

# RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

April 19, 2022

**Present:** Brenda Skelton, Steve Wohlfiel, April Guenther, Jim Bendtsen, Ron Reichert, Brad Nelson, Debbie Kainz, Larry Gnatzig, Brenda Skelton

**Absent:** Mary Ubuntu, Sue Koloske

Ron called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

## **Devotion:**

## **Secretary minutes:**

## **Treasurer's Report:**

Council accepted the report as presented by Jim. Report attached.

## **Pastor's Report:**

1. Easter was a joy-filled celebration of Christ's resurrection! The spirit at RLC was lively and it was truly a blessing to be a part of the community! Many thanks to so many: Tom and Sue for the decorating, Andy and crew for the Easter breakfast, Linda and the choir for the music, all the readers, communion assistants, behind the scene planners—it all came together and was beautiful to experience. Attendance was good: we had many members, visitors and children present. How wonderful it was to be able to worship and sing in person this year! Alleluia!!
2. Thanks to the congregation-and especially Anita and Barb-for helping Mike to celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Attendance was great as was the outpouring of love for Mike. Her new treadmill is due to be delivered this week!
3. Thanks to the congregation for participating so creatively in the Listening Sessions and for you, the members of the council, for facilitating the conversations. I am also grateful for all the time and energy you have put into this process of developing our Values, Mission and Vision throughout the year. A special thanks to Ron, our “fearless leader” for keeping us on track and guiding this process!
4. Our mid-week Lenten prayer services were focused on praying for peace in Ukraine and Russia. Attendance was small but the mood was deeply prayerful.
5. It was a joy to have the Children's Christian Theater rehearse here and present their program, “Danny and the Shacks” They felt very welcomed here and we are exploring possibilities for future cooperation.
6. I am going to a theological conference in Minnesota on May 2-3. Nadia Bolz-Weber is the primary presenter. It is meant to be a time of renewal for clergy and I am looking forward to it!
7. Andy Toth is the president of the Meru Committee of the GMS and Dave Chappell is the treasurer. RLC is a primary leader in the work of this partner ministry—perhaps we can plan a Sunday this summer where we hear from them in greater depth regarding their work.
8. We are going to miss Linda when she finishes her ministry with us on June 5. Let's have a grand send-off for her!! I think a part of that send-off should be a potluck following worship. More details will follow!

## **Building & Grounds – Brad Nelson**

- I ordered a tent canopy from Celina Tent. The tent is presently backordered until May. I spoke with a company representative, and they said that the canopy is in stock, but the poles are backordered. They told me to call for an update in early May. The tent cost including delivery is \$1753.22.
- In March I will be making up lists for weeding and mowing schedules.

## **Worship & Music**

- The worship and planning team met March 28.

- Dan Ackerman has provided an usher schedule through July 26.
- There is an assisting minister schedule through the end of the year.
- Sign-up sheets have been posted for communion assistants (on kiosk), lectors (on kiosk), Altar Guild (in hallway outside the offices), and communion bread baking (on kitchen refrigerator).
- Tom and Sue Scherbert ordered Easter flowers and have plans to decorate the church with them.
- Regular communion has begun again. Communion supplies have been purchased. The store has alerted us to the fact that the state should have sent RLC a new long digit tax free number needed by June 1. Does anyone know who received that information? (Apparently not Jim or Larry.)

April and June

### Education:

No added information to share.

### Congregational Life:

- Thanks to Anita Knepel and Barb LaSee who took on the role of planning Mike Marlin's 100th birthday party, and to all who contributed to her gift of a treadmill and a lovely day for Mike and her family.
- Fellowship with snacks and coffee has re-started. **PLEASE CONSIDER signing up for providing snacks on an upcoming Sunday.** There is a sign-up sheet in the *God's Work, Our Hands* section of the website or on the kiosk in the narthex. We need the help of many to lighten the load. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PrAyC-reD4oo5-YBoTXPHT3yffKqILpn1npaWnfmP3Y/edit#gid=0>. Most Sundays, Altar Guild will make coffee since they arrive early already; so the volunteer assignment is to provide snacks, set-up and clean up after. Confirmation Sunday for Aiden Leighton is being planned, tentatively set for June 11, with the friends/family Pizza Night the Saturday evening before, June 10. Early thinking has gone into a **Community Picnic** (possibly including an **Outdoor Worship** prior to the picnic) -- and promoted to our community -- but all is pending delivery of the new tent and poles (the latter is on backorder) so we can confirm dates and start planning. Need to clarify who is accountable for planning/coordinating Wednesday evening socials this summer and how we plan to build on the informal BBQ concept to reach out more to our neighbors. Brenda has contacted several a food truck(s), with little response to date, and plans to follow up on a connection Nick Pook has.
- Meal support for the Marlin family continues, with the commitment of the great cooks of the congregation. We have volunteers committed through the first weekend of May. Think about whether your family can cook or have a meal delivered for the Marlin gang or offer to BBQ for them this summer! Anita, Mike and Barb are SO APPRECIATIVE of the extra support. Again, sign-up sheet here: [https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wun77z\\_NDi36UOzDUBLFNae\\_fb5qw6anrbueAqmX3z8/edit#gid=0](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1wun77z_NDi36UOzDUBLFNae_fb5qw6anrbueAqmX3z8/edit#gid=0)

Best, Brenda and Debbie

### Local Outreach:

- We continue our monthly volunteering at Journeys Lutheran School on the 3rd Thursday of each month. We will be hosting the staff here on June 1st for an appreciation luncheon. More to come.
- We hosted another blood drive on April 14th. This continues to be a great way to be present in our neighborhood. We will host future drives when possible. For the April 12th blood drive, we had 15 donors register and were able to bring back 14 units of blood toward our 17-unit goal. These 14 units will be saving up to 42 local patient lives this week and next. Note that the Weatherstone neighborhood HOA sponsored the blood drive and communicates the event in the neighborhood and through other channels. (This is addition to what RLC does to get the word out). The Blood Center wanted to let those who missed our blood drive last week, know that they can still donate blood next week on Thursday, April 28th at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. Folks can still save lives this month and early in May!

## **City Outreach:**

Annie Mae, Joyce + Frederick are grateful to Jim Bendtsen + Jim Ko!oske for delivering their new furnishings as part of our outreach to the homeless through Project Home.



We will again be providing S.O.S. (Share Our Suppers) bagged lunches on Friday nights in April-July. Folks receive a hot meal provided by the owners of Jim Dandy's, which they can take + eat right away, in addition to the superb heavy-duty lunch we provide, which gives them another meal they don't have to worry about. Our first distribution of 40 lunches will be on April 22nd.

We are working with the Wisconsin Department of Corrections to get a "geriatric early release from prison confinement" for Paul-Michael (Ziggy) Stardust whom we have been writing to for 14 years.

Steve Wohlfeil

## **Youth:**

No report

## **Old Business/New Business**

- Fellowship Hall/Building Use – After discussion regarding the use of the building, and comparable space rentals in the area, the ‘recommended donation’ has increased to \$200 from \$100 beginning on June 1.
- May is the target month to present ideas for driving/increasing membership
- We will doing a monthly reporting in the announcements at the end of each month.
- We discussed and will be implementing a process for members to share their total use of time, talents and treasure including outside of our doors. Larry will work with Sue.
- Ron announced Linda’s retirement that will be on June 5. We will be setting a plan to find a replacement for her.
- Listening sessions notes are attached below: We need to discuss and follow-through.

## **Prayer/Adjourn**

- Next Council Meeting May 17<sup>th</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Larry Gnatzig, Secretary

## RLC VMV Listening Session Notes:

2/27/2022

### 1. What are our values? What do we value?

- \*Service to one another and to others
- \*Rich worship experience: feels fresh and new each week, not rote
- \*Worship empowers participants to leave with action
- \*Include all
- \*Being a Good Neighbor
- \*Empower people of all ages to use their gifts

### 2. Why do we exist?

- \*To spread the Gospel in word and deed
- \*To share together in worship of God
- \*We are “proof” of the mustard seed parable: amazing things can come from something small when there is faith

### 3. Specific Suggestions

- \*Have a “Little Library” or “Little Food pantry”
- \*Have food drives for the New Berlin Food Pantry and advertise it to the community so that our neighbors can participate
- \*Have outdoor evening worship and have kids “bring a friend”
- \*Have an early Fall Homecoming Sunday: invite everyone who has ever attended to come home that day (less pressure for those who have been away for whatever reason). Have the focus be fun and fellowship: outdoor games, bouncy house, music, food

3/6/2022

1. What are our values? What do we value?

- \*Diversity and inclusion—you just feel it when you are here – continue and expand – expand generations
- \*Come as you are, Friendliness/Caring, relationships-connection
- \*Outreach – service and relationships with other people in need
- \*Flexibility, Agility – families have busy schedules and sports has crept into Saturdays and Sundays
- \*Sunday School – Education – Variety of methods and times

2. Why do we exist?

- \*Fellowship, nurturing faith in ourselves and each other
- \*Grow together with Jesus

3. Vision – what would you like to see our congregation grow into

- \*Everyone in this group really liked the vision that we have provided.

4. Specific Suggestions

- \*Tie mission & values together a little more
- \*Variety of worship, fellowship, and outreach opportunities
- \*Continue to make it joyful church
- \*RLC picnic and invite the community
- \*Outdoor movie night in the summer
- \*Homeless night – (invite people staying in the motels to a sit-down dinner with food and fellowship)
- \*Other areas
  - \*Website clean-up that offers better communication – Have after church site walkthroughs
  - \*Better communication on getting access to others

3/13/2022

1. What are our values? What do we value?

- Acceptance, love, unity, celebration, fellowship, happy, joyous
- Relationships (not acquaintances) – Pastor is human and relatable – meets us where we are at
  - Friend and humble
- Need to be able to share beyond our walls – need to add a value for this
- Non-judgmental
- Potential marketing messages/questions: Haven't been to church in a long time? Is your church judgmental? Does your church accept you as you are? Do you want to be with a faith community that meets you where you are at? Is your church boring and not connected to your life?

2. Why do we exist?

\*To help others, spread the word of God, be a refuge—to be a place of peace—to be a place where you are enough

\*Have members share their gifts

3. Vision – what would you like to see our congregation grow into

\*Everyone in this group really liked the vision that we have provided.

4. Specific Suggestions

\*Appeal to children, intentionally invite families for separate events

\*Have specific non-church events like Wine (& Cheese) Thursdays (otherwise known as Friday Eve) where members can invite their neighbors, friends, members of the community to join us in celebration.

\*Less but better

\*Multi-use outdoor space – water feature, fire pit

\*Outdoor church services, weddings, funerals, community events.

\*Hydroponic greenhouse

\*Solar panels – help the earth, reduce electric bills

\*Improve messaging and communication with website, Facebook, and Instagram