

May 5, 2024 Congregational Meeting

Meeting was called to order by Council President, Ray Furman at 11:25 am

Opening Prayer and Devotion was led by Christy Landwehr.

Minutes from April 30, 2023 Congregational Meeting were approved.

Recognition of Council Service & Election:

Voted for Mona Marquardt to second term as Vice President.

Voted for Patti Mather to be Secretary.

Still need a nominee for Education-Ray reiterated this was not to teach but to be the organizer of Education.

Ray also recognized the following members of the congregation:

- Peggy and Keith Schultz for all of the time and energy they spend in service of the church including, snow shoveling, Bulletin preparation, property repair, clean up and maintenance.
- Ardell Zeiler for stepping up to fill Secretary of Council position, as well as organizing and maintaining food pantry, and training new administrator.
- Mona Marquardt and the whole A/V crew (Kris Marquardt, Mark Carmany, Keith Swatsley, Cindy Riddle, Patti Mathers, and returning member Sandy Martin) that help the church sound and look good in the online universe. This has brought new members into the church!
- Marian Jaeger for volunteering to distribute the food boxes and organizing and managing the Blessing Bags.
- Rebecca Weiner for managing the alter guild, Bulletin printing and folding, working in the food pantry and assisting administrator whenever needed.
- Cindy Riddle for maintaining Tidbit digital newsletter.
- Richard Nelson-Pollock for his beautiful guitar playing during services.
- John and Nancy Rhodes for organizing and hosting our newest activity-Game Night.
- John Richard and the choir members for enhancing our service experience with their voices.

Business-

Synod Assembly:

Rosie Jacobs provided an update on the recent Synod Assembly in Loveland, CO.

The statement of the assembly was "On our way together." The Labyrinth is the symbol this year.

The new Bishop was elected as well as council members and candidates.

There were presentations from other ministries.

The Budget was submitted and can be seen on the website.

Two resolutions were passed:

Resolution #1: Allow Recognized Outdoor Ministry Sites in the Rocky Mountain Synod to Send One Voting Member to Synod Assembly (ADOPTED 4/26/24)

Resolution #2: For Justice for Palestinians and Israelis (ADOPTED 4/26/24)

Two statements were discussed but not voted on:

Draft of a Social Statement on Civic Life & Faith

Commission for a Renewed Lutheran Church.

Meeting Opened to questions and answers:

Q: Can an overview of the assembly be completed during service?

A: Pastor-yes, will fit into service.

Q: A shout out to Lee Lotter, past president but not gone. He still does so much.

A: Pres-Yes, wanted Lee to be present to hear the recognition but he is not present.

Q: How does church keep going when each week the bulletin shows that offerings do not meet obligations?

A: There are several factors involved:

- The budget is determined for the year and then divided by 12 to determine needs per month.
- Mortgage is paid off-a great help.

- The church has savings so are not at risk of not meeting basic requirements of the congregation.
- Looked at last year's treasury report and we made more than was spent.
- Church doesn't always spend all that is budgeted.
- Some items we pay for annually (may get a discount doing this) but that is not reflected in the Life Signs information in the bulletin.
- Insurance policy on Church was reviewed and amended which changed the cost of the premiums which are paid quarterly. However, the payment was not adjusted for this new policy. Roy contacted agent and the next premiums will be adjusted accordingly.
- The Budget can be very confusing since we really have three different years-Tax, Church and Synod.

Q: Can the minutes from the council meeting be posted or shared with the congregation?

A: Yes, got out of the habit of posting during COVID shut down. Will re-establish posting. Also they are kept in binders in the printer room off of the church office. Can be reviewed at any time. Any one can come to the council meeting.

Q: Can agenda be sent out ahead of time?

A: Yes, the meeting day and time have changed lately it is not the third Monday at 6:30. Ray will get agenda out so it can be included in Tidbits and bulletin.

Q: We have had several new faces in church. One couple saw information on line. They thanked member for welcoming them warmly. This is important.

A: Our digital presence is important and we need to acknowledge people when they come in.

Q: We use to have greeters before COVID, maybe we should start again?

A: yes.

Further discussion discussed how people watch on line first before attending and that they don't always leave information on their first visit-such as filling out a "Friendship card".

Q: We use to call people who did leave information do we still do that?

A: If they leave information we reach out. If email address is left, an email goes out thanking them for attending and providing information and if they want to join list serves.

The meeting was adjourned by Ray Furman, Council President at 11:50am