



St. Luke Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes – Monday, September 11, 2017 @ 6:00pm

Invited Attendees:

Kerri Ast	X	Laine Loff	X	Marie Leafblad	X		
Carolyn Byrd	A	Chris Ojstrsek	X				
Cherie Callies	X	Rob Rueth	A				
John Heidke	A	Steve Clingman	X				
Scott Koerner	X	Terry Wussow	X				

1. **Leadership Minute/Opening Devotion** -Cherie- The Bible is the living Word. Illustrated with a video of a bible found at Ground Zero in NYC that highlighted the words of Jesus in Matthew 6. Prayer opened the meeting.
2. **Meeting Minutes: Follow-up to open Action Items and Approval---** Terry
 - a. 8/14/17 Council Meeting **Scott made motion to approve, Laine seconded, passed unanimously.**
3. **Old Business**
 - a. MET Team Update---Pastor Steve **Team has met 4 time to date. They've created a timeline. Working on survey questions to present to congregation in October, one each week during service and via other communications. Each question will center on Gather, Empower and Serve. Sue Heidte has stepped back from chair, Dan DeSnoo has agreed to take the position. Budget approval for \$500 Needed for materials mainly needed for surveying and communications. Kerri made a motion to approve, seconded by Chris, passed unanimously.**
 - b. Launch of Legacy Giving---Terry **All: Review Dave Wiese's report emailed on 9/8/17 and think through what was presented in order to provide thoughts and ideas to the Discipleship team. Legacy giving and Endowments are separate at this point, as they are two different types of giving. But further discussion will be had about how/if they should be tied together or remain separate and how they can compliment each other. Also think about whether council should draft a policy for handling big dollar donations.**
4. **New Business**
 - a. Financial Report --- **Similar trends as last year if special gifts are taken into consideration. There has been a drop off in giving from new members, long time member giving is consistent. Some big fundraising events are coming up. Discussion was had about when we could next update the congregation at a town hall. October calendar is very full with adult study and MET needing time to communicate to congregation. We will review our options at the next council meeting after we see September's financial reports. Scott motioned to accept the Financial reports from August, Kerri seconded. Passed unanimously.**
 - b. Financial Best Practices for St Luke
 - Unified giving (2017 vs 2016)
 - c. Staff Reports – Brief discussion and identification of assigned action items



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- Jerry Nelson **received**
- Karen Horwitz **received**
- Marcia Earl **received**
- Marie Leafblad **working with Shelly on developing a plan to create Intentional partnerships between existing members and new members. This may help improve the connections and commitment to St. Luke that all members have. And help build relationships and get people connected (not just around volunteering opportunities.) This may help address some of the concerns we've had around new members dropping out. DA: Working with Pr in developing a plan for a concentrated one year long confirmation class. Open to anyone 7th grade and older who would make an intentional choice to go through the confirmation processl. This would be in addition to a MS youth group and will hopefully roll out in 2018. There would be a transition period so those kids**

NOTE: Personnel Team to be cc'd on reports

c. Other Team Updates **received**

- Crossroads Music Fest (Heather) **Contact Heather with any suggestions for ideas to fill spots to perform between bands.**
- Charitable Endowment Fund (Sandy Evans)
- Worship & Music (Donna Ohm) **Scott will follow up with Donna on Thrivent grant. Kerri is willing to apply for one if an appropriate use can be determined.**
- Discipleship (Dave Wiese) **Terry: they should ask for same step up from members as last year.**
- Quilts of Valor (Denise Roskopf) **Cherie: Provide feedback to Denise: QOV is doing a great job and the way they are presenting is great.**

d. Personnel Team on job descriptions (update)—Carolyn

currently enrolled in DA could complete the confirmation process they've started. All: see attached list of college kids names and addresses. Please mail notes. Carolyn: Will we have gift cards to include?

