

St. John Lutheran Church, Waseca Church Council Meeting—August 13, 2024

President— Mike Behsmann; **Vice President**—Terry Huber; **Secretary**— Julie Spies; **Financial Secretary**—Al Tonn; **Commission of Worship and Music**—Pam Grunzke; **Commission of Education**—Karla Lange; (Absent) **Commission of Social Ministry and Outreach**—Rhonda Behsmann; **Commission of Buildings and Grounds**—Kyle Gallagher; **Commission of Congregational Life**—Diane Blowers; **Member at Large**—Kim Elias

- 1.) **Call to Order:** Mike Behsmann. called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- 2.) **Opening Devotion** – Pastor Kristen Venne – Proverbs 9, 1-6. Wisdom in our lives.
Choose wisely. Be kind. Prayer.
- 3.) **Visitors:** 4 visitors
- 4.) **Roll call** (Quorum = 4 voting members needed to vote on motions) We have a Quorum.
- 5.) **Announcements: None**
- 6.) **Regular Business:**
 - a. **Secretary's Report:** July minutes – Motion to approve Kim E, 2nd by Kyle G. Passed.
 - b. **Financial Report:** Al Tonn – Financial Report attached. Approved
* * * **REMINDER:** Special instructions from the money counters: Please use the “Noisy Offering” bag ONLY for that collection. DO NOT COMBINE with that days offering. Use separate bags. FYI
 - c. **Commission of Buildings and Grounds:** Kyle Gallagher – Work Is being completed on the Choir lighting and front of church light replacements. Bell Tower is still a project in process, carpet cleaning will be done.
 - d. **Commission on Congregational Life:** Diane Blowers – World Relief project is 7/11. 37 school kits are to be assembled on 9/08. 9/15 is the Fundraiser for the Waterville flood victims. Next Pine Ridge trip will be 8/15. We will be collecting and taking school supplies, silverware, winter clothing and blankets along with other items they requested and needed. Feel free to donate as soon as possible. Prayers for all are ALWAYS needed and appreciated.
 - e. **Education Committee:** Karla Lange – (Absent) No report
 - f. **Commission of Worship and Music:** Pam Grunzke – We have lights! The pews are clean. Contracts for the use and rental of our church are still being worked on. (Weddings, Funerals, baptisms and any other celebrations.) Pam is spearheading this. More to come. A combination of the **Men in Mission** and the **Quilters** will be making our church new pew cushions. Between the age and cost of cleaning the combination of time and talents this is a fantastic compromise. (Motion to approve the monies, @ \$10,000, for the material by Pam G, 2nd by Kim E.) Thank you too all. Facebook Live is up and running. Thanksgiving and Christmas Services will be the same as last year. GREAT JOB PAM!!
 - g. **Commission on Social Ministry and Outreach:** Rhonda Behsmann – Still researching possible company/photographers for a new Church Directory. A new lead/idea has been introduced. More to come. October is our Food Shelf month. (A “theme” has been given.) Theme: Matthew 25 –44 & 45.
 - h. **At Large:** Kim Elias –Truly enjoyed the Twins game. Great job.
- 7.) **Pastors Report: Pastor Kristen Venne – Pastoral acts:** two hospital visits, Communion Services at both Lakeshore and Colony Court. Two Baptisms (one July 14 and the other August 11th). Working on Confirmation Classes and meeting with one premarital couple. One funeral is scheduled for September 7th. Vacation was wonderful and too short. Her one-year contract will soon be up. She is willing to sign a 6-month contract to extend her time with us. To be discussed further in September. Prayers are requested for Phyllis Rand – she is in Hospice Care. FINALLY: The Transition Team will be passing all

information over to the Call Committee. The Call Committee Members are: Lexi Kanewischer, Pat Scholljegerdes, Nancy Graumann, Rich Gorell, Kim Elias (Council liaison), ??

St John **Quilters Club** requests permission to open an account under “St. John ELCA”, Waseca, MN EIN umbrella. Persons authorized to sign checks or withdraw from this account will be Ann Ruedy and Sue Micheals. Motion by Terry H., 2nd by Kyle G. Approved.

REMINDER: (From the June meeting) Communion change (for consistency) We are to hand the wine cups to each person. Make SURE you sanitize before you handle the tray. Each person can take a cup with the bread themselves. Motion by Mike B, 2nd by Rhonda B

8. Other Business:

- a. Request for upgrading of the video system in Trinity Hall for TV and internet recordings for shut ins. After much discussion: It should be \$1650.00 and to go ahead. The TV screen will be moved to above the fireplace. This will be done right after the Church and Choir lighting is completed. More to come.
- b. Status of new choir lighting. Mike B. - Lights are in and functional. Lots of light. Done.
- c. Continued discussion regarding a new Church picture Directory. In process.
- d. Bell Tower Status. (From July meeting) - Needs to be done in stages. 1.) “Scupper” installed
2.) We need to get a professional involved to give us advice and suggestions on how best to fix – permanently
- e. Bell Tower and basement staircase cleaning/replacement - Mike B.
D and E above are being addressed. – Stay Tuned.
- f. Finish discussion of setting up a forum for possible use of Parsonage money – Mike B, - On hold.
- g. New pew cushions has become a “Church Project”. **Men in Mission** along with the **Quilters** (and any others that may want to help) It will be a \$6,000 to \$10,000 dollar project. Motion by Pam G, 2nd by Terry
H. Approved.
- h. Discussion of Church Services in Trinity Hall. Positive comments have been made about services there. It has maintained a more social repour among the Congregation members. A motion was made that we try the LAST SUNDAY of each month in Trinity Hall. Terry H, 2nd by Julie S. Passed.

Additional discussion/motion before adjourning:

- a. **REPEAT/REMINDER:** We suggest that the ushers give couples only one bulletin per couple in an effort to cut back on waste and spending. We will be trying to go paperless in the future – using video equipment and screens to save costs. A few copies of the Scripture will be available in the back. Thank you.
- b. Terry H. brought up a gift card to Curt Tesch for being always available to clear snow for the church. This past year may not have been a heavy snow year but, we never know what comes the next. We want Curt to know how much he is appreciated. Motion by Terry H., 2nd by Kyle G. Approved.
- c. Motion made by Terry Huber and seconded by Kyle G.; St. John Quilters request permission to open an account under St. John ELCA Waseca MN EIN umbrella. Removing Jean Millers SS# from the account. The persons now authorized to sign checks or withdraw from the account will be Ann Ruedy and Sue Michaels. Motion Passed.

Other Old Business:

Next meeting is September 10, 2024. 6:00PM Commissions, 6:30PM Council

- a. Motion made to adjourn the meeting. Terry H. made the Motion, Kyle G. 2nd. Passed.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 P.M.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer lead by Pastor Kristen Venne.

Respectfully submitted by:

Julie Spies, Council Secretary