

Church Council Meeting Minutes
September 26th, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Dean Gray. Pastor Menz opened the meeting with Prayer. There were approximately 55 voters present. Attendance was not taken due to the pandemic and social distancing recommendations.

Secretary Report – Megan Keyser

9.26.20.A a motion was made, supported and carried to approve the meeting minutes from March 8th, 2020.

Treasurer Report – Jodi Kukla

9.26.20.B A motion was made, supported and carried to approve the treasurer's report.

Board of Elders – Bill Kohn

Membership Changes: New Accessions

By Baptism – *Will Scott Morrisette May 17th, 2020 son of Scott and Sarah Morrisette.*

Knox Allen Kohn July 26th, 2020 son of Chad and Adrienne Kohn

Nolan Rae Gary August 2nd, 2020 daughter of Nathan and Amber Gary

By transfer from LC-MS congregation - *Dinah Pomaville from Faith Lutheran Church Bay City*

By Confirmation – *Victoria Rose Campfield, Andrew William Diener, Gracee Lee Amelia King, John Henry Riker IV, Michael Christian Stark, and Lilly Campbell Steelmon.*

Members Removed

By release to other denominations - *Joshua Brandt*

By transfer to other LC-MS Congregation – *Marjorie Lynn Kaiser (Noykos) to St John Lutheran, Houghton Lake MI.*

By Death – *Earl Vogtmann March 3rd, 2020*

Bonnie Marsh March 3rd, 2020

Rev. Leroy Westphal April 18th, 2020

9.26.20.C A motion was made, supported and carried to approve the membership changes.

Board of Trustees – Terry Wegener

The Cemetery Committee has updated the rules. The updated rules will be discussed and there will be a motion to accept them today.

We are in the process of getting cost estimates for items on the top ten list.

We have an estimate to replace the church parking lot of \$100,000. The existing asphalt is not in good enough condition put a new layer over top. We could have it seal coated and relined; this would improve the appearance until we can replace it. We have two estimates for seal coating and relining, Smith line striping the company that resealed the school parking lot has quoted \$9000 to fill cracks, sealcoat and reline. And from Asphalt Repair Maintenance (ARM) \$9100 to patch holes, fill cracks, seal coat, and reline, or patch holes, not fill the cracks, seal coat and reline for \$5670.

Top Ten List

Repair small roof area over the church south east entrance door. 2020

Repair roof leak on pavilion. 2020

Power wash exterior of gym and school where needed. 2020

Reseal / waterproof the bell tower on the church. 2020

Classroom exterior walls and windows and utility room window. 2021

Epoxy paint kitchen floor in pavilion. 2021

Install fence in front of pavilion and to protect AC units west side of school. 2021

Resurface tennis court and repaint the fencing. 2021

Church exterior cleaning. 2022

Replace Church parking lot. 2025 \$100,000

Future Items to do: Replace weather stripping on south school doors, continue replacing lights in the school and church to energy saving LED bulbs, install risers on the school septic tanks, repair tile west of playground.

Board of Christian Day School: Jerry Diener

Board of Christian Day School had an informal meeting in July to discuss plans and communications for returning to school. School has started. Our first day was August 24th, 2020. Colett & staff are following Michigan's Roadmap & Rules for Phase 4 of the COVID19 pandemic government mandate.

Zion has 78 students enrolled for the school year. Roughly 13 students have dropped enrollment due to a move or opting to homeschool for the start of the school year due to the pandemic.

A special board meeting will be called if our region is moved back to Phase 3 to decide if Zion will return to virtual education or if school will continue face-to-face.

Aftercare will be suspended until further notice

Board of Parish Education: Emily McMenemy

Unfortunately, we had to cancel Vacation Bible School this summer. We hope to have it again this coming summer. We will not be able to have the Reformation party this year. As of now, we will not be having meals for the Advent services.

Sunday School is back in session after taking time off during Covid. Emily McMenemy is the preschool and kindergarten teacher. Sarah Diener is the 1st- 3rd grade teacher. Julie and Christ List are the 4th- 6th grade teachers. Emily Menz teaches the 7th grade – high school Girls Bible study.

