

No October Voters' Meeting

The church Council met on Tuesday, September 1. At that meeting it was decided not to hold an October Voter Assembly due to COVID 19 since there was no pressing matters to be voted upon. A motion was made and passed to use the 2020 budget, keep salaries the same as 2020 and to have officers continue serving through 2021. Following is a synopsis of the council meeting of which would have been presented at the Voter Meeting held September 1.

Attendees: Fred Kruth, Chairman; Larry Feusse, Elders; Irene Kruth, Gen. Fund Treas; Mark Richardson, Vice Chairman; Dave Hutfilz, Trustee; Bernie and Julayne Hutfilz, Stewardship/Evangelism

Pastor's Report ~ Pastor is on vacation and Pastor Mundt will preach on September 6 and cover hospital calls and emergencies. Pastor's son, Paul Walter was married in July. His daughter, Elise and her family will be visiting this coming week.

Confirmation with one family with two children, would like to use Zoom and e-mails and phone for classes and homework, beginning after Labor Day in September.

Bible Studies will begin on Wednesday, September 9th, "Through the Bible" Wednesday's morning 10:30-12:00 study on Job, meeting in the narthex, as they have in the past with masks and social distancing, while the A-Men's group will meet again (except for the 2nd Thursday of the month when the Elders have their monthly meeting.) on Thursday nights at 6:30-8:00, studying the Catechism, either by Zoom or in the narthex with masks and social distancing.

Sunday School ~ Someone has asked if they could try and recruit any children for learning of Jesus and His Word in a limited, but intentional way, though the virus may have squelched that idea for this year.

LWML~ The Lutheran Women's Missionary League Fall Rally has been cancelled due to the virus restrictions.

Pastor's Conference on October 15th will be offered in person or by live streaming in various places of Michigan or at one's own home or church on Racial Tensions. This is a series based largely on a Bible Study written by Pastor Haney, which has become a Sermon Series from September 20th through November 1st, which the Michigan District is strongly encouraging all congregations to use, and which we will be doing. It is needed for what our country is facing in violent protesting and other racial tensions at this time.

Stephen Ministry will continue to postpone until we have enough materials ready and enough people to teach for classes in the future.

Memorial Service was held for Carl Roggow on August 22. A funeral for Lew Krauss was held on Wednesday, September 2 with visitation beginning an hour before the service, and social distancing being observed. A private baptism will take place after Labor Day weekend.

God's Helping Hands continues with distribution outside on tables, with a lot of help to put it out and to bring it back in again afterwards.

Calls to shut-ins and hospitals are done by phone, without giving private communion, instead of face to face due to social distancing restrictions. Nursing Homes still are not letting people visit inside them. We also have a few women helping Elder's make phone calls on the various Zones of our congregation to check in and be sure people aren't falling through the cracks in regards to their needs, and to encourage them with what we are doing at Zion, like taped worship services etc.

Social Distancing ~ The Monthly Circuit meeting for pastors will start again next Tuesday, and they may offer more guidance in regards to social distancing as we plan to move forward.

Elders: Several women were asked to make calls to our members during the pandemic. They were partially successful due to some phone numbers changed or disconnected, but overall this was well received. Compliments were made on how smooth the distribution of communion was going.

Evangelism/Stewardship: God's Helping Hands has been operating outside. Families are given a number as they drive in, numbers are called when it is their turn to shop. Masks must be worn and one member per family is allowed. People are offered a Bible, invited to church and can shop for their own limited amount of food. Baskets used for shopping are sanitized after each use. The group has discussed safety precautions to be used in reopening the building to shoppers. Some of the ideas include passing out numbers and allowing only five shoppers at a time in the building, only using the east doors for exit and entry, not allowing shoppers beyond the hallway past youth room. They are also looking for ways to accept donations again keeping safety measures in place without having a large drop off of donations all at once. Donations of winter items are needed as they will be packing up summer items. It was agreed to allow them to open on September 12 allowing people in the building again with limited capacity and safety measures in place. This recommendation may change depending upon any future recommendations from the Michigan District or the Governor. They were advised to use their good judgement in reopening and again accepting donations.

Trustees: Bids for the control box for boilers/air handler, etc. in the east end of the building are being taken. Approximate cost \$14-\$18 K. Unit is from the 1990's and outdated and needs replaced. Lakenet Fiber Optic (Internet) will be installed as it continues down Dice Road to the Teacherage. Zion will connect for an approximate connection cost of \$250 and monthly cost of \$55, replacing the current SpeedConnect internet. City Sewer has been contracted to replace drains for a cost of \$8,000. Work to be done soon. Gazebo H2O is not working as trustees are unable to find the connection to the Gazebo. Water to the whole building will have to be shut off at some point to look into the problem.

October Voters' meeting will not take place due to the virus. There are no pressing matters. It was agreed to use the 2020 budget, keep salaries same as 2020 and have officers continue through 2021.

Quilting group would like funds to purchase batting for quilts. They do use donated materials but could use batting. It was suggested they purchase batting and turn in the bills to the General Fund as there is a line item for Community projects under the Stewardship/Evangelism Board.

General Fund offerings were about \$6,500 less than this time last year and expenses were about \$4,100 less than last year. We are doing fine financially at this point. Bulletins are online and a link to the council minutes will be put online. A September/October Newsletter will be mailed and include council meeting notes to help keep our members informed. Contribution amounts will be projected on the screens in the

future.

Next meeting will be October 6 at 6:30 pm.