvement, age of children (i.e., time in program), interest, etc. Non-member participation is not required, but allowed as needed.

***MOTION:** Accept the following Amendment: E. One parent or guardian of a registered preschool student (who is not a voting member of this congregation) may be appointed to the Preschool Education Committee at the discretion of the church council with input by the Preschool Director. Motion made by Richard Davis; Second by June Moore; Approved.*

BACKGROUND CHECKS/TRAINING: Discussion of above amendment lead to questions about existence of background checks for volunteers. Congregation noted that this should be considered. Council noted that leaders are currently tasked with taking the online Youth Protection Training module provided at no charge by BSA (Boy Scouts). Once more leaders have taken this approximately 45 minute training, we will compare notes and determine if/how to roll this training out to a wider group. Topics of background checks and training will be revisited by Council and at future Congregation meetings.

LEADERS/VOLUNTEERS: Goal is to invite more people to the leadership table, and get more people involved so that our activities and ministries reflect the entire congregation. Tasks range from newly created President-Elect position (which will shadow and be supported by current President for easy transition), to typical Council positions (i.e., Property, Stewardship, etc.), to co-support for Council positions (i.e., support Outreach, support Education, etc.), to Worship Tasks (i.e., read, usher, count offering, etc.), to something new that a person might feel called to launch. Goal is to invite participation through end of 2018, and then provide a roster of new leadership when we meet again as a Congregation (tentatively February).

Please prayerfully consider where your interests and excitement lie!

OPEN DISCUSSION:

- **8 Midvale Road:** Village approached Dick Barry about issues with upkeep and lot lines for house in corner of parking lot. Village said they will support us in whatever we want to pursue. Surveys received from Park District for that property as well as our own surveys show existing ramp into our parking lot is largely on church ground. Park District did provide their title insurance policy — potentially indicating the possibility of removing the ramp using funds from that policy to rectify the situation. Lynn Brandl will follow up with Park District for more background. Council will revisit as info becomes available.
- **Painting Night:** Penni Sauer shared an idea to replace Empty Bowls with a Painting Party at church, with proceeds supporting COOL Pantry. She has contacted an organization that provides all materials, guidance and website for payments/reservations. Cost is \$40 with \$15 coming back to church. Other organizations would include wine, etc., though that doesn't work for us. Congregation expressed concern that \$40 was a high price point for this type of event, especially when compared with other events Scouts, etc., have available. Lynn Brandl will contact a person she knows to see if we might determine a lower price point.
- **Vernon Township Adopt a Family:** Penni Sauer has requested a family gift list and is awaiting a response.
- **Christmas Poinsettias/Decorating Time:** Altar Guild (Donna Barry) will again offer poinsettias for Christmas decorations for church. Note that Advent begins Dec. 2. We will have the Advent Wreath ready for that worship, and then put up the tree and other decorations after worship.
- **JustWorship:** Pastor Jin Lee and his group have returned, worshipping from 12:45 to 2p on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month. The group has occasional music gatherings at 2 p.m on Saturdays.
- **Feed My Starving Children:** Penni Sauer has 15 spots available for a large pack event in Schaumburg on Saturday, Dec. 8 from 6 to 8 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board.
- **COOL Thanksgiving Meals:** Rob Jost will again deliver Thanksgiving Meals to COOL Pantry. COOL is also collecting toiletries and feminine products (Penni will provide a list). More info about Meal Boxes at coolministries.org.
- **Project Warmth:** Adult winter gear, blankets, etc., have already been delivered to Midwest Veterans Closet (midwestveteranscloset.org) and deliveries will continue.
- **Target:** Lois Menis continues to have opportunities to collect and distribute items donated by Target. She will continue to distribute through our existing partners.
- **Brunch:** We will hold a potluck brunch on Sunday, Dec. 16 after worship (Worship will which include an all-congregation Christmas Pageant). Sign up on bulletin board.

CALENDAR:

- All Saints Sunday – Nov. 4 (*Daylight Savings Time/Clocks back 1 hour*)
- PreSchool Fall Bazaar Fundraiser (plus Raffle/Bake Sale) – Thurs., Nov. 8 from 8:30a to 1:30p and 5 to 9p
- Confirmation – Nov. 11, then each month starting in January
- Thanksgiving Interfaith – Nov. 18 from 4 to 6p at Condell Centre Club
- Advent begins – Dec. 2 (*Put tree up after worship*)
- All Congregation Christmas Pageant and Potluck Brunch – Dec. 16
- Christmas Eve – Monday, Dec. 24 at 4p

ADJOURN: *Motion by Penni Sauer; Second by Lois Menis; Adjourned at 12:07 p.m. with The Lord's Prayer*

Thank you for your faithful commitment.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Brandl