



November 2020

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church *Serving the Lord for 116 Years*

Elected by God: Following the True God Through Life's Many Sorrows

Can anyone else believe that it is November already? In some ways, it is hard to believe. Many of you, like me, might be saying, "Praise the Lord that 2020 is almost over!" Speaking with people from the congregation, my family members, friends, and other people I interact with on a regular basis, I constantly hear people asking, "When will all the nonsense of this year end?" One person described 2020 as feeling like they have been constantly hit all at once with multiple massive storms that never seem to end. Not only do the current storms look as if they have no end in sight, they also fear the storms coming in 2021 might be the same as 2020, if not worse.

I too, like many who I have spoken with, feel the great fatigue of 2020. The horrible plague of COVID-19 has personally impacted every human on planet earth in some way. By itself, we would all be justified in feeling tired, saddened and scared of what the lasting impact this plague will have personally, nationally and globally. Then, add on top of a global pandemic, the nastiness of a presidential election year, massive riots, looting, businesses burned, threats of defunding the police, racial division, all on top of a person's personal burdens. Sadly, even these massive storms and the side effects seem like they are not going to end. Whether you are a Trump or Biden supporter, there is fear that whoever wins the election, the nastiness and problems could get worse rather than better.

With the massive storms we are in and the fear of what storms may lie ahead, taking a look at the words of the first chapter of Jeremiah might be comforting in the midst of the storms we are in and good preparation for the storms ahead.

In chapter one, verses four and five, we hear the Lord calling Jeremiah, a young man, to be the prophet. "Now the word of the LORD came to me, saying, Before I formed you in the womb, I knew you, and before you were born, I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." Now the job of Prophet was a calling that most of them first rejected. This was exactly what Jeremiah did as well. The Lord, knowing this would happen, calls Jeremiah by not a law or demand. The Lord calls Jeremiah by showing him with the Holy Gospel with the beautiful words that He chose Jeremiah before he was knitted together in his mother's womb. What God is saying to Jeremiah is that I brought you into this world and if I, the Lord, brought you into this world, I also have a plan to provide for you in this life and when this life shall end. This message of being called by the Lord to be a prophet and equipped for life by God's grace gives Jeremiah the hope to overcome the many storms and troubles he faces through out this book.

What I love about the books of Jeremiah and Lamentation, which were written by the Prophet Jeremiah, is that they grumble just like we do. You and I, just like Jeremiah, have been called by the Gospel in Holy Baptism to be disciples of Christ. Whether we are young like Jeremiah or older, we grumble and have the same honest fears he did when challenged by the awful storms of life. Like Jeremiah, we too, can live with peace and hope, knowing that God knitted us in womb of our mother and he will equip us also with what we need in this life and has already prepared a place for us on the cross of His dear Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

I am no prophet and do not know what 2021 will bring, but you and I, brothers and sisters, have been called and equipped by the Almighty Lord. God wanted you and me here and we can stand bold and courageous knowing our Lord will not abandon us in the valleys or shadows of death. No matter who wins the Presidential race, remember that in Holy Baptism, God elected you!

Peace to you in Christ our Lord,

Pastor Ben Hollingshead

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church – LCMC

Church Council Minutes

Date: 9/21/2020

Present: Sue Lein, Hal Satter, Linda Dilts, Bethany Hardy, Derek Fitcher, Barb Peterson, Nicole Anderson, Harvey Berg (subbing for Roxann Berg), Pastor Ben, Linnea Kment, Jim Johnson

Absent:

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Derek Fitcher.

Pastor Ben opened with devotion and prayer.

Minutes Approved

Sue Lein motioned to approve the minutes from 8/17/20, Linda Dilts seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Financial Report

August 2020 Financial Report was reviewed.

Pastor's Report

Modified Rally Day was a success. There were approximately 15 kids in attendance.

Bible Study had about 30 in attendance on average. Would like to put tables back up with proper social distancing. Council agreed to begin this in October with the use of tape to mark spots.

Barb Peterson motioned to put up tables in the fellowship hall for the bible study with social distancing marked on the floors and/or tables to start on October 4th, Nicole Anderson seconded. Motion carried.

The projector stopped working yesterday. Some research was done on different options to replace it

Harvey Berg motioned to approve the purchase of a new projector and mount from the Pastor's discretionary fund, Sue Lein seconded the motion. Motion carried.

LCMC Annual Gathering is going to be primarily online.

Confirmation

Three are coming each week and two attending online as well as one on one check ups.

October 25th is Reformation Sunday.

Discussion around changing the way communion is conducted to shorten the length that it takes to distribute communion.

Committee Updates

New Business

Frescoes

The work order was found with directions that they should be open to the elements and not sealed up due to condensation build-up. With the art uncovered we have had multiple new people come in admiring them. We will leave them uncovered for the winter.

Finance Secretary Job Description

Reviewed the job description and discussed possible changes.

Jim Johnson motioned to approved Financial Secretary Job Description with changes as discussed, Sue Lein seconded. Motion carried.

Elvis Christmas Gospel Show

Steve Marcio has been book for November 22nd. He will be contacted to confirm if he is planning on continuing with this arrangement.

Constitution Review

Chapter 10: Church Council review: Bethany Hardy, Vickey Nelson, Harvey Berg, Nicole Anderson, Pastor Ben
Will meet the week of October 5th.

Daycare program

LAP is hoping to open up a daycare program for elementary age students.

The fire marshal is coming out to do an inspection to determine the number of students that can be in the room.

Need 8 students to justify the hiring of a teacher.

Council is supportive of this program.

2021 Budget

Discussion about how to start thinking about building the budget for 2021. Our budget discussion will occur during the October meeting, approved at the November meeting, and presented to the congregation in January.

Little Angel Preschool

14 students enrolled in the program.

Focus on health and safety with procedures in place to ensure the safety of everyone in the program.

Nicole Anderson motioned to adjourn at 8:51 pm, Hal Satter seconded, motion carried.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by,

Bethany Hardy, Council Secretary

St John's Lutheran Church Financial Report

September 2020

Budget Offerings (5 Sundays) \$14,071.76

Actual Offerings Received \$8,135.94

Offering Budget Shortage (\$5,935.82)

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Postage | \$240.00 | PO Box Renewal |
| Phone | \$81.85 | |
| Advertising/Evangelism | \$22.00 | |
| Worship Supplies | \$0.00 | |
| Confirmation | \$41.87 | |
| Building Liability Insurance | \$0.00 | |
| Pastor's Discretion Exp. Acct | \$627.39 | |
| Computer Operations | \$125.00 | |
| Office Expense | \$183.63 | |
| Vanco Payment | \$10.00 | |
| Payroll Service Fees | \$63.79 | |
| Worship and Music Flowers | (\$15.00) | |
| Administrative Expenses | \$1,380.53 | |

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Excel Electric | \$535.10 |
| Gas | \$70.87 |
| City Water & Trash | \$243.31 |
| Custodial Supplies-Misc. | \$60.00 |
| Building Repair & Maint. | \$25.56 |
| Building Expenses | \$934.84 |

| | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Employee Salaries</i> | \$9,523.43 |
| <i>LAP Salaries & Tax</i> | \$420.77 |
| <i>Payroll Tax</i> | \$218.55 |
| <i>Visiting Pastors</i> | \$0.00 |
| <i>Work comp Ins</i> | (\$1,767.00) |
| Total Salaries | \$8,395.75 |

Christian Outreach **\$0.00**

Total Expenses **\$10,711.12**

End of Month Total (\$2,575.18)
(offerings minus expenses)

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Check Book Balance | \$86,626.29 |
| Liabilities | \$14,150.00 |
| <i>Actual Cash Balance</i> | \$72,476.29 |

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Dedicated accounts balance: | \$96,720.84 |
| Church Account Balance: | (\$24,244.55) |

| | |
|---|---------------|
| General Offering Balance: Year to Date: | (\$17,838.82) |
|---|---------------|

If you have any question regarding this report please see the church council.

Recycling of yard signs and stakes

Please donate to the church any signs with stakes that you may have and will not be using so that we can recycle them into new signs to advertise events. We will take yard signs, political signs, or any other outdoor signs with stakes.

If you have any signs to donate, please place them in the coat closet.



Thank you, Linda Dilts

Is that Jingle in your pocket burning a hole?



Help St. John's get the fire burning again with that change. Every little bit helps. We will be collecting change starting November 1st to help reach our goal in replacing the church's furnaces. There will be a vase placed in the entryway for the change collection.

Thank you, Building and Maintenance Crew

Giving Tree

Due to Covid-19, Christian Outreach will not be able to collect gifts for families this year. Instead we will be using our Giving Tree as a fundraiser to help raise funds for the replacement of the church furnaces. There will be several different ornaments on the tree with monetary donations. Please return them in the provided envelopes to the donation box under the tree. The tree will be up November 8th and will remain up through out the giving seasons.



Thank you, Christian Outreach

Adopt an Angel



out

Little Angel Preschool appreciates the never-ending support members of St. John's continue to give through prayer and donations. Please come hear students share their gratitude for the recent funds received from the Adopt an Angel program through song at the service on **November 15th**. As always, your continued prayers for the students and staff are needed, welcomed, and appreciated throughout the school year.

Thank you, LAP School Board

Christian Outreach

Next meeting is Monday,
October 12, 2020 at **2:00 PM**.

Worship and Music

Worship and Music will start meeting on the
4th Monday of every month at 10:00 AM.

Next Meeting—November 23rd, 10:00 AM

NOVEMBER 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|------------------------------------|-----------|---|--------|----------|
| 1 Service 9:00 AM Education Hour ALL SAINTS DAY | 2 DAY OF PRAYER 10:00 AM, 2:00 PM, 5:00 PM 7:00 PM | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 Service 9:00 AM Education Hour— 10:30 AM | 9 | 10 LAP School Board— 6:30 PM | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 Service 9:00 AM LAP Singing Education Hour— 10:30 AM | 16 Church Council— 7:00 PM | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 Service 9:00 AM Education Hour— 10:30 AM | 23 Music/Worship 10:00 AM | 24 | 25 | 26  | 27 | 28 |
| 29 Service 9:00 AM Education Hour— 10:30 AM | 30 | | | | | |

Sunday Service

Reminder: MASKS ARE REQUIRED

unless there is a medical reason.

We are holding Sunday Service at 9:00 AM.

Education Hour is at 10:30 AM

| | |
|---|---------------------------|
| ◆ | <i>Announcements</i> |
| ◆ | <i>Financial Report</i> |
| ◆ | <i>Council Minutes</i> |
| ◆ | <i>Pastor's Article</i> |
| | <i>Inside This Issue:</i> |

Office Secretary: Lisa Loso

Cell: 651-323-3293

Pastor Ben Hollingshead

Church Office: 651-462-5115

Return Service Requested

Stacy, MN 55079

1075 Genesis Ave.

PO Box 308

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Voice of St. John's

Non-Profit Organization

Postage Paid, Permit #3

Stacy, MN 55079
