

Meeting called to order at 7.00pm by Vice President Kathi Trent. Those in attendance were Richard Hoffelmeyer, Earl Doerr, Mary Lou Peter, Charlotte Mehrtens, Kim Mueller, Bob Timmer (arrived during Treasurer's report), Dale Gruenewald (arrived during Treasurer's report), Kathi Trent, Stacy Woehlke (arrived during Additional financial & administrative matters) and Pastor Weber. 2022-2024 Council members Kurt Pellman and Barb Scharf were also present. Pastor opened with a prayer.

**BCE report:** The BCE met last Thursday (December 9th); the discussion centered on putting together social events that will attract younger families. A lock-in is planned for January 7th and 8th for our youth. The youth were treated to a Christmas party at Pastor's house on December 5th. There were 12 members of our youth that attended.

**Treasurer's report:** Pam Gowens was unable to attend due to some health issues she is currently experiencing. Richard provided the Council members with the copies of the treasurer's report to review, but since Pam was not present the report will not be approved until our January meeting.

**Additional financial & administrative matters:** Richard brought up the matter of the civil penalty we owe for incorrectly paid taxes. After credits from, the church still owes \$2833.16. Richard is preparing a letter to send to appeal for leniency and a lower penalty, but needed to know if he should pay the penalty immediately and use the letter to ask for a refund or wait for the outcome of the letter before paying; the downside to waiting is that the church will accrue further interest on the penalty. Bob made a motion to pay the penalty in order to avoid further interest and use the letter to request funds be paid back; Charlotte seconded. Motion carried.

Richard also mentioned the necessity of a separate ledger to track the tax penalty expenses.

**Minutes:** Minutes for the November Council meeting had previously been emailed for review by Kathi who took minutes in Stacy's absence. Richard motioned to accept the minutes; Kim seconded. Motion carried.

**Pastor's report:** For Operation Christmas Child, Sisters In Faith helped finalize boxes on November 15th and on November 18th Pastor delivered 124 shoeboxes to St. Matthew.

Pastor went over the special services the church has recently had, including the Veteran's service, Totenfest and Thanksgiving, as well as the upcoming Sunday School video presentation and Millstadt Community Choir Christmas concerts on December 19th. A nice mix of new and returning families are participating in the Advent wreath lighting this year and prelude music is lined up for Christmas Eve service.

Pastor continues his work with various Bible studies and worship services at both the Senior Center and Garden Place. He has been busy with Baptisms, weddings and funerals and has his next on-call chaplain date for Memorial Hospital on December 16th.

Thanks to Earl Doerr for organizing and driving the youth float in the Millstadt Lighted Parade, Dale and Krista Gruenewald for providing the space to put the float together and the 8 youth who participated in the parade.

Kathi motioned to accept the Pastor's report; Richard seconded. Motion carried.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Audit & Budget:** Richard pointed out that with January coming up it is time for the biannual audit. Dale said he would get to work on recruiting 3 people to form the committee.

**Long Range Ministry:** Several people involved with the Wurstmarkt had met on December 2nd to recap how it went and what changes need to be made for next year. It has been decided that a more organized effort needs to be made around the fundraising events going forward and a concerted outreach done to get more people involved. A quick meeting after church on January 9th has already been planned to go over Trivia Night preparations.

**Mission & Outreach:** Mary Lou reported the giving amounts for Operation Christmas Child and the Millstadt Food Pantry; members and friends of the church continue to be generous to our missions.

**Staff/Parish Relations:** Council will be sending a card to Pam.

**Property:** Earl presented a diagram of comparisons between shed sizes, both what we have now at the park and on the Hecke property as well as proposed larger sizes to replace the one at the park. We are zoned industrial at the park, so the metal structure will not be an issue. Do not yet have the variance but have a strong chance of receiving one as we would be replacing the shed at the same location.

The ZTeam ground some stumps at the park but work on cemetery markers has been sustained until the spring.

**Volunteer Ministries:** Kathi had nothing to report.

**Worship & Music:** Dale had nothing to report.

**Cemetery Board:** Charlotte had nothing to report.

**Old Business:** Kim brought up the need to take care of the poinsettias during Pam's absence. It was also noted that matters like creating the bulletins and Visitor as well as manning the phones

need to be covered. Pastor mentioned he had already reached out to Darlene about our potential need for her help. We would only ask her to worry about the essential tasks so that she wouldn't have to work any more than necessary and we would of course pay her for her time. Charlotte mentioned we could organize some volunteers to handle phone calls as it's something that has been done in the past.

**New Business:** Janice Seidlitz had previously reached out to Pastor about the Civic Club using the basement for their Beef and Cabbage Dinner and the council agreed that as the Civic Club is a community organization, they were welcome to use the basement.

Stacy motioned to adjourn; Kim seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

President - Dale Gruenewald

Secretary - Stacy Woehlke