

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
Hummelstown, Pennsylvania  
CHURCH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the November 20, 2008 Meeting

Regular Council Meeting:

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

Excused Absence:

Jill Kiessling and Lu Ann Doyle.

Call to Order:

The Regular Congregation Council Meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Congregation Council President George Riddle.

Devotions and Prayer Concerns:

Liz Joyce read a selection about “coffee”. It had to do with making relationships and nurturing them. This was an introduction to Social Ministry’s new program at Zion – the Fair Trade Coffee Project. She explained the many benefits of the program, especially to those in third world countries.

Adoption of Agenda:

President George Riddle presented the Agenda for inspection. He noted that the Youth Report and Treasurer’s Report would be moved to the beginning of the meeting. It was approved.

Secretary’s Report:

The minutes of the last Regular Congregation Council Meeting dated October 16, 2008 were presented by Council Secretary Michael Good. They were approved by unanimous voice vote.

Communications:

There were no communications.

Treasurer’s Report:

The income year to date is \$34,000 behind the amount budgeted for the year. We will probably finish behind budget for 2008 despite the upcoming Advent season. Interest and dividends, especially from Allied Irish, are extremely down for the year. The Preschool budget is holding its own and rental properties are \$6,700 ahead. Property and maintenance’s status depends on how much they use the rest

of the year. They have been very diligent in their spending. There is a chance we may finish the year at or near even.

Senior Pastor's Report:

A written report dated November 18, 2008 was submitted by Pastor Wenrich.

Significant Highlights/Concerns:

We have a number of very ill parishioners.  
Major concern about the anticipated negative budget for 2009.  
Food Bank likely to move in 2010 to "old" library.

Pastoral Contacts:

Hospital Calls 23  
Home Calls 24  
Office Appts. 15

Pastoral Acts:

Teaching 3  
Preside at worship 13  
Preach 7  
Baptisms 2 (10/19 Elias Etter) (11/15 Ayden Hildebrand)  
Wedding rehearsals  
Weddings 1 (11/1 Smith/Decol – non-members)  
Funerals 1 (11/12 John Exum – non-member)

Administrative Acts:

Meetings attended 13

Continuing education

Churchwide Involvement:  
Synod – ELCA 2  
Harrisburg Conference

Hummelstown Ministerium 1

Other:

Assisting Pastor's Report:

A written report dated November 20, 2008 was submitted by Pastor Darlis Swan.

Highlights and Concerns:

I continue to be inspired by the creativity and compassion expressed by so many of the members of Zion. The response to global initiatives such as the LWR health kits and the Fair Trade Coffee project are a good example of the level of commitment of our members.

My trip to the Palestine/Israel was transformative and even life-changing. Listening to the cries of pain over the "separation barrier" as well as the voices of hope in the midst of suffering was an experience that will certainly shape my present and future ministry. Visiting the Holy Sites and pausing to read Scripture, pray, and sing with the other pastors was a reminder of how Christ's message stays alive through the ages!!

Pastoral Contacts:

Hospital Calls  
Home Calls 3  
Office Appts.

Pastoral Acts:

Teaching  
Preside at worship 3  
Preach 9  
Baptisms  
Weddings rehearsals  
Weddings  
Funerals

Administrative Acts:

Meetings Attended 11

Continuing Education Trip to Israel/Palestine 11/8 to 11/17

Churchwide Involvement:

I attended the Lutheran-Anglican-Roman Catholic (LARC) Day of Dialogue  
10/20

As part of my work as Ecumenical Representative for LSS-ELCA, I served as co-moderator for the Christian-Jewish Dialogue on “Drawing Closer to God: The Book of Leviticus” 10/27 and 11/3. I attended the Ecumenical Affairs Committee of the Catholic Diocese of Harrisburg 11/18

Other:

I participated in an ELCA Fact-Finding Clergy Trip to the Middle East sponsored by Christians for a Fair Witness in the Middle East from 11/9 to 11/17. In addition to visiting the Holy Sites, we met with government officials, church representatives, and journalists as well as people from non-profit organizations caring for refugees and monitoring the media.

Diaconal Minister’s Report:

A written report dated November 12, 2008 was submitted by Diaconal Minister Marsha Roscoe.

Highlights and Concerns:

- Assisted the Preschool with hiring the preschool assistant and second assistant teacher for the 3 year old classes, given that enrollment has nearly doubled since September in that class and a gift came in from a mother of a preschooler to fund the preschool secretary.
- Seeking ways to support the Lower Susquehanna Synod Resource Center in their efforts to provide curriculum to congregations (see churchwide notation below)
- The demands on Pr. Wenrich and his time. Many in this congregation want their Senior Pastor at their side in times of crisis, which I certainly understand. Seeking other ways to help Pr. Wenrich with his lion’s share of the work here at Zion.

Pastoral Contacts:

Hospital Calls	4
Home Calls	0
Office Appts.	2

Deacon Acts:

Teaching	3 (Senior Women, Adults – 2)
Preach	1 (11/5)
Weddings rehearsals	0
Weddings	0
Serve as Deacon at Funerals	0
Serve as Deacon at Baptisms	1 (Etter Baptism)

Administrative Acts:

**Meetings Attended** 11  
**Continuing Education** Attended First Call Theological Continuing Education November 4 – 6. This is the first year of three as part of a Synod-sponsored continuing education effort for first call rostered leaders.

Churchwide Involvement:

- *Lower Susquehanna Synod Resource Center* – Have been in dialogue with Pam Drenner of the Lower Susquehanna Synod with regard to curriculum resources. I am working collaboratively with them to help build a synod-wide resource database that gives feedback to pastors and Christian educators about curriculum material and also lets them know which churches have used the curriculum so they can speak directly to leaders whom have utilized same.
- I have also volunteered to lead a workshop on evaluation curriculum as it pertains to our Lutheran/Christian lens.

Lay Visitor’s Report:

There was no report given.

Youth Report:

Alex Joyce reported that about 25 junior high youth attended their retreat. The senior high retreat is this next weekend. Practice for the musical continues, the Winterfest weekend will again be in January, and some of the youth are preparing to attend the National Convention in New Orleans this summer.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance:

A written report for the month of October 2008 was submitted by Nancy Hartman and Rich Weiss. No Council action was required.

Evangelism:

Howard Andrews reported that the annual advent event is coming up this Sunday the 27<sup>th</sup> of November. Those attending will have the opportunity to make stained glass windows and refrigerator magnets.

Personnel Committee:

There was no report given.

Christian Education:

They are preparing for some special advent experiences. Also, the Women's Retreat is coming up in February. The Preschool report was submitted by Bonnie Rudi. Due to a rise in the enrollment of 3 year olds, a new teacher has to be hired.

Property:

A written report was submitted by Charlie Will. The drains on Rosanna Street are cleared out. Exchanging regular light bulbs for CFL bulbs will be done wherever possible as the others need replaced. It will cost \$40 per month to do recycling with Waste Management. It will be left open to see if it can be a budget item for next year. A section of railing on Rosanna Street will be made into a gate to make delivery of food to the Food Bank much easier. The sidewalk near the sidewalk on Rosanna St. is worn and may need replaced. No Council action was required.

Social Ministry:

Minutes of the meeting dated November 2, 2008 were submitted by Mike Good. Topics discussed were the Food Bank, Fair Trade Coffee Project and the Glove Drive. No Council action was required.

Partners With Christ:

Don Sheaffer reported that they provided food for the doctors in October, and many objects – especially for babies – were taken up. No Council action was required.

Stewardship:

It was reported that the committee sponsored the Coffee House on Reformation Sunday. No Council action was required.

Worship and Music:

No meeting was held.

Activities:

There was no report given.

Property Acquisition:

It was reported that nothing was heard from the Historical Society about the possible Parish House sale.

Old Business:

Pastor Wenrich and George Riddle will meet with Russell Staub to present him with notice of Council's proposal for the right of first refusal on the Main Street property. A congregational meeting must be held to decide on the sale of the white house on Main Street. This would help pay for church repairs.

New Business:

Pastoral Evaluations – Only 14 were received. They will be compiled and evaluated by the Personnel Committee.

Committees have been asked to cut back budgets for 2009. Pledges are down for

the year (2007 – 181 pledges for \$254,000; 2008 – 132 pledges for \$228,000). Committees have already cut to the bone.

The possibility of using some of the money from the contingency fund for the new budget was discussed. Future plans must be made as soon as possible.

Sarah Cracraft was recommended by Personnel Committee for the position of Assistant Youth Director. The motion was seconded by Charles Will, and unanimous approval was voiced to the motion.

Nominations are still being sought for Council elections.

Adjournment:

The motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM. A prayer was given by Pastor Wenrich and Council prayed together the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Good  
Secretary