**Lord of the Lakes May Council Meeting** May 17, 2022

Council Members Present: Wayne Ludkey, Pastor Kevin , John Macho, Deb Ruedinger , Pam Ulness , Jan Olson, Sarah Miller, Kristen Bjornstad and Amy Penza.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Kevin

Devotion: Deb Ruedinger…color wheel/spiritual gifts

June Devotion: John Macho

Approval of April Minutes: Motion to approve made by Jan Olson, second made by Deb Ruedinger.

**Reports Summaries** (discussion/questions beyond submitted written reports): See attached Team Reports Document for teams indicated.

-**Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Kevin. See Team Reports document.

Things feel “back to normal”. Momentum is good. Pastor Kevin feels there is a general optimism, and people seem to be in a better place now. The weather may be helping too.

Pastor Kevin also thanked everyone for all they’re doing here.

-**Youth Report:** Amy

“Youth has been doing many great things for our church and our community! They recently finished up a soap workshop where they learned to make soaps for the homeless shelter. They also had the opportunity to help Sharon Doyle plant the beautiful flowers out front! They seem to really enjoy people from our church stepping up and taking time to come in a teach them new skills that benefit people in our church/ community.

We had a great bow and arrow night last week. We had many adult volunteers that came out and helped, and I am so grateful for their time as well. It is a goal of mine to continue to seek out people willing to donate 3 Wednesdays to come and teach the kids a skill they can use for others but also to make those connections with people in the church.

We have much coming up in the next few weeks, hard to believe, but the high school mission trip in only 3 weeks away. There is much to be done to finalize the details, but we are looking forward to it. We will be stepping back from a mission trip next year as I am hoping to get the kids to a youth revival, the ELCA hosts one each year, if COVID cooperates. I would also like to perhaps do a day at Lifest as we have many kids interested in music. This will also give us more time to fundraise for the next mission trip. With that in mind, I would like to open up the mission trip the following year (2024-2025) to the church as well as youth with the hopes of having more of a family service / other people in our congregation joining the youth type mission trip. I am hoping for the location of Alaska which will be through Praying Pelican.

I am very much looking forward to VBS and have already gotten an amazing response not only from parents, but also volunteers! I think this will a great opportunity for our church to expand with new families and I am hopeful that it will become an annual affair.

As always, continue to pray for our young people as they finish up the school year and move into summer!”

Youth seems more optimistic as well. Sunday school ended this last Sunday. Amy has a meeting coming up with the Sunday school teachers for feedback.

Crunch time to get paperwork and everything set for mission trips has begun. Amy is considering some rossways camp opportunities for next year in lieu of a mission trip.

**Treasurer’s Report:** (Apryl via email). See Team Reports Document.

“There are two reports…

First one is the operating budget (which is what the budget is based off of).

The top of the report shows where we projected to be as a church vs where we are currently.

We do need to keep in mind we received a one-time donation of $5200 that helped us out this month.

The $3000 quarterly donation is someone who “normally” donates on a quarterly basis but of course that is not guaranteed.

Investment account had a large loss this month - $2,178

2022

YTD Month Month

 Actual Projected Budget

January (3,709) (2,655)

February (5,567) (2,655)

March (15,064) (2,655)

April 5,025 (2,655)

TOTAL YTD (19,315) (10,620)

Designated funds – These are funds they need to be saved for these specific purposes and cannot be spent for anything other than what is listed on the report.”

Pastor Kevin thought that April still came in a little better than was anticipated. Wayne will follow up with Apryl to get a more accurate picture and see if there is any need for concern at this point.

Jan Olson commented, “Thanks for the update. However, I have 3 questions:

1. The Operating Statement only has what we budgeted and no comparison of actual in each category. Or did I not get part of it from Doris?

2. The Designated Fund Acct Balances: The B&G started with $1,192.77 and stayed the same for other months until this month (4/22) when it jumped to $11,192.77. Great or is this a typo? And what is that intended for? -Wayne believes this is just a type-o

3. What is the window coverings in designated intended for? Should it be added to the actual payment for the rest of the blinds payment after they are installed in late May? And then need to take less from the Fortifi Investment Acct?”

 Deb had the same question and Pastor Kevin was unsure. We will need follow-up from Apryl.

Pastor Kevin said that utilities had gone up quite a bit. He wanted Jan to have B&G check about changing the thermostat settings so things aren’t running during the week. We may be able to save some expenses.

Motion to approve treasurer’s report by Sarah Miller. Kristen Bjornstad seconded.

-**Buildings and Grounds:** Jan. See Team Reports Document.

