

Messiah Lutheran Church

Council Agenda

August 11, 2020

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we worship and serve as one body of Christ to share God's love

Welcome

Prayer concerns and opening prayer

Review & approval of June, 2020 Council Minutes

Financial reports – Beverly Prater

Pastor report – Pastor Karl

Ministry reports

We will take just a few minutes to review the reports. Liaisons, if you have anything to add that is not in the report or highlight a point of interest, you will have time to share.

- Christian Ed - Rich
- Community Outreach – Nancy
- Fellowship - Chris
- Preschool - Staci
- Property – Max
- Stewardship - Nancy
- Welcome - Angela
- Worship and Music - Chris

Old Business

- Joseph's Coat. 1160 Annexing
- HVAC Replacement, Council Approved by Email Vote. (Add to June Council Minutes)
- Job Description for Childrens Minister

New Business

- Air Purifiers Added
- Messiah Night Future
- Open

Next meeting – September 8, 2020

Opening & Closing – None

Messiah Lutheran Church

Council Minutes

June 9, 2020

Filled with the Holy Spirit, we worship and serve as one body of Christ to share God's love

Welcome

Prayer concerns and opening prayer: Arlea Braden in Hospice; Tracy Schuricht; Marcia Calos; Chris' father in law

Review & approval of May, 2020 Council Minutes: motion made by Pastor Karl; 2nd by Angela; approved as written.

Financial reports & SBA Loan – Beverly Prater; see report; are spending less than what we budgeted which helps with the lower amount of money being taken in; have extra money sitting in the bank due to the SBA loan which is a plus

Pastor report – Pastor Karl; see report

Ministry reports

We will take just a few minutes to review the reports. Liaisons, if you have anything to add that is not in the report or highlight a point of interest, you will have time to share.

- Christian Ed – Rich; see report
- Community Outreach – Nancy; see report
- Fellowship – Chris; no report
- Preschool – Staci; see report
- Property – Max; see report; air conditioner in the sanctuary needs to be changed at a cost of \$1200-1500; it will need to be replaced sooner rather than later which could cost as much as \$15,000; property committee is getting estimates for repair and replacement
- Stewardship – Nancy; no report
- Welcome – Angela; new portal of prayers are now available in a box outside of the church in a container under the bench
- Worship and Music – Chris; see report

Old Business

- Joseph's Coat: nothing new to add at this time

New Business

- Approval to go ahead with Children's Minister search for an August 1 start: we need to move forward; we could hire this person in July and have them start in August; Angela

and Pastor Karl will pursue this by writing a job description and then looking for a person to hire

- Messiah Christian School game plan okay: see Lisa's first draft plan; she could lose about \$8000 with the lower number of students able to enroll; Staci and Pastor Karl are attending a meeting tomorrow with Lisa and her concerns seem to be reasonable with a few adjustments that may be made
- Worship Life at Messiah update and feedback: see worship outline; Tyler will be back live this week in the worship space; Praise team will be back the week after; will have one outdoor service at the end of June and 2 in July; may start back in the sanctuary in August but not sure yet
- Open
- Air Conditioning Concerns: A majority vote was given on July 22 to replace the air conditioning system (HVAC) in the sanctuary by Custom Air for the price of \$23,773. The current Capital Fund should pay for this. The replacement will be a 6-8 week completion.

Next meeting – July 14, 2020

Opening & Closing for June – None

Opening & Closing for July - None

Pastor's Report

August, 2020

Thoughts and Stuff

- The Covid rhythm has begun to set in. I work in the office Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday and mostly from home on Monday and Thursday. I have started to do home visits. We are having meetings and studies at the church socially distanced and outside if we can. I continue to be committed to the added virtual ministries. The outdoor worship is growing in attendance and appreciation. The Virtual Worship runs smoothly because of our volunteers. Not normal, but starting to feel like a new normal, at least for a while.
- I am thankful for the hard work of Property Chair Joe Gulling to secure an air conditioner deal for our sanctuary. I am thrilled we had enough money in our Capital Fund for this very large expense. I am anxious now for the work to be completed.
- Good things are happening at Messiah Christian School. They are nearly full and most of our teachers came back even in the midst of the pandemic. Director Lisa Powers has been working a lot of long days to adjust to the new reality and to make this all come together.
- I am disappointed in our country's inability to do hard but simple things to keep transmissions of Covid down. Our failure makes it hard for any of us to plan for the short term future. As a pastor it is hard to plan to open more things up in September or October, if there is no indication it is getting better. In fact, my discouragement is leading to a fatalism that it will surely be worse in October than it is today.
- Please keep in your prayers our need for a Children's Minister at Messiah. The Messiah family must engage our children and keep our baptismal promises. May God send us someone exactly for this strange time.
- I am thankful for the vacation time I have been given. I just finished my third week off in the summer and it was grand. I am relaxed, rejuvenated and ready to go.

- I am excited about worship in August. Our goal is to involve people at home in our virtual worship experience Sunday morning. Summer celebration and our Pet Blessing will have that component. Plus, we will figure out how to do something big safely, like Confirmation. Meanwhile, Worship Director Tyler plans for new special music opportunities for the fall in the midst of this pandemic.

Concern

- We have no children's ministry happening in the midst of this pandemic.
- We are not keeping our baptismal promise to the parents to help raise their children in the faith.
- We have decreased activity in worship with our families.
- We are likely to be battling this pandemic for another year.
- The position and ministry that Betsy left doesn't exist any longer because of the limitations of the pandemic.

