

**St. John Lutheran Church
Montpelier, Ohio
Council Meeting January 8, 2017**

Present: Nathan Baker, Michael Kidston, Pastor Paul, Chase Henry, Jeanne Willson, Matt Fredericks, Howard Parrish, Merlin Wright, Ryan Burt, Al Henry, Kyle Sapp, Andy Carlson, Kristen Ewers, David Jaessing, Kati Burt, Jodi Grime, Stacy Sapp, and Alysha Sloan.

Nathan called the meeting to order.

Ryan gave the devotions for the Deacons.

Pastor Paul opened the meeting with prayer.

Motion to approve minutes of the December 11 meeting by Jodi and seconded by Merlin.

Motion passed.

Financial Report - given by Chase. (Copies of the Monthly Financial Report are available on the bulletin board near the office and on the table in a folder by the front entrance.)

Budget vs. Actual

Offering – we are ahead of Year To Date (YTD) \$9,301

Total Benevolence – 87.93% paid. \$10,700 came out in December with \$1,950 outstanding

National Convocation – more expensive than normal due to location

Parish Education – VBS expenses all taken out

Pastor's Business Expense – Pastor reimbursed the church for Joy's registration fee for the Orlando Conference

Pastor's Health Insurance – When budgeted we were not sure of new rates

Net Revenue – YTD ahead by \$13,449

Accounts and Investments

- Accounts and Investments decreased 2.4%
- Accounts and investments decreased \$7,047 for the month. This is mostly driven by payment of Benevolence
- Adjusted Thrivent funds for money used on mission trip by a congregation member in September

Motion to approve the Financial report moved by Howard and seconded by Stacy. Motion passed.

Deacons Report - given by Ryan. Present were Ryan, Al and Kyle. The worship attendance average for Advent was 33.5. Other attendance was 186 for December 24, Christmas Eve, 63 for December 25, Christmas Day. 2016 yearly average for Sunday services was 122. They took down Christmas decorations and brought the Nativity figures inside.

Elders Report - given by Dave J. Present were Andy, Kristen, Dave J., Nathan, and Pastor Paul. Andy will be chairman and Dave J. will be secretary. Elders were assigned as Communion servers for January and February. Motion to provide communion at all 8:00 a.m. Sunday services beginning January 15, 2017 made by Kristen and seconded by Andy. Motion passed. Transfer of membership for Mike Taylor to St. John's was presented.

Parish Ed - given by Stacy. Present was Kati, Jodi, and Stacy.

- VBS Correspondence.
- 3 Youth celebrated first Communion Jan. 1, 2017
- Stacy will be 2017 Parish Ed secretary
- For VBS, Kati will be corresponding with Sasha King from Presbyterian Church to coordinate
- Jodi's high school class will start reading The Shack as a group during Sunday school hour
- Lock-In, Looking at dates and going to plan for an overnight activity Sat. – Sun., Feb. 25-26 and then attend 8:00 a.m. service as a group
- Approved \$100 to women's group for kitchen supplies
- Talked with Pastor for date of confirmation. 3 confirmands (Lyndsi Engels, Addi Thompson, and Charlie Wright) possibly April 9th with interviews Wed. April 5th
- Sept. 10th Bishop coming to help celebrate 150th church anniversary
- 35 Christmas gifts were purchased at \$5.00 per youth
- Feedback was very positive for Advent calendars, Manger on Mantle
- Winter Jam will be March 23
- Lifest for high school youth is July 5th – 9th

Trustees Report - given by Merlin. Present: Dave D., Matt, Howard, Merlin, Nathan, Chase, and Pastor Paul.

- Pastor opened with prayer.
- Matt will be chairman and Merlin will be secretary for 2017.
- Reviewed Paid and Unpaid Bills. Motion to approve paying bills made by Merlin and seconded by Matt. Motion passed.
- Reviewed 2016 Year End budget and actual line items.
- Brief discussion about developing a Facilities Use Policy in light of Marriage law changes. Sample policies will be given to trustees to review for next month.
- Discussed the reinvestment of \$53,000 from Grace Geesey Investment. Motion to invest the \$53,000 into a fixed 3 year annuity at 1.8% with Huntington Bank made by Howard and seconded by Matt. Motion passed.
- Motion to pay WOTC \$481.14 from the investment of the Grace Geesey Account made by Matt and seconded by Merlin. Motion passed.
- Discussion of WOTC kitchen fund at council meeting later.

Motion to approve all Board reports made by Andy and seconded by Kati. Motion passed.

Pastor's Report - given by Pastor Paul. Worship services: 7 Sunday services, 3 seasonal service, 4 sermons, and 1 wedding. In-person visits: 4 homes, nursing homes, hospitals visits and 6 office or elsewhere. Participated in 9 meetings, taught 8 classes, and attended 14 other events. Had other assorted contacts thru telephone, facebook, etc. Used 3 days of vacation. Motion to approve Pastor's report moved by Dave J. and seconded by Michael. Motion passed.

Committee Reports –

- **Envisioning Committee** – Andy, Dave D., Matt, and Jason will be on the committee and will check on previous reports.
- **150th Anniversary Committee** – Merlin reported that on September 10, NALC's Bishop Bradosky will be coming to visit in honor of St. John's 150th Anniversary. He also reported that October 31 of this year is also the actual 500th Anniversary of the Reformation.
- **Worship Committee** – Jill Beck, Sharon Deetz, Jeanne Willson, and Pastor Paul plan the worship services.

Old Business - Nathan had council members review more detailed informational handouts of the NALC Internship and financial obligations. Discussion was held concerning St. John's involvement with the internship program. Pastor will find answers for the questions raised tonight. Merlin passed out a list of potential ideas for council to decide how to distribute the Harvest Fest offering of about \$5000 to benevolence. Motion to distribute to the following: 10% to Food For The Poor, 20% to Tanzania Home of Peace Orphanage, 20% to Bryan Sanctuary Homeless Shelter, 10% to Filling Home, 20% to Pregnancy Center in Bryan, and 20% to Great Commission Society made by Matt and seconded by Michael. Motion passed. Discussion was held on 8 a.m. service weekly communion. Motion to approve 8 a.m. service weekly communion on a trial basis till April 9 and evaluate at the council meeting that evening made by Jodi and seconded by Kristen. Motion passed. The annual Yearly Reports are due and need to be turned into the secretary right away. The congregational potluck will be January 29, and the deacons will supply the meat and rolls.

New Business - Motion to approve transfer of membership to St. John's for Michael Taylor made by Ryan and seconded by Kyle. Motion passed. An email from a religious radio station was discussed as to whether we should purchase a minimum of a 15 minute time block for \$50 a week or \$2500 a year. Council decided not to act on it. Pastor presented a request from a military chaplain asking for religious books for the troops. Motion to send books to the military made by Matt and seconded by Michael. Motion passed. The trustees will check on it. Discussion was held concerning the request by the women's group asking for donations for the kitchen fund. The groups that have a budget will make a donation.

Motion to adjourn made by Ryan and seconded by Stacy. Motion passed.

The next council meeting will be February 12, 2017 at 7 p.m.

Devotions will be given by Elders.

The meeting ended with everyone praying the Lord's Prayer.