B&G met May 3rd. Expense of electrical for the new sign is quite high. Daryl is trying to get the cost under $4000. The quote received was higher. Wayne wanted to make sure that Daryl is thanked for all the work he’s been doing. He’s been doing so much. Jan said that she would like to have council give him a gift when the sign work is all done. Maybe a SCRIP card?

Wayne said the electrical work will be done on May 18th, and the sign is supposed to be installed next week. Then a dedication can be done shortly after.

Jan has put the order in for the blinds. Those should be in by the end of May.

Jan said there was a smaller turnout for Spring clean-up, but they got everything done.

Kevin Franz approached Jan about doing an analysis and putting together a 10-20 year capital budget for Lord of the Lakes. He does this for a local school district. Council thought this was a good idea and decided that we should move ahead with this.

-**Stewardship:** Wayne. See Team Reports Document.

Wayne put a message in the bulletin and Pastor Kevin put a message in the newsletter about the current deficit. Wayne/Pastor have not received any feedback yet. Pastor Kevin thought that we may want/need to do a fundraiser in the Fall if we’re still showing a deficit, and feel we’ll be in trouble at the end of the year.

Amy asked if there will be someone in charge of programming messages for the sign? Wayne said, yes, there will need to be someone designated to do this.

Jan noted that the sign should never be blank.

Ideas for 3-4 word messages should be sent to Wayne.

Wayne contacted Dan Hale about the Website. He is waiting to hear back from him. When Sarah contacted him a few years ago he said he was willing to take a look at it, but did not want to manage it. Dan may be different situation now as he responded to the time and talents survey with interest.

-**Communication:** Sarah.

 Sarah said the person managing the current web page does not have much/any experience with religious pages. She is still working on getting in contact with someone local to possibly do this.

Sarah said that Kim is doing really well with social media updates. Sarah is still monitoring these. Sarah has a subscription to Canva/Canva Pro and said advertisements can be done with this program.

Everyone in youth enjoyed the archery event. Sarah asked to have people go into Thrift & Gift and vote for the Winneconne Youth Archery Club to be their “charity of the month.”

Sarah reminded all to get any messages that need to be posted on social media to Sarah/Kimberly so that they can get them up.

-**Volunteerism:** Debbie. See Team Reports Document.

Debbie said that this has been going well. Pam wondered if it was confusing if people are already signed up for certain teams, that maybe they’re not filling out the sheets. Debbie feels that may be the case and she’s still getting names of volunteers trickling in.

Amy commented that the youth really appreciate that when they sign up for something that it’s no longer a month long commitment. They like it better this way.

Debbie said that they have a good list of people to call on for help with funerals. There are 3 team leads and approx 15 people to be potential volunteers.

Jan said that 8-10 people are attending the initial meeting for the new life & growth team/women’s ministry/event planning team.

- **Refugee resettlement:** John.

This project is now 1 month in, and the older kids started school yesterday. The family is also food stable. John had a call last Friday from World Relief to take the family to get fans. John found a few fans, which were donated. Additionally, they may need window A/C unit. Kriste will check at home, as she may have an A/C unit to donate. Debbie said that the outlets will need to be checked in an older home to see if they can handle the A/C unit.

John is working on getting a washing machine.

-**Worship Team:** Pam. Meeting next Tuesday.

**New Business:**

**- Amy seminary education update:** Wayne said there is a mini task force that has been formed to plan ahead for Amy’s education and role within the church. Met with Pastor Asher O’Callaghan from the synod. They could not provide us with a list/schedule of what needs to be done (and when). The challenge lies in that this is a unique program with both a seminary and an internship component.

**Ongoing Business:**

**- Offering discussion:**  PK said they could try the offering with 3 people (one on each end and one person in the middle) to hand it back on both sides. Wayne noted that we may need to have ushers start in the front and move to the back, and make sure they’re not missing the people in the middle. Pastor Kevin suggested moving from the outside front (Pastor Kevin can hand the offering plates off to the ushers), and come back down the middle. The ushers can then hand the offering plates back to Pastor Kevin.

Debbie asked about having acolytes. Pastor has always lit the candles, but would be open to having the kids (older Sunday school age) do it.

Amy would like to have a donation jar with a designated charity where the kids get used to giving (weekly or monthly). This will be discussed more in the future.

**- How are we doing task force:**  Wayne will reach out to other synod pastors to see if they have done this kind of survey.

**- Business management team:** Jan said they have had a good response and have a good number of people. Jan and Pastor Kevin said that Andy has done his review and a report is forthcoming.

Wayne gave thanks and noted that we are lucky to have the generous congregation that we have.

**-Other:**  Jan asked if we are going to fill the vacant council spot. Deb said there were a few volunteers from the time and talents survey. She will get the names to Wayne to see if we can get another person to fill that spot.

**Closing prayer:** Pastor Kevin

**Next Meeting:** June 21, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.