

Zion Lutheran Church
Hummelstown, Pennsylvania
CHURCH COUNCIL

Minutes of the December 18, 2008 Meeting

Regular Council Meeting:

Howard Andrews	Charles Will
Lori Beaver	Pastor Alan Wenrich
Lynn Danilowicz	Pastor Darlis Swan
Chris Ehmann	Deacon Marsha Roscoe
Liz Joyce	George Riddle, Pres.
Deb Kepner	Dave Myers, V. Pres.
Jill Kiessling	Mike Good, Sec.
Bonnie Rudi	Nancy Hartman, Finance
Don Sheaffer	Richard Weiss, Finance

Excused Absence:

Heidi Chan and Lu Ann Doyle.

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Congregation Council President George Riddle.

Devotions and Prayer Concerns:

A reading of "Christmas According to Chris" was given by the author Chris Ehmann. It was a very interesting way of looking at aspects of the Christmas season, and was quite thought provoking.

Adoption of Agenda:

President George Riddle added to New Business a discussion of the Annual Congregational Meeting. The agenda was approved.

Secretary's Report:

The minutes of the last Regular Congregation Council Meeting dated November 20, 2008 were presented by Council Secretary Mike Good. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Dave Myers, and after a second to the motion were unanimously approved by voice vote.

Communications:

There were no communications.

Senior Pastor's Report:

The ways in which so many in this parish that reach out and care for one another.

Pastoral Contacts:

Hospital Calls 12
Home Calls 12
Office Appts. 26
Pastoral Acts:

Teaching 2
Preside at worship 5
Preach 7
Baptisms 1 (Jose Yeagle 11/13)
Wedding rehearsals
Weddings
Funerals 1 (Blanch Cassel 12/13)
Administrative Acts:
Meetings attended 17
Continuing education
Churchwide Involvement:
Synod – ELCA
Harrisburg Conference
Hummelstown Ministerium
Other:

Assisting Pastor's Report:

Highlights and Concerns:

Our themes during this Advent Season have been “hope” and “expectation.” As I look forward to our ministry together in 2009, those themes keep emerging. There are several areas where I see relationships growing stronger and members of Zion thinking in terms of celebrating the past and present and anticipating the future.

Evangelism – The Evangelism Committee plans to begin a program in 2009 to help our new members participate fully in our congregational life at Zion. This will involve sharing more of our congregational history and lifting up and articulating our Lutheran identity. Most importantly, we are hoping to have a meal to welcome new members and get them paired with “shepherds” who will help them get involved in the congregation as soon as possible.

Social Ministry – This committee has made a commitment to educate the congregation about and promote the use of Fair Trade/Equal Exchange Coffee through Lutheran World Relief. As we use this coffee at Zion and in our homes, we witness to justice for small farmers as well as support “greening” efforts.

Pastoral Care – Through Zion Cares and our Home Communion Teams more members are involved in offering special care for our members. As these needs seem to be increasing, this is a hopeful sign! Finally, as I have opportunities to talk about my experiences on my recent ELCA Fact-Finding Trip to Israel/Palestine, I sense a great concern among members of Zion for how we promote peace – especially the Middle East. I look forward to sharing more of my experiences in a more formal presentation early in 2009.

Pastoral Contacts

Hospital Calls 1
Home Calls
Office Appointments 1

Pastoral Acts:

Teaching New Members Class 11/30
Preside at Worship 7
Preach 6

Baptisms
 Wedding rehearsals
 Weddings
 Funerals
 Administrative Acts:
 Meetings Attended 15
 Continuing Education
 Churchwide Involvement:
 Ecumenical and Inter-Religious Relations Committee Meeting – Lower Susquehanna
 Synod 12/4
 Other:

Diaconal Minister's Report:

Highlights and Concerns:

Spent this month considering ways to improve the anticipated budget deficit. Have made plans to limit curriculum purchases to the bare essentials to save approximately \$1,000.

Continue to write the faith-based component curriculum of Zion Lutheran Preschool for the 4 year old class (as last year we only had 3 days of preschool / this year there are 5).

Pastoral Contacts:

Hospital Calls 5
 Home Calls 2
 Office Appts. 4

Deacon Acts:

Teaching 6 (Adults, Confirmation & Zion Preschool)
 Preach 0
 Weddings rehearsals 0
 Weddings 0
 Serve as Deacon at Funerals 1 (Ruth Eckenroth)
 Serve as Deacon at Baptisms 1 (Yeakle Baptism)

Administrative Acts:

Meetings Attended 16
 Continuing Education
 Churchwide Involvement:

I am working with Mt. Zion York as they are facing some significant shifts in their preschool program and have been referred to me as a resource from Pastor McKee.

Lay Visitor's Report:

A written report dated October 24, 2008 to December 18, 2008, was submitted by Lay Visitor David Myers.

Home Visits	7 (4 communions)
Institution Visits	13 (4 communions)
Totals	20 (8 communions)

Youth Report:

There was no report given.

Treasurer's Report:

Nancy Hartman reported that the income for November was about \$37,000 (\$47,000 was budgeted). Year-to-date income is about \$397,000 (\$434,000 was budgeted). We are about \$15,000 under budget for the year for giving versus income. This should be offset by lowered spending. Again, committees are doing a good job of holding down their spending. Giving is way down for the year, but attendance is slightly up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance:

A written report through November 2008 was submitted by Nancy Hartman and Rich Weiss. No Council action was required.

Evangelism:

They had a guest speaker who is a new member. She stated she was disappointed with the outreach when she first visited. She gave some suggestions about what other churches she visited have done. The committee will put together a program to address the problem. No Council action was required.

Personnel Committee:

A meeting was held on December 14, 2008. They discussed ways to compensate staff in lieu of a raise. A motion was made by the committee and seconded by Chris Ehmann to have the Church Office open from Monday to Thursday and closed on Friday to compensate staff for receiving no raise. This will start in January. Unanimous approval was voiced to the motion.

Christian Education:

Minutes of the meeting dated December 7, 2008 were submitted by Jill Kiessling. Plans are made for the Women's Retreat, VBS materials have been purchased and plans for Advent are finishing. No Council action was required.

Property:

Charlie Will reported that Deacon Roscoe's office shelves are installed, and bids for concrete on Rosanna Street are around \$9,500. No Council action was required.

Social Ministry:

Minutes of the meeting dated December 7, 2008 were submitted by Mike Good. The glove drive is continuing, and Christmas boxes will be passed out next week at the Food Bank. They will make up 109 boxes. No Council action was required.

Partners With Christ:

No report was given.

Stewardship:

No report was given.

Worship and Music:

No report was given.

Activities:

No report was given.

Property Acquisition:

There has been some activity in plans for the sale of some of Zion's property on Main Street.

Old Business:

Pastoral evaluations were very high. We are quite fortunate to have the quality staff here at Zion. They do an outstanding job.

New Business:

The Annual Congregational Meeting has been tentatively scheduled for Sunday, February 15, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. An Auditing Committee is needed. Possible names were discussed, and those people will be contacted.

The Nominating Committee must still come up with names of candidates for the coming election.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Council stood and prayed together the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Good
Secretary