

All Saints of Mason



January 2023 Newsletter

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 22nd

11:00am

(following our 10:00am worship service)

Agenda Items will include:

- **Review of our Ministry and Mission for 2022**
 - **Review of our 2022 Financials**
- **2022 & 2023 Highlights of our Committees**
 - **Approval of our 2023 Budget**
 - **Election of one Council representative**
- **Election of two people to serve on Nominating Committee**
- **Selection of Synod Assembly Representatives**
May 7th-9th in Mt. Pleasant
- **Presentation on possible Land (acreage) use for community outreach**
- **Discussion of re-establishing ministry groups (post pandemic)**

We are looking forward to seeing you as we are about sharing the love of Jesus through our life together as All Saints Lutheran.

Pastor's Corner

During this time of year, we as a community in Christ find ourselves in the season of Epiphany. This season is marked by the recognition of gifts. This season begins with the recognition of the gifts that the Wisemen brought and presented to the baby Jesus, and I suspect to the new parents. Very appropriately these gifts of Gold, frankincense and Myrrh were gifts of great value given the time and the place. Likewise, the gift of the shepherds was their gift of presence, bringing awe and physical support to this new family. And there are others who would suggest that the animals who witnessed this whole event gave the gift of a place, a manger in which to lay this newborn and the warmth of the stable, a home away from home for Mary and Joseph. I recently ran across a cartoon which depicts that ".....after the Three Wise Men left, the Three Wiser Women arrived offering gifts of Fresh diapers, Casseroles for the week, and Lots of formula." And let us not forget the folklore of the "Little Drummer Boy" who brought the gift of his musical ability to lull the baby to sleep.

I share all of this because it manifests the important person Jesus is for each of these individuals. And that is the essential point of the season we call Epiphany. It is the recognition on the part of many people, from all walks of life who have in fact recognize who Jesus is and more importantly have come to understand the impact that Jesus has and will make on their lives. And so this season of Epiphany, is a season of gift giving and gift receiving. We like those Wisemen and Wiser Women, like those shepherds, and even the Little Drummer Boy recognize the gift that Jesus is to us and give a gift of our awe and adoration with gifts of presence and gifts of resources.

Those gifts we give of presence and resources are an integral part of our Life together here at All Saints. One of the things I appreciate, and I think we all appreciate are the gifts, the blessings each of us brings to this ministry we share and our life together. Some of us are good at encouraging and caring for others with a card or a phone call, some of us are good working with our hands so we support one another by cleaning, mowing and making sure our building is accessible for all. Others have the gift of music, leading us in our praise and worship, while others have been blessed with resources to support financially this ministry we share.

The point being is..... in the recognition of the blessings that each of us is to our life together as All Saints, we all have a gift and a place in this ministry we share. Because what we have in common is the manifestation of who Jesus is for each of us and the desire to offer the gift of ourselves in awe and adoration. This is why we gather each week in worship and in fellowship and mutual support of one another to the glory of Jesus, our Savior and Lord.

As we celebrate this season of Epiphany and begin this New Year, I would like to entertain the possibility for each of us to consider the gift or gifts we bring to our life together. To consider where we want to serve in our life together, to think about what each of our passions are when it comes to our life together as All Saints. I have always believed that ministry needs to be shaped by the people. And so, I hope as we begin this New Year, our

ministry together will become a reflection of who we are as a gathered community, who from all walks of life, recognize who Jesus is and want to do something about it.

And so now is the time, to consider what is important for this ministry we share. Maybe some of our committees are not essential to who we are as All Saint's, while others have become an important part of our common life. Maybe there is an new ministry that you feel called to be a part of or to share with our life together. As I said earlier, Ministry needs to be shaped and reflective of the gifts that God has gathered together in this place we call All Saints, which is all of us.

So I encourage you, think about where you fit in to all of this, what are your abilities, your drive, your passions when it comes to sharing your awe and adoration, of Jesus your Savior and Lord. I look forward to our time together as All Saint's in our upcoming Congregational Meeting on January 22nd. I pray that it will give us an opportunity to consider the sharing of our gifts in awe and adoration of who Jesus is and a desire to encourage each other in sharing those gifts in our life together as a church, a reflection of Jesus.

Looking forward to seeing you in Worship and as we gather on January 22nd,

Pastor Gerald

Council Corner

Church Council Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2022

Attendees: Coe Emens, Jeanne Emens, Ron Enger, Pastor Gerald Ferguson, Alison Furton, Cherie Mitchell, Joyce Pearson

Absent: Tony Sinnaeve

1. Call to Order

Vice-President Cherie called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

2. Prayer and Devotional

Pastor read a part of Matthew 6 and followed with a prayer for our meeting.

3. Celebrations from the Previous Month

A. Pastor's Installation on All Saints Sunday went well. Bishop Satterlee was there to preach and do the Installation.

B. Jeanne celebrated that we had a choir to sing on Reformation Sunday and that the anthem went well.

4. Recognition of Visitors

There were no visitors.

5. Approval of Agenda

Ron moved to approve the agenda as submitted. Joyce seconded and the motion carried.

6. Approval of Minutes of the October 18, 2022 meeting.

Joyce moved to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2022 Council meeting as submitted. Ron seconded and the motion carried.

7. Executive Reports

A. President (Tony Sinnaeve)

No report.

B. Vice-President (Cherie Mitchell)

No report.

C. Treasurer (Ron Enger)

The report, distributed at the meeting, included the October check registry and the Profit and Loss statement through October, along with reports of activity containing the following information.

Undesignated income in October:	\$6,828.62
Expenses in October:	\$6,028.11
Undesignated income YTD:	\$73,206.49
Expenses YTD:	\$58,640.45

There was some discussion on Vanco with the conclusion that there needs to be other ways to give online that will do what Vanco does not do. Joyce moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted and recorded. Ron seconded and the motion carried.

D. Pastor (Pastor Gerald Ferguson)

The report was distributed at the meeting. Pastor highlighted a few of the items.

- 1.) Consumers Energy is sending in a contractor to give us a quote on replacing the ballasts in all the light fixtures and anything else we need to have done, such as improved outdoor lighting and fixing the lighting in the sign. Then Consumers will decide how much, if any, to grant for the cost.
- 2.) Our website has a platform now ("Prayer"), which will be more interactive than the previous website.
- 3.) Grant writing for Thrivent (previously Lutheran Brotherhood) for grants of \$500, in increments of \$250, per person per year is a way get money for qualifying projects. Anyone who has a policy with Thrivent can write a grant for projects the church would do for the community, like the disk golf course or painting supplies, etc.
- 4.) The REVIVE program from the synod will also award grants for activities designed to revitalize congregations. It is also valuable for ideas for these activities.
- 5.) Pastor reported that he received a phone call from a new Evangelical Covenant Church start-up that is looking for space to rent for Sunday services.
- 6.) The Nominating Committee needs to become active to prepare for the Congregational Annual Meeting in January. Diane Allen and Jill Leach were elected at last year's annual meeting. Council members going off round out the committee. Joyce is going off and one other person but no one is sure who that is. Ron volunteered to look it up.

7.) Pastor reported that he met with the Stewardship Team (Marv Allen) and they're planning to use a Time and Talent Sheet this year. The ones used in the past need to be streamlined. Each team/committee will need to assess their needs for volunteers.

8. Old Business

A. Website Update and Live-Streaming

Pastor covered this in his report. Ron reported that the camera for live-streaming has been purchased but the laptop has not.

B. Statement of Compensation, Benefits, and Responsibilities

Jeanne filled in the form online and brought copies. The form was then signed by the Acting President, the Council Secretary, and the Pastor.

9. New Business

There was no new business.

10. Remarks for the Good of the Order

A. Cherie observed that our ideas are going forward.

B. Ron reported:

1.) The Mason Crop Walk took in \$6,072.38 with 38 people walking.

2.) Pastor and Elaine now have credit cards (for petty cash).

3.) Our water was tested by the City of Mason and it was reported that we have no lead in our water.

C. Alison reported that her neighbor, who has been attending worship regularly, loves it at All Saints and is planning to become a member.

11. Next Meeting

December 20, 2022 at 6:00 PM.

12. Closing Prayer

The Lord's Prayer was spoken in unison.

13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanne Emens, Recording Secretary

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

All Saints Lutheran Church Prayer List

Prayers for Healing:

Judy Darnell, Howard Wandel, Ellen Hinkston, Frank DiPiazza, Emily Viele, Linda Carter, Judy Tuthill, Floyd Beacham, Mike Kemper, Bob Reynolds, Carolyn Chisnell, Nanette Darnell

If you have anyone that you wish to place on the Prayer List, please put the person on the board or contact the office. The name of your loved one will be on the Prayer List for one week. If you would like the person to continue on the Prayer List, please let the office know.



Up-Coming Events			
Date	Committee/Event	Time	Location
January 16, 2023	Social Concerns	Monday – 10:00 am	Church
January 17, 2023	Church Council	Tuesday—6:00 pm	Church
January 18, 2023	Choir Practice	Wednesday---7:00 pm	Church
January 22, 2023	Congregational Meeting	Sunday---11:00 am	
January 25, 2023	Choir Practice	Wednesday---7:00 pm	Church
January 30, 2023	Euchre Party	Monday—5:30--8:00 pm	Fellowship Hall
Every Tuesday	Quilting Group	9:00—11:00 am	Fellowship Hall



We need voices to join our choir - We are excited to announce that we will once again begin Mid-week Wednesday night. Choir rehearsals will be at 7:00pm every Wednesday night. Come join as we put our voices together and make a joyful sound in addition to the great fellowship we have together.



Euchre is Back - Monday, January 30th at 5:30 pm in the church fellowship hall. We will begin with a "Lite" Dinner and fellowship and then start playing from 6:00pm - 8:00pm. We will provide the sandwiches and ask that people bring either drinks, snacks or deserts to be shared. Everyone is welcome and we hope you will invite friends to come and join us. We are looking forward to this great opportunity to reconnect with one another. Even if you haven't played Euchre now's the time to come and learn how to play!



The Mitten Synod Assembly will be May 7-9, 2023 in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan. We need a couple of people to represent our church at the Assembly. If you are interested let Pastor Gerald or the office know so that arrangements can be made.



The Mason Food Bank is requesting: spaghetti pasta, regular size peanut butter jars, macaroni and cheese, and canned beef stew. You can just put it in the kitchen and someone from social concerns will deliver the food to the Food Bank.



GO GREEN

You can save money and energy on heating and cooling bills by resetting your thermostat when you are asleep or away from home. This can be done manually or by using one of these “tools “.

A programmable thermostat can be set for lower temperatures, then return to normal before you wake or return home. A wi-fi-enabled smart thermostat can enable you to control the temperature from anywhere using your smartphone. Consumers is offering huge rebates on them. You can find more details at consumers energy.com

Office hours: Monday – Thursday 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

**If you come to the Church for any reason,
please ring the doorbell, if the door is locked.**

Phone Number: 517-676-2610 Email: office@allstaintsmason.org

Friday – Sunday Office will be closed.