Position

- Pay a qualified professional and committed person of faith a salary at a rate of approximately \$25 an hour to be in ministry with our children in light of the pandemic.
 - We will agree to a monthly hourly number, like 20 or 30 hours at the beginning. The Minister will be encouraged to keep track of her hours in the first few months. If needed, we can revisit the monthly rate of pay in light of hours monthly actually worked.
- They must create new ministries and recreate existing ministries that can be safe, engaging, instructional and bring children and their families into the church community. They should consider and evaluate the opportunities for in person ministry on Sunday morning and Wednesday night, but not be limited in thinking to what we have done before.
- They must be a self starter, researching what other churches are doing and reaching out directly on multiple platforms to families to engage their children with new opportunities.
- They must keep the safety of our children, our families and their own safety in mind.

Questions for interview

Tell us whatever you want us to know about yourself.

What has been your role in ministry generally, children's ministry specifically?

Of the concerns laid out, what resonated?

What questions or concerns did you have about the concerns laid out?

Since we have approximately 60 active children, maybe 100 on the roles, what excites you about this good group?

What concerns do you have about this size?

What kind of support from the leadership of the church for this position do you expect?

What sort of markers will you be looking for to gauge success?

In these unusual times, what particular gift do you have that seems tailor made for this job?

What questions do you have about the position as we laid it out?

Monthly Ministry Report for Messiah Christian School

Submitted by Lisa Powers, Director

August 6, 2020

An update to our back to school letter dated June 19th was emailed to our families earlier this week along with the revised Family Handbook as we continue our efforts to reopen on September 8th. While there have been several changes in the children enrolled at our school, we continue to enroll. There are, of course, many questions from our families, but our transparency and genuineness seem to be appreciated. Our school has an outstanding reputation in the community.

Our governor announced recently that child care centers, that's MCS technically, could return to pre-pandemic ratio and group size. After discussing this announcement with the school's board, it was decided MCS capacity and classroom ratio would remain at pandemic levels to promote the health and safety of all those associated with our school. Our Pre-K and kindergarten classroom communities will be comprised of no more than 9 children and 1 teacher and our school's total capacity for 2020-21 will be 72. Currently we have 67 children enrolled for the fall.

The teachers and staff continue to work tirelessly in their classrooms and throughout the building as we prepare for our Open House (by appointment only) on Sunday, August 30th. We are grateful to Jude for his custodial assistance and Suzanne and Gary Schmandt for beautifying the Fritz Hall restrooms which are used daily by our students.

The school finished our 2019-20 fiscal year on June 30th with a projected net profit of 2K compared to a budgeted loss of (4K). This is a direct result of PPP funds, little to no expenditures during our closure period and the generosity of our families. Our savings account remains at 49K. The 2020-21 budget is expected to reflect a deficit due to the 35% drop in capacity and we acknowledge that not all PPP funds may be forgiven.

Great things happen every day at Messiah Christian School even during a pandemic! #teamwork

Monthly Ministry Report

Ministry: Property Committee

Month: August 2020

Chairperson: Joe Gulling

Current Events

- **Landscape committee**
 - Still waiting on paver company to finish the final piece.
 - Maintaining current plants
 - Fall planning meeting in August
- **Current projects/issues**
 - TBA started repair of garage. Total estimate \$6750.88
 - Approved Custom Air proposal for \$23,773
 - Waiting on a decision on Ionization units and where to install. Scott Wittler has offered to install
 - Jude replaced bulbs in strobing sanctuary light. The new bulbs didn't stop the strobing, may need to replace the ballast.
 - Gutter in playground area needs repaired. Will call gutter company.
 - Jude and I still working on painting plan.
 - Working on pre-school to do list

Future planning

- Next property meeting August 25th, 2020. Hopefully will be held in shelter house again.

Deacon Elaine Pastoral Visitation during Covid-19

March 16-August 6, 2020

When Pastor Karl and I made plans for the Lent-Easter Communion visits, Messiah had eighteen shut ins. Following our March 15 worship services, the whole congregation became “shut ins” since all but essential resource people in Ohio were to stay home.

During the weeks prior to Easter several volunteers, Pastor Karl and I attempted to contact all members. With a few exceptions, such as changed phone numbers, we were successful. We also had people, including children and youth, who made cards and sent notes to others in the congregation.

My ministry response during Covid-19 has been an “in-reach ministry” with the family of God called Messiah. I write our shut ins about every ten days and/or call those with telephones. I have sent many of them devotional material, including Portals of Prayer. I’ve also gone over our membership list trying to identify those members/families who may not have internet service for worship and those who are living alone, regardless of age. I have made contacts especially with these people, as well as others, via telephone and much written correspondence.

Below is a summary of contacts or attempted contacts.

May 1-July 1 274 family units, 508 contacts

July 1-August 6 245 family units, 386 contacts

Pastor Karl and I are resuming in person visits with people who are comfortable having another person in their living space. This week I have called on two shut ins in their apartments. They are both anxious to receive Communion when that can be done safely.

I am so blessed to be able to do this ministry. It is a good gift from God and the congregation.

Deacon Elaine Malzahn

Worship and Music Ministry Report

The Worship and music committee doesn't have much to report. Our outdoor worship service has been well attended (weather allowing), and people have good things to say about this new type of worship. Facebook and YouTube continue to serve for virtual services and are viewed by many congregants far and near.

No needs are identified for now. As we ease back into indoor worship, whenever that may be, I'm sure this will change.

Blessings,
Hollye