Monday, February 20, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.

**Attending:**

Luanne Riedel Janice Navarro Randy Laehr

Paul Rossmann Kari Weber Mary Ann Mantey

Dawn Jacobson John Kirt Neil Honsberger

Diane Borgardt Christy Zygowski Neal Nottleson (guest)

Jan Tresch Connie Gardner

**Absent:** Pastor Barsch

 Frank Studrawa

**Opening Prayer:** Janice Navarro

**Introductions:** Round table introductions by everyone present.

**Prior Meeting Minutes:** The January and Annual Meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**Special Considerations:**

Neal Nottleson presented the benevolence history. When viewing the total benevolence for the church, it is greater than the 10% that is reflected in the budget. This was a question/comment at the annual meeting in January and therefore Luanne will ensure that this is in the announcements so that the congregation has the same visibility.

**Reports:**

***Pastor’s Report:*** No Report.

***AIM Report:*** Janice reviewed the upcoming events including and mentioned that Lent begins this Wednesday. Janice encouraged all Council members to attend the New Member session on March 11th. Each Council member should be prepared to briefly describe the committee for which they are a liaison.

***Vic-President Report:*** No Report.

***Treasurer’s Report:*** Both Income and Expenses are down slightly from Budget. The savings account is higher due to automatic deposits – the first payment of the quarterly payments comes in January (this is a pacing issue only).

**Committee Reports:** Luanne explained the roll of the Liaison position for the new members. All open liaison positions (due to outgoing Council members) were filled.

***Finance:*** No Report as the Finance Committee will be meeting on Wednesday, February 29th.

***Trustees:*** The Trustees are preparing a proposal and cost for the new garage. The proposal is expect to be completed by the end of April. Last year there was a significant donation made for a new garage (dedicated funds).

***Deacons:*** Easter scheduling and Seder supper is being planned. Jim Ludwin is the head for Deacons and is working on a new usher schedule. It is difficult to find ushers.

***Parish Ed:*** Barb Blickle is leading the First Communion preparations. The Sunday School Superintendent has requested a church credit card for purchase for Sunday School Superintendent. Luanne will follow up with Pastor and the Finance Committee regarding this request. Parish Ed is still looking for an Assistant Sunday School Superintendent for next year.

***Membership:*** Abelskiever breakfast was very successful with the highest attendance since the start. Membership also has made plans for Tony Baumgardt to provide a food demonstration (date TBD). The church picnic plans are also underway (to be held at the Racine Zoo). They have some great events planned.

***Stewardship:*** No report.

***Church in Society:*** Plans are being developed for the Earth Day project on June 1st as well as work on the Birds/Butterfly garden. For both projects, they are involving the Sunday school children. The next Adult forum will be focusing on meatless Mondays. There is a strong focus on the preparations for the Men’s Lounge renovation at Halo. The group is collecting furniture and getting ready for the spring renovation work. The new Yahoo Group (Young Adults Helping Out Others) raised $344 on the Valentine’s sales which will be shared with the Halo renovation project. Plans are being made for more planting of trees and they are still activity collecting donations for more trees. In addition, planning for next year programs is underway.

***Youth:*** Plans are set for the March 11th Spaghetti Dinner and tickets are on sale now. There is a need for more fundraising to support the New Orleans trip (week of July 17th). Currently they have 4 boys and 5 girls planning to attend. The Chili Cook-off was considered a great success and raised over $700.

**Old Business:**

Annual Report questions: nothing more for discussion.

**New Business:**

1. 2013 Annual Meeting: It was noted that a microphone is required. Mary Hauch will be chairing the nominating committee and the issues with the ballot will be resolved.
2. Mileage- Pastor’s request: Pastor made a formal request to go back to the “lump sum” payment as the detailed mileage record keeping is too difficult. With respect for the budget, he offered to reduce the total dollars. A discussion of options pursued. A motion was made to agree to a $3,000 total year cap to be paid monthly to Pastor Barsch. Motion was seconded and passed with all in favor. The mileage 2013 should be reviewed by the Finance Committee during the 2013 budget planning process.
3. Staff Support Committee: Luanne discussed the duties of the Staff Support Committee and expressed the need for more than the current two members. It was recommended by Dwayne Olsen in a formal letter to Luanne that the committee needs to be diverse in gender, age, etc. to be most effective. Luanne recommends 4-6 total members for this committee and it was confirmed that the President and Pastor are to appoint Staff Support members. Luanne asked all Council members to bring names of potential members for this committee to the March Council meeting. Dwayne Olsen is willