

St John's Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

February 9, 2021 7:00 p.m. - via Online Invite

Present: Pastor Dave, Ann, Rayelle, Lindsay, Amanda, Darcie, Jim, Heather, Dave B, Emily, Grace

1. Call to order – Sam 7:04pm
 - a. Approval of agenda – Ann made motion; Darcie seconded; Motion carried.
 - b. Welcome new Council members – Heather, Jim, Grace, Emily
 - c. Review any *thank you* notes or correspondence sent to Council or St. John's - None
2. Devotions - Sam
 - a. Sign Up for Devotions for 2021

Feb	Lindsay
Mar	Darcie
Apr	Ann
May	Jim
Jun	Emily
Jul	Rayelle
Aug	Sam
Sept	Dave B
Oct	Heather
Nov	Grace
Dec	Dave Z
Jan 2022	Darcie

3. Reports - Sam
 - a. Discuss/Approve previous meeting minutes, staff reports, and commission reports (all) – no discussion; Emily made motion; Ann seconded; Motion carried.
4. Financials – Dave B
 - a. Discuss/Approve previous month's financial – Kaye and Dave B have almost completed the form for the synod donation. Some issues with January financial report; a) working with McKern Financial on payroll; b) Dave B will make/has made needed updates to annual budget amount. \$42k in January offering. Sam noted over-budget line items for January which is typical. Sam suggested January financial report be tabled till Feb/Mar council meeting for approval to give time to address issues; Jim made motion; Darcie seconded; motion carried.
5. Old Business
 - a. Annual Meeting Update and Debrief – Virtual setting went well. Ideas for future to update ballots, start Zoom session early to alleviate IT issues and consider hybrid (virtual and in person) meeting
 - b. CKP Update (Deacon Amanda) – Summer care plan and fall registration in the works. CKP/LL need to hire additional staff. Rayelle brought forward consideration for when students return to school fulltime in person and can no longer work as much with CKP/LL. Amanda will discuss with CKP Board. Motion to approve LL summer care (n=30) barring unforeseen circumstances. Ann made motion; Darcie seconded; motion carried.
 - b. Worship and Music Update (Pastor Dave) – status quo. Continue with pre-recording sessions for worship. Live streaming on Wednesday to start. Lindsay is looking for volunteers to read for Sunday recordings.
 - a. Including Ash Wednesday Worship – will be virtual
 - c. Personnel Update (Rayelle) – Status quo. AV position still under consideration.
 - d. COVID-19 Task force updates (Sam) – Covid task force updated language for Re-Engage Plan for In-Person Ministry and Worship. Motion to approve updated plan; Jim made motion; Emily seconded; motion carried. MDH guidelines remain at 10pp/2 households indoors and 15pp/3 households outdoors. Council was reminded the Covid task force gives recommendations and council votes on the decisions. Some discussion surrounding the AA/NA groups coming back into the building to use space for meeting. Sam and Pastor Dave will be having a discussion with the AA/NA coordinator. SJK continues to try and keep Sunday school rooms separate for CKP/LL to operate with minimal risk. The task force met on 2/7/2021 and presented this recommendation: *It is the recommendation of this task*

force that St. John's Lutheran should not move to "Step 3" of our COVID19 Preparedness Plan at this time. As of the February 4, 2021 MN Department of Health Weekly Reports, showing 55.39 cases per 10,000 and positivity rate of 5.4% in Dodge County, the particular issues surrounding our facility, the demographics of our membership, and the continued concern over community spread of COVID19, this task force feels that it would be irresponsible to invite people to gather in large or small groups indoors for worship and ministry at this time.

This task force has evaluated data, sought out best-practices from other industry professionals and organizations, consulted with our local school district, and explored many possibilities of returning to indoor worship, or, according to our COVID19 Preparedness Plan, what it would mean to move to "Step 3", and recommends revisiting the data in two weeks to determine if any changes can be made at that time. This task force has increased the frequency of its meetings as the trends throughout the state continue to improve, and has actively engaged in conversation and debate to update our COVID19 Plan for an anticipated return to in-person worship and ministry should the data support such a recommendation. The COVID19 Task Force has passed along their recommended plan for council approval.

St. John's congregational council voted to affirm the recommendation from the COVID19 Task Force; Darcie made motion; Jim seconded; motion carried. We are hopeful that the trends in the data continue to trend downward, and a return to in-person worship and ministry will be a safe possibility sometime soon. The council has also approved the recommended changes to the St. John's Lutheran COVID19 Preparedness Plan from the task force. Thank you all for your continued patience and prayers throughout this past year.

- e. Directory Update (Rayelle) – distribution continues through the office. Free directories were granted to those who submitted their own photos because they could not physically come in to get pictures taken due to health status or ability to drive.. Rayelle will continue to work with Sheryl and Pastor Nirmala to get more delivered.
 - f. Properties Usage and Review (Sam) – updated facility use guidelines coming councils way for review
 - g. Property Annual Audit (Sam) – Audit commission will finish the partial audit.
6. New Business -
- a. Council Book Study? – Discussed having council bring back a book study. Will bring ideas to March meeting.
 - b. Offer to Sell the South Lot – Dave A was approached by local contractor to purchase the 3.5 acres south of the parking lot. No motion was needed. Council does not currently see benefit to pursuing the sale of the property.
 - c. Update the Phone System – motion carried to form small group (n=5-6) to tackle this project. Want representative from council (Jim), properties commission (Dave A), CKP/LL (?), office staff (Sheryl), and ministerial staff (?). Quotes have been obtained from 2 companies so far.
 - d. Discuss Bequest Policy and Committee – SJK is resurrecting the bequest policy.
 - e. Update Council Contact Information Sheet – council to connect with Kaye to update information
 - f. Roundtable discussion
 - i. Katie looking to enhance the communication commission with new members. Available now is a communication submission form online
 - ii. SJK custodian, Mark, continues to receive needed support after home fire. Pastor Dave will update what the community support route is after meeting with ministerial group. Materials support can be delivered to Full Circle Wellness in Kasson via Anne Schwanke
 - g. Closed session - elected council
7. "God Sightings" – not held
8. Motion to Adjourn – Grace made motion; Rayelle seconded; motion carried
9. Lord's Prayer – 9:08pm
10. Upcoming events/ meetings:
- a. Next council meeting - March 9, 2021
 - i. Devotions - Lindsay
11. Parking lot (Items for future discussion):
- a. Constitution Update
 - b. 2nd annual cruising for cancer event