Board of Youth – Jen Trevillian

The Easter Breakfast was unfortunately cancelled this year. The High School and Junior High Youth Gatherings were also cancelled this summer. We have a Youth Group meeting on Sunday from 4:30 - 6 p.m. in the pavilion. We will be brainstorming ideas for creative events for the year.

School Staff Report – Colett Dominowski.

What a year this has been! On March 12th with one announcement, our education world changed dramatically. Even today, going to school face-to-face has an entirely new look with a whole new roadmap of mandates we need to follow to remain open. By no surprise, our staff and students have adjusted well, and we are thrilled to be back in the school to teach and learn.

My summer was spent attending Zoom calls, conferences, listening to our Governor's pandemic updates, and taking all of that information to create three different scenarios of what back-to-school would look like for 2020-2021. We are blessed to have Travis Grulke, the Superintendent, and leader at the LCMS Michigan district. He worked closely with the Michigan Association of Non-Public Schools and all of the Michigan Lutheran Principals to get the answers we needed to allow our schools to reopen safely.

Here at Zion, we continue to follow the "Return to School Roadmap" with safety and personal protective equipment mandates given to us by the Governor. We appreciate your patience and understanding of the limited access to the school building so we can remain open. At this time, we are not holding any school events open to the public, athletics, or having volunteers in the building. As much as we miss these activities and people, we also know it is for the safety of our staff, students, and families.

We have a total of 98 students in Preschool - 8th grade. We did lose some students for COVID-19 reasons. The families that left made the best and safest choice for their families during this school year. The majority of those that left said they would be back and not forget them during registration for next year.

I am sad to announce we cannot have our apple pie fundraiser this year, due to current COVID-19 mandates. I know I will miss my pie as much as you will, but we ask that you still consider donating to

sponsor a student in our Apple Walk-a-Thon. We know it's not the same as the Dutch apple sweetness you enjoyed in the past, but your pledge and sponsorship will make a sweet impact on our school and the students here. More information on how you can support our school and make a pledge to come. The staff and I will continue to brainstorm and create fun new ways to fulfill those normal school activities and ways to involve our congregation. We are so blessed for your love, support, and prayers. The staff, students, and I will definitely need them during this school year as we navigate through this new look.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Hemme/Pastor Menz

School has begun. Today was the first day of classes. The pastors will continue to rotate Confirmation teaching responsibilities as well as chapels and devotions this year.

Morning prayers will likely be adjusted to fit in with the school year schedule. The devotions will continue Monday through Friday for the time being.

Shut-in visits for those in their own homes or apartments has gone well over the last few months. The pastors have been in contact with some of the nursing homes and look to visit some of our members in those facilities this month.

Pastor Hemme performed a wedding on August 22nd at previous parish in Eastpointe, Michigan.

Pastor Hemme has Jury Duty the month of October in Midland County.

Old Business – Payroll Protection Plan: Zion applied for and received funds from the CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program. The funds were used to pay staff and maintain daily operations at Zion. The funds received are considered a loan, although they are expected to be forgiven by the Federal Government before repayment has begun.

Ratification of Cemetery Rules: The updated Cemetery Rules were presented at the Voters meeting on March 3rd, 2020.

9.26.20.D A motion was made, supported and carried to accept the Cemetery Rules as written.

New Business –

9.26.20.E A motion was made supported and carried regarding continuation of the current budget.

In response to the virus pandemic, and government regulations, Zion Lutheran Church will operate the 2020-2021 budget with the same numbers approved for the 2019-2020 year with the exception of annual payroll adjustments based on years of experience effective October 1st, 2020.

9.26.20.F A motion was made, supported and carried regarding the election of church officers.

In response to the virus pandemic and government regulations and anticipating Zion Lutheran Church being unable to gather, a one-year exception to the constitution to postpone nominations and election of the new officers from December 2020 until April to June 2021. The officers have agreed to the proposed extension of service.

9.26.20.G A motion was made, supported and carried to transition Cindy Pajot to position of Treasurer and Jodi Kukla to the position of Co-Treasurer. The transition will take place immediately.

9.26.20.H A motion was made, supported and carried to adjourn the meeting.

Pastor Hemme closed the meeting with prayer.

In His service,

Megan Keyser