

Mission Connection

MISSION CONNECTION

JANUARY, 2023

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And he who was seated on the throne said "Behold, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this down for these words are trustworthy and true."

Revelation 21:5



Pastor's Message

Happy New Year...here we go!

Like runners crouched at the starting line, here we are, poised on the threshold of a new year! My prayer for you all is that throughout this year you will be drawn closer to God's Word – closer to the Word Incarnate, Jesus Christ – closer to Holy Scripture, the Written Word – and closer to *being* the preached or proclaimed Word for those around you!

Romans 10:13-15 says, *"For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.' But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, 'How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!'"*

May you all have "beautiful feet" this year!





Over the Coffee



**Jesus is not part
of the story of
Christmas.
Christmas is part
of the story of
Jesus.**

New Opportunities to Serve!

With the pending retirement of Pr. Gary, there are a number of tasks that will become available for more involvement by the parish.

Here is a short list of areas where more help will become needed:

- Drafting newsletter content

- Management and maintenance:

 - Mission Connection website

 - Calendar

 - Facebook

 - Call-Em-All phone tree

 - Leading Bible and book studies

Please prayerfully consider how you might be able to assist in some of these areas!

St. Croix Grief Support Meeting

Grief Support Grief, led by Chaplain Pat Malanaphy of St. Croix Hospice will meet at Mission in Christ on Tuesday, January 10 at 6:00



Council Meeting Minutes

MIC Council

December 20, 2022

The Mission in Christ Council met on Tuesday, December 20, 2022 at 6:00 pm. Those present were President Bill Green, Chris Schlee, Michelle Borrett, Doug Puffett, Terri Gould and Pastor Burkhalter.

Bill called the meeting to order. He then led a devotion based on 1 Cor. 13:12.

Terri then read the minutes of the last meeting. There were no additions or corrections. Chris moved and Michelle seconded a motion to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

The treasurer's reports for October and November were reviewed. At the end of October, the checking account balance was \$9,880.91. The offering total was \$14,794.00. Of that, \$60.00 was for Bible Study books, \$145.00 to the Memorial Fund, and \$50.00 to the Disaster Response fund. This left \$14,539.00 going to the General Fund. The expenses for the month totaled \$9,046.10. This expense amount included the third quarter benevolence payments which were made. Michelle then presented the treasurer's report for November. At the end of the month, the checking account balance was \$9,300.43. The offering total was \$5,693.00. \$150.00 of this was designated to the Building Fund, leaving \$5,543.00 going to the General Fund. The expenses for the month totaled \$6,273.48. There were questions concerning reimbursement amounts and copy machine costs. With no other questions, Doug moved and Pastor seconded a motion to approve both financial reports. Motion carried.

Terri gave the Worship Team report. The group met November 30 to discuss Carols and Cookies and Christmas Eve. They set the date for Carols & Cookies for December 9 at 7:00 PM. Kris Morarend and Joan Strauss were asked to accompany. This time there were more carols and fewer specials. They suggested paying each lady \$50 for their help.

The Christmas Eve service will begin at 5:00 PM. Kris Morarend was asked to accompany. We would again pay her \$50 for the evening. The offering will be divided between the NALC Disaster Response and the Strawberry Point food shelf. Other details were shared with the council.

Pastor then reported 3 visitations and Holy Communion to 1 as of November 15. Under joys and concerns, Noah continues to surpass his peers in Confirmation class, Sarah will begin instruction for first Communion, it is a joy to see Isaac make use of the baptismal font during Communion, Grief Support attendees are consistent, Bible Study class number consistent, he finds the STS chapter meetings revitalizing and Dallas was to return home from the hospital November 17. His December report included 2 visitations. Joys and concerns included Dallas and Mike out of the hospital and returning to worship, Grief Support still well attended, lack of St. Croix assistance with this disappointing though. Also, he hosted text study in December, he will be out of town following worship Christmas day and over one night and he will reduce his hours December 27 – January 1. He will be covering for Pastor Mel Harris December 27 – January 3. He will take January 1 as a vacation day and prepare a Service of the Word and message for MIC. He also suggested we start considering communication options after he retires. Pastor reported the Covenant signing response for the last few years. 2019: 42 2020:40 2021:36 2022:30 2023:27

Under New Business, Bill asked the council to review the finances to date. It appears the expenses for the year will come in very close to the \$88,000.00 which was budgeted. So far, giving has not kept up with this, though, with total giving through November being \$65,631.72. The council will have a work session for the budget at the January council meeting. It was determined that the budget has almost nothing to cut at this time, so the thought is to have a budget which reflects what we believe our expenses will be, rather than trying to guess what the giving will be.



Council Meeting Minutes

(cont.)

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Mission Con-

There was discussion concerning finding people to run for council. Bill will have served two terms and need to step down. The Treasurer's and Secretary's seats are one year each, so Michelle and Terri will need to run again or candidates will need to be found.

There were no items under Old Business.

In Other Business, Pastor suggested we use some of the Fredrick funds for theological classes for a Lay leader. All agreed this was a good idea.

Pastor then asked if the extra hymnal stand (which we received from Wichita) could be given to the STS since they did not have one. Terri moved and Michelle seconded a motion to donate the extra hymnal stand to the STS. Motion carried.

With no other business, Chris volunteered for January's devotions.

Doug then moved and Bill seconded a motion to adjourn. Motion carried.

The meeting then closed with the Lord's prayer.

The next scheduled meeting will be January 17.