- **Michelle Kiekaefer** Vanco info should go out soon to start people transitioning before the end of the year. Get something in the pews maybe. **Terry: Discipleship team should be kept in the loop and should help promote this during pledge drive and have help available to get people signed up during drive. John: Would you be willing to assist Michelle with the phone system?**
- Shelly Schulteis **received**
- Stephanie Bill **Carolyn: Does Steph's job description include that she does bulletins now?**
- Pr. Steve **received Terry: Annual meeting date to be decided on at next council meeting. Please add to agenda.**



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- e. Hurricane Relief Fund Match Discussion was had on balancing the call to provide support as we are called to do as Christians with fulfilling our commitment to support St. Luke and how to communicate that well to the congregation, in light of our message at the latest Town Hall. It will be presented to the congregation as a donation made in addition to amount pledged to general giving. But if people are planning to donate to hurricane relief, they have an opportunity to make their donation go further with these matching dollars and it will go to Lutheran Disaster Response, where 100% will be used for immediate and long lasting support. It was decided to accept the anonymous match challenge for the lesser amount. [Terry will contact donor.](#)
- f. Furnace issue [Ushers will now monitor and control thermostat as part of their duties. It has been added to their job duties in the binder.](#)
- g. Youth volunteers for Music Fest [There had been no specific request made for youth to volunteer. The sign up sheets are now posted in the gathering space. Ali Koerner has volunteered to lead the Kidzone](#)
- h. **Misc.**
 - ["A Failure of Nerve"- Reader Digest version from Marie](#)
- i. **Discussion on Communications with Congregation**
 - i. Announcements
 - ii. Making Waves
 - iii. Mass email
 - iv. Robo-call
 - v. MET Facebook Page
 - vi. Next Town Hall Meeting?
- j. **Fundraising Requests? [None received](#)**
- k. **Creating a Culture of Involvement and Service**
 - a. Names of volunteers / staff to be thanked for your consideration
 - [Scott: Deb Martola](#)
 - [Terry: Jeff Behrends, Roger Koester, Joan Peterson](#)
 - [Cherie: Sydows, Kotket's](#)
 - [Kerri: Sharon Osterman, Heather cummins](#)
 - [Carolyn: Lori Beck, Chuck Hentz](#)
 - [Chris: Karen Berg](#)
- l. **Mark Your Calendars**
 - a. Monthly Council Meetings
 - i. October 9 @ 6pm (devotion = [Carolyn](#))
 - ii. November 13 @ 6pm (devotion=[Chris](#))
 - b. Other dates to remember:



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September 10...Fall Worship Begins (8:00 & 10:30)

September 17...Adult Bible Study on Luther and the Reformation begins (9:15)

September 23...Crossroads Music Fest (Noon-7:00 PM) @ Hartford Town Hall

October 8...Harvest Dinner @ 5:00 PM

October 15...Confirmation

October 21...In As Much Day

October 29...500 year anniversary of Reformation

m. Council Updates to the Congregation

a. Follow-up to Monday, September 11th Meeting

i. What?

1. Continue faithfulness in pledge giving . Opportunity to give for hurricane relief with matching.
2. MET is meeting regularly and will roll out surveys in October
- 3.

ii. When? Who?

1. Sunday, September 17 @ 8:00 am : Terry
2. Sunday, September 17 @ 10:30 am service : Scott

n. Future Agenda Items

a. Council Retreat Marie suggested a Leadership retreat with the objective of reconnecting those in leadership. She felt there was no means of aligning everyone and that there may be some duplication of efforts and other disconnects since we are moving away from a Pastor-centered structure. This would be a good opportunity to lay the groundwork for us to build towards a multiple team/functionally defined structure. Pr. Steve suggested that Council should lead a listening session with leaders within the church (perhaps past and current leaders) as this would be an opportunity for Council to be more visible and active in its leadership role. Pastor also suggested it would be a great forum for the MET team to be involved in. Marie will send out a Doodle poll to find a date. Marie, Pastor and Terry will work on developing the plan/agenda for the day.

i. Date/Time

ii. Location

iii. Agenda

b. Inhibitors to Volunteerism...next steps (see brainstorming summary from 1/10/17)

c. Quarterly Review of Strategic Plan

d. Assignment / Team Updates:

i. Safety Preparedness / Emergency Readiness Team – Kerri

ii. Review / Clean-up of Membership Rolls - Carolyn

b. Policy Manual Updates

c. Operations Manual Updates

d. Organization Chart



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- o. Closing – Summary of Action Items and Closing Prayer Closed with Lord’s Prayer. Kerri motioned to adjourn, Scott seconded, passed unanimously. Adjourned at 8:28.**

Meeting minutes respectfully submitted by Cherie Calies, Council Secretary

CC:

Council Members

Pastor Steve

Michelle Kiekhaefer

Marie Leafblad

Shelly Schulteis

Stephanie Bill