

VOTERS MEETING
JULY 21, 2024

Chad Smith, president called the meeting to order at 10:33; pastor opened with prayer.

Attendance: 44

New members: Rev Ken Hinrichs, Susan Hinrichs, and Mary Sarnicky (Spelling?), Jack and Joanie Schlasser. Motion made and seconded to accept all into membership. Passed.

Review of prior minutes from the February meeting; no corrections, motion made and approved the minutes from last meeting.

Pastor's report: Church is stable; 5-6 family units coming in sometime in September. We keep growing. We have to continue to show what God is doing here. We have some ideas which others will present. w. We are over 500 people in members; generally, one pastor should serve about 250 people. Exciting time. His summer has been good. Thank you for those vacations; family is doing well; church is doing well.

Treasurer's Report: We are stable, and the financial numbers are for the year to date.

Elders: They added one elder due to the size of the church. At last elders meeting, the elders agreed to start the process to call another pastor. What is going to happen? There is a process per the constitution. There needs to be a majority of members present at meetings concerning the approval of calling a pastor. Right now, we are looking at 9/8, the first Sunday after Labor Day. Sunday School will start 9/15. We need, constitutionally, 2 weeks' notice of this meeting. This is 7 weeks from today. We want to make sure everyone is aware this meeting is approaching. We would like to have a majority of the people at this meeting to start the process of calling a pastor. The voters authorize it; the Board of Elders is considered the call committee. The process will take a bit to do—probably months to a couple of years. We need patience. A question was brought up by a member as to whether we are able to absorb the cost of a pastor? We would add about 25% to our budgeted expenses. Fred mentioned about reports they can look at for those that are given by household and what needs to increase for these; he will get the numbers. Fred also mentioned we really need to have some faith. Another question from a member: Can anyone submit a name? Yes, it would come to the Board of Elders. This is considered a Divine Call. A job description is needed if we make a call. That also needs to be worked on.

Evangelism: Chad reported on behalf of Keith; We donated over \$7,000 to LCMS organizations: the Concordia Theological Seminary (Fort Wayne), Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach, Concordia Seminary (St. Louis), LCMS Deaconess Ministry, LCMS Ministry to Armed Forces-Operation Barnabas, and LCMS Ministry Disaster Relief. We also donated money to a church in Vietnam. In the upcoming months, we are looking at the Oshkosh Back to School Fair; Community Closet; Old Glory. We are also looking at adding the Ministry Team at Free Berma Rangers (this Pastor will be returning 8/11 at 8 a.m.) to our annual contributions. We also donate food and hygiene items to Oshkosh Food Pantry. A member suggestion to put envelopes and maybe boxes near the bulletin board for Missions donations.

Stewardship: Dan mentioned strategic planning; part of what Stewardship has done is the congregational survey to decide to call a pastor. We have laid a lot of the groundwork for growth areas we can pursue. Look at the church—the walls were painted; the basement will be updated in the near future with lighting. There has been debate, we are investing a lot in our building, but to be debt free we

had to put these things on the back burner and now we have some money to update them. Education has put together some small groups so more people are discussing God's word. We have supported numerous missions. The garage is being moved and there have been suggestions about what to do with the old concrete pad. All of these suggestions were worked through the council. We are trying to continue to make our church more inviting. Stephen Ministry is a huge program to adopt. It is not just Pastor's responsibility to care for others. We have all been called by God in this community.

Board of Education: Kristi mentioned holding VBS in mid-June—17 kids attended. It was all about "God is Always with Us." There was music, games, food, and crafts. Thanks to all those that helped out. It was one day but it was jam packed. Looking forward to Sunday School next year. They are in need of teachers and a superintendent. They have a large group of 6-8th graders. Would like someone with a passion for this age group who could continue to keep their passion. Have volunteers for the Christmas Program. If you don't feel you can be here every Sunday, could you help out in the background? Nicole did a great job in the last 2 years of doing this. She has a book to show exactly what needs to be done getting everything ordered, etc. Confirmation class will coincide with Sunday School. Do you know if anyone is going into 6th grade? If there is a new member that has a 7th grader or 8th grader, they would all be welcome to come. Small group bible study—kicked off in Summer. We have 2 small groups: bringing Jesus into current life. How do we take the words of the bible and live them. Jacob is also hosting a Monday night bible study focused on family and Lutheran teachings. Would like to continue expanding the small group bible study, maybe during confirmation class. Other small groups are welcome. Getting to know one another, knowing the word and taking it out into the community.

Trustees: Haven't been able to move the garage due to wet ground; planned for the week of August 5; getting quotes to upgrade the lights in the parking lot to get those done by fall. Everything else is up to date for maintenance. Next year, the parking lot will have to be sealed and re-stripped. This will be a larger dollar project. From the congregation: Krista: mentioning the pews need to be cleaned as well as the atrium carpet—they haven't been cleaned for many years. Others mentioned the chairs in the atrium are also very old. Another member asked about getting another microphone for people in the congregation (i.e., during these meetings). Another suggestion is to look into getting new vacuums—bigger one and smaller one; any movement on sidewalk in circle drive. There were notes in February about this.

Youth: Heather was absent. Pastor reported that we are patiently waiting to get together with a young couple. Pastor said we should have about 30 kids in our youth group (9-12 grades). They are trying to meet and most likely turn over the group to them. The National Youth Gathering coming up a year from now and we should have 15-20 kids going. Children are our future.

Fellowship: Sharon reported out. She wanted to thank the board of fellowship ladies have supported the church as she has been laid up with surgeries and rehab. Picnic is 8/4; starting at 9:30-10:30 church; meal at 11 a.m. Dunk tank, bounce house; Kurt Meier running cornhole. Krista may do bingo to see if people could play some bingo. Everyone pass the word. Great day of fellowship. New group of students going into confirmation 1; they need prayer partners. If you don't come find me will come and find you. Prayerfully consider this. In September, the game night starts again; the second Friday of each month. In October, planning a family day—not quite sure exactly what. Information will be coming. Updates on the fellowship hall so they will proceed with the lighting and the ceiling, then on to the painting, then flooring.

Motion made and seconded to approve all Board Reports. All approved; passed.

Nominating Committee: Kevin noticed one of the things in the constitution that we are required to have a nominating committee to approve and vet positions. In summer, which is our time to ratify the nominating committee. 4 people volunteers: Howard Hoppe, Vivian Mittlestadt, Jerry Ratchman, and Kevin Konrad. Motion made, seconded. Approved; passed.

All positions are 2-year positions. Current positions up for vote: President, secretary, financial secretary, evangelism, and stewardship. We really need a secretary as we have been without one for a while.

Motion to adjourn at 11:28, seconded; approved; passed.

Pastor note: The church turns 55 years old next year.

Ended in prayer by Pastor and the Lord's prayer.

Actions:

Pews and atrium cleaning: Quotes in progress

Chairs in atrium: Cleaned in past, did not help. Working on quotes to replace.

2nd another microphone for people in the congregation: We have a 2nd LAV, plan to pass handheld mic for meeting and use pulpet or lectern

New vacuums—bigger one and smaller one; Craig to review current vacuums with Oshkosh store

Sidewalk in circle drive; plan is to strip a walkway when we refinish next year