

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting
October 8, 2024**

Attendance: Pastor Brad Gee, Fay Barry, Jill Schellhase, Cindy Ganem, Lynn Rigelman, Dell Moller, Ashley Turner, Jeff McCullough

Excused: Carl Langwell, Josh Thornton

Guests: Ian Boden

Call to Order: Fay called the meeting to order.

Prayer: Pastor Brad opened the meeting with a prayer.

Devotion: Cindy shared a devotion looking at how the Beatitudes are God's way of helping rebuild our hearts.

Council Minutes/Approval: The August 13, 2024 Minutes were previously sent out for review. There being no corrections or changes, Council dispensed with the reading of these Minutes. After motion by Ashley Turner and second by Lynn Rigelman, motion unanimously carried to approve the Minutes.

Treasurer's Report/Approval for September 2024: As Josh was not able to attend the meeting, this Report will be added to the November Agenda.

Committee Reports:

Budget and Finance: Nothing reported.

Congregational Life: Nothing reported.

Evangelism: Continue to support the first Sunday of the month initiative to have people wear name tags. Question to Council: Should this Committee plan to hand out bags again this year at Christmas Eve services with Epiphany's magnet in them? Answer: Yes!

Preschool Board: Money was raised to cover the cost to put in rubber mulch in the play area; there is an Eagle Scout who they plan to ask him to help with this as his project; won't put mulch in until the Spring. Dilley Middle School has some used playground equipment they will donate to us; we just have to figure out how to move it here. Will be pushing for more financial help with their scholarship fund as there is one child who is in need. Cost of attendance runs from \$110-235/month depending on the number of days attending.

Property: New carpet installation is complete.

Social Services: The annual coat and blanket drive has started with the items being divided between The Star House (homeless teens), St. Peter's in Lancaster for their homeless program, a Hilltop program, and the Harvest Church which helps immigrants. LSS is asking if we could help with some winter kits for the homeless which would be more expensive endeavor as it includes long johns, sleeping

bags, etc. Dell found a thermal type sleeping bag which works with the person's body heat, rolls up to the size of a large burrito and sells for 5/\$25 on Amazon.

Youth: In October, all ages are exploring the same theme (adults included) of Live Bright: Shine Jesus' Light. Trunk or Treat is on Oct. 26. They are prepping for the second annual Advent Nativity Brunch (would love to see Council members attend).

Other/New Business:

Nominations for 2025-2026 term. Pastor Brad said there is a solid candidate for each position of President, Vice President, and Congregation Life. They are still working on a candidate for the Social Services position.

Baptismal Font. Pastor Brad and Carolyn Zimmer are working on a plan to replace the current baptismal font. When asked why, response was it is extremely heavy and difficult to move which needs to happen frequently. It was suggested that the current font could be repurposed to save it as part of our church's history.

Staff Salary Proposal. Jeff McCullough presented his thoughts on trying to "catch up" the Staff's salaries going back to 2020 to match the cost of inflation and the couple of years when raises weren't given due to Covid and the church's financial situation at that time. He asked that Council review the information he passed out and be prepared to discuss it at the November meeting.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, November 12th at 7:00p. Josh will have the devotion.

Adjournment: Fay led Council in the Lord's Prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Ganem

Cindy Ganem, Secretary