

St Mark Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
October 12, 2021

Present: Sarah Palmer, Terry Karns, Steve Palmer, Bunny Arbaugh, Onda Cymes, Maggie Miller
Guest Members: Joani Laginess, Cindy Palmer, Gary Ross, and Jeanne Ross.

Call to Order @ 6:33pm

Prayer/Opening Devotion by Sarah

Guests: Sarah Stanton, CEO Habitat for Humanity
Sarah Teare, Senior Director of Resident and Community Engagement for Habitat

Presentation of their desire and interest to purchase St Mark property or partner with whoever does buy it if it's not them. They submitted a letter of interest detailing how they plan to use the property as an anchor for their continued work in Sugarbrook, Gault Village, and West Willow neighborhoods. Habitat is eager to discuss partnerships with FedUp and Stop the Violence (Shonne Draw) nonprofit ministries.

Worship Team Report

Joani reported that she has supply pastors scheduled through the end of the year using the same rotation. The HOTRS would like to have an in-person Christmas Eve service. Joani will ask Pastor Anna Taylor-McCants if she is available to preside for us. If not, then ask Pastor Vera McEwen then Pastor Elizabeth Freidman at Lutheran Campus Ministry. We decided not to attempt producing a Christmas Pageant this year. Kim Bailey has offered to provide the midweek Advent messages. We'd like to have watch parties for the mid-week services and for 2 of them possibly have pie and cookie socials afterward.

Council Reports

Secretary: Motion to accept: Steve Seconded by: Onda

Treasurer: Motion to accept: Terry Seconded by: Amanda Move amount from Condo
DTE/Comcast to Telephone/Internet Line

Financial Secretary: none submitted

President: none submitted

Vice President: none submitted

Head Deacon: none submitted Amanda will schedule through the end of the year

Head Elder: none submitted

Head Trustee: none submitted Steve presented under New Business

Old Business

New CDC Guidelines for October – no new guidelines

New Business

Close of Congregations Handbook: this is the link

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Close_of_Congregations_2016.pdf?_ga=2.191449066.1743793343.1633302121-1845756636.1633302121

Page 10 has a detailed list of what information needs to be compiled to presented to the synod.

Discuss options of donating or selling our property

Steve presented the package of information gathered by Mike Messier, real estate agent. The property is described in detail and includes comparable property sales. He suggested a starting list price of \$279,900

At the last congregational meeting it was voted on to begin the investigation into Holy Closure. Steve made it clear the property must be sold/donated to a non-profit organization.

Steve made a motion that **St. Mark proceed with Holy Closure and decide, by voting, the disposition of assets during a congregational meeting to be held in late November. The final service of Celebration and Thanksgiving will be Feb 6, as long as the Bishop's office agrees with the date.** Seconded by Bunny The motion passed unanimously.

Sarah will notify the Southeast Michigan Synod about our motion to proceed with the Holy Closure process.

Bunny and Onda will meet with Laurie Gable to get the youth account checkbook. Onda made a motion that **St. Mark will pay for Jonathin, Braylynn, and an adult chaperone's registration to the National Youth Gathering 2022.** Seconded by Bunny. The motion passed unanimously.

Maggie volunteered to oversee the Inventory of fixtures, furniture, and property of St. Mark. Bunny and Jeanne offered their help.

Joani will email Sarah Stanton and Sarah Teare, of Habitat, to connect them with Pastor Anna of FedUp and Shonne Draw of Stop the Violence to facilitate the start of their conversation about forming a partnership.

Closing Prayer by Steve

Adjourned @ 7:54pm

Next Meeting Nov. 3 at 6:30pm