

## **St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting – July 17, 2008**

Members present: Joel Mann, Ann Mann, Wayne Bauman, Pastor Van Brussel, Matt Tewers, Al Brown, Joan Truman, Dave Neuman, Tim Titgemeyer, Jaci Tiell, Diana Pfaff, Diane Schmidt, Kris Johnson and Pat Delventhal.

Visitor: Fred Lammers

President, Joel Mann, called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

Devotions were led by Tim Titgemeyer. Diane Schmidt will lead devotions in August.

### **Secretary's Minutes:**

After a few minor changes to the June minutes, Dave Neuman moved to accept the minutes with the changes and Wayne Bauman seconded the motion. Motion passed.

### **Pastor's Report:**

Pastor went over his report which is attached. June was a very busy month for Pastor, not only because of the special services that were held, but also helping out at Vacation Bible School and going with the youth to Catechism camp. He also provided an attendance sheet which compared attendance at this year's services versus 2007. Attendance was very much up in June due to our special services and having previous pastors in attendance.

### **Financial Secretary's Report:**

Al Brown reported that our income side was very good at 103% in June due to increase attendance at our special services. For the year to date income we are standing at 97% of budget. Still doing very well.

### **Treasurer's Report:**

Pat Delventhal reported that on the expense side we were at 103% for the month of June due to the cleaning of the pew cushions and carpeting. We stand at 92% in expenses for year to date. She also reported that a contract to do our financial audit through Lei J in Genoa will be approximately \$300-\$400.

### **Board of Finance Report:**

Matt Tewers reported that the Good Samaritan Fund is down to about \$100.00. He will have this noted in upcoming bulletins so that people may give to this fund to help build the fund back up so we may continue to help people in need.

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### **Board of Christian Community Life:**

Diane Schmidt reported that the July 14<sup>th</sup> Genoa Food Pantry meeting was cancelled. She and Ellen Polsdorfer will attend their next meeting. The canned goods collected from Bible School were taken to the Pantry as were household and personal items. They were very thankful to receive these items from St. John. The Board took care of all the potlucks and coffee hours for the month of June honoring past pastors: Shaner, Deiner, Bosse and Bishop Lohrman. The donated and unused medical supplies and prescriptions were packaged and mailed to: Church Women United Thrift Shop in Holland, OH. This organization distributes the items to the needy. Grace Johnson has graciously accepted to help start the group who will make blankets (quilts) to be sent to Lutheran World Relief. Grace did this for many years previous and that group usually made 100+ each year. Thanks once again, Grace!

### **Board of Evangelism:**

Kris Johnson reported that there were two meetings held to get the Shepherding Program going. Not too many people have consented to help out with this program, however, the groups will proceed and see what they can do to get started. Pastor Van Brussel advised that we should go over our membership and decide who in the congregation are active members and who are not. This must be taken care of. He suggested that we should also make phone calls to find out why people come to church and why people do not come. This will eventually become part of the Shepherding Program's job. Kris mentioned that our Sunday morning hours were incorrect in the Suburban Press and she will call them to get it corrected for the rest of the summer schedule.

### **Board of Parish Education:**

Diana reported that Rally Day is set for September 7<sup>th</sup>, the children's Christmas program is set for December 7<sup>th</sup> and Confirmation will be held on May 3, 2009. Preschool through 6<sup>th</sup> grade are set with teachers. Pastor and Jeff Smarkel are taking care of the 8<sup>th</sup> graders and Becki and Joan Truman will teach the 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Ninth graders will be taught by the Harmeyers and Deanna Neuman will teach the other high schoolers. Adult classes will be taught by Mike Mann and Arnie Sutter.

### **Board of Stewardship:**

No report.

### **Board of Worship Life:**

Tim Titgemeyer reported that the committee did not have a July meeting. Old business: the camera and screen which will be on the organ is being taken care of by Dwayne Tailford. The cost for both units is approximately \$240.00. With this system in place the organist will finally have a view of the whole church. The system will be set up soon. Joel Mann relayed a message from Shelley to Tim that Tammie needs to get her the name of the music by Wednesday of each week for the Saturday bulletins. The

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man who sold the organ to Blackberry will be at the committee's next meeting on August 12<sup>th</sup> to talk about a new instrument for St. John.

#### **Board of Property:**

Wayne Bauman reported that he has gone ahead and signed the contract with Toledo Sign for the new sign in front of the church. They are shooting for Rally Sunday to have everything up and running. A few people have come forward to donate money and materials for the sign. A big "Thank You" to everyone! The church basement was flooded during the deluge of July 3<sup>rd</sup>. At the peak there was 4-5 inches in the basement. A big "Thank You" to Shelley, Diane, Ron & Diane Gerkenmeyer, Paul Frederickson and boy scouts who helped with the clean up. Wayne will check the kitchen floor to see if there was any damage since the floor is glued down and may create a mildew situation. He is checking with the insurance company to see what we need to do to take care of. Wayne will order a 2 inch backup pump for emergencies such as this. With regard to the Youth Building – it has been one and a half years since we were to have this taken care of. Now it is a big safety concern. Wayne has obtained the permit to tear it down. The contractor cannot do this work for free. Estimated cost for tearing down, removing and grading is approximately \$10,000.00. This should take place in the next couple of weeks. The congregation has already approved \$5,000.00 last year to get this job done so therefore Wayne asked for an additional \$5,000.00 to pay the contractor. Al Brown moved to approve the additional \$5,000.00 needed and Dave Neuman seconded. Motion passed by Council.

#### **Past President's Report:**

Dave Neuman reported that the Constitution Committee met for the first time this past week. They are looking for two more people to join the committee. **Chairman, Lowell Hartman, would like each board to get together a description of their committee and what they are responsible for. Each Board chairman should bring this information to our next council meeting on August 21<sup>st</sup> and Joel Mann will get to the Constitution Committee.** Dave said that he still needs to get with the nominating committee and will proceed when he gets all information they need.

#### **Old Business:**

Pastor Van Brussel wanted to know "where is the grocery cart"? that Diane Schmidt is to obtain. The bus trip by house with the Taylor Tour trip. A total of 20 people are attending from St. John. Pastor has made an 8<sup>th</sup> grade syllabus for the 2008/2009 class. What he has planned will make the 8<sup>th</sup> grade class have very good educational experiences. He feels that all will be covered that is needed. Every student and parent will get a copy of the outline. There are 10 young people ready to receive their first communion and they are: Hannah Sheahan, Jeremiah Berger, Andrew Schlogel, Megan Ulrich, , Evan Nickels, Anna Mazur, Madison Sheahan, Alexa Sheahan, Nick LaRue and Allison Bench. To date the new member class is still meeting when they can.

Tabled from last Council meeting – motion for one service on Sunday. Council held an open discussion as to what all on council had heard from members, and emailed suggestions and concerns from members. Fred Lammers was the only visitor at Council to bring in his concerns. Pastor asked the question “What can we do to bring both Sunday morning groups together?” Dave Neuman also brought up the concern that staff members of St. John still do not know who they are accountable to. Much work has to be done on our constitution to answer these questions. Concerns as to losing more members because of a time change was brought up more than once in the ensuing discussion which we had. However, many positives were brought up also such as more enthusiasm with more people in attendance at one service, and we are used to the one service idea in the summer months for many years. After much discussion on which direction we should move forward to Tim Titgemeyer made a motion to change the Sunday morning services to one service on Sunday with worship starting at 9:45 AM and Sunday School starting at 8:30 AM. Matt Tewers seconded the motion. At this point Council had more discussion on the motion on the floor which was then passed. We will start with the new Sunday morning schedule on September 7<sup>th</sup>. President, Joel Mann, will make this announcement at the Saturday night service on July 19<sup>th</sup> and the Sunday morning service on July 20<sup>th</sup>. The change will also be announced in the bulletins and the next Forerunner.

There being no further business to be brought before the Council, Diane Schmidt moved and David Neuman seconded to adjourn the meeting.

We closed with the Lord’s prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Ann Mann, Secretary