Respectfully submitted,

Cloud of Witnesses



Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

We believe that even those saints who have died are still alive in Christ Jesus. They are those giants of the faith upon whose shoulders we stand, and they, too, comprise this “great cloud”. Here is a list of “cloud members” who are remembered during the month of January:

- January 2: Johann Konrad Wilhelm Loehe, renewer of the church – died 1872
- January 8: Darlene Morris, Mission in Christ partner in ministry – died 2018
- January 14: Dean Puffett, Mission in Christ partner in ministry – died 2022
- January 15: Martin Luther King Jr., renewer of society – died 1968
- January 17: Antony of Egypt, renewer of the church – died ~35; Pachomius, renewer of the church – died 346
- January 19: Henry, Bishop of Uppsala, martyr – died 1156
- January 21: Agnes, martyr – died ~304
- January 26: Timothy, Titus, and Silas, missionaries



The community meal (open to everyone!) is served on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 5-6:30pm March to June and from 4-5:30pm January/February. The food pantry is also open the 3rd Wednesday from 3-6:30pm March to June and from 3-5:30pm January/February. Both are in the basement of St Mary Catholic Church in Strawberry Point.

The next community food pantry date at St Mary is January 16, 2023, from 3-5:30pm. Deliveries are made in Strawberry Point by calling Delaine (563 920 2753) before 3pm on the pantry date. If someone needs assistance before the pantry date, please call Delaine (563 920 2753) or the Emmaus pastorate office at (563 928 7200).

The next community meal will be January 16, 2023, serving from 4-5:30. The menu is chili, bread stick, cheese slice and cookie bar. If someone would like a meal delivered in Strawberry Point, call Delaine (563 920 2753) or Kris (563 419 5329) before 3pm on the meal date.

2023 Dates:

Wednesday, January 18

Wednesday, February 15

Wednesday, March 15

Wednesday, April 19

Wednesday, May 17

Wednesday, June 21

Emmaus Pastorate Office (563-928-7200)

Delaine Gruman (563-920-2753)

Sponsored by these local churches:

Emanuel Lutheran, St. Sebald Lutheran, Mission in Christ Lutheran, Community Bible, United Methodist, and St. Mary Catholic churches



January Worship Assistant Assignments

January 1, 2023	January 8, 2023	January 15, 2022	January 22, 2022	January 29, 2023
Lector: Anne Puffett	Lector: Chris Schlee	Lector: Pete Wood	Lector: Terry Gould	Lector: Anne Puffett
Fellowship: Potluck	Fellowship: Lois Cordes	Fellowship: Pete Wood	Fellowship: Dave & Terri Gould	Fellowship: Bill & Rozella Green
Cleaning: Chris Schlee	Cleaning: Chris Schlee	Cleaning: Chris Schlee	Cleaning: Chris Schlee	Cleaning: Chris Schlee



Stanza of the Month



Stanza of the Month: As with Gladness Men of Old, LBW #82, v.4

*Holy Jesus, ev'ry day keep us in the narrow way;
And when earthly things are past, bring our ransomed souls at last
Where they need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide.*

This next-to-last verse of the well-known Epiphany hymn reflects some of the same themes contained in the Small Catechism teaching about Article III of the Creed: the Holy Spirit. Far from being the result of any pious action of ours, this stanza correctly identifies the Spirit of Christ Jesus as the one who not only "calls, enlightens, and sanctifies", but is also the one who "keeps us in the true faith" – *that ev'ry day keeps us in the narrow way!* All this he has done so that he *might bring our ransomed souls at last* – ransomed not with gold or silver, but with his holy, precious blood and with his innocent suffering and death – that we might belong to him and live under him in his kingdom, where we'll *need no star to guide, where no clouds thy glory hide*, for we'll be walking not by faith, but by sight!



Thank You

Dear Partners in Ministry

Thank you so much for your generous Christmas gift! Poised on our last full year of ministry together, I look back with joy at the faithful support we have received over the last eight years. God's blessings to each and every one of you during this coming year!

In Christ,
Pr. Gary

Dear Mission in Christ Members,

Thank you very much for your thoughtful Christmas gift! I look forward to the experiences that the new year will bring. May you and yours be richly blessed!

Thank you again!
Kathy Havenstrite



Mission in Christ Lutheran Church
A ministry of the NALC

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**We're on
Facebook!**

*Join us for Worship
9 AM Sundays
And online
through our
Facebook page or
Mission in Christ Website
Coffee and Fellowship
immediately following Service*

NALC Core Values

Christ-Centered

We confess the apostolic faith in Jesus Christ according to the Holy Scriptures. We affirm the authority of the Scriptures as the authoritative source and norm, "according to which all doctrines should and must be judged" (Formula of Concord). We accept the ecumenical creeds and the Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses to the Word of God.

Mission Driven

We believe that the mission of the Church is to preach the Gospel and to make disciples for Christ. We believe that making disciples—in our congregations, in our communities and nations, and around the world—must be a priority of the Church in the present age.

Traditionally-Grounded

We affirm the ecumenical creeds and the faithful witness of the Church across time and space. We endorse the form and practices of the universal Church that are consistent with Scripture, particularly the office of the ministry and the tradition of worship under Word and Sacrament. We seek dialogue and fellowship with other Lutheran churches and with faithful Christians of other confessions.

Congregationally-Focused

We strive to be a church body that is organized to facilitate the ministries of local congregations in a posture of servanthood and a spirit of partnership, through the provision of resources, connections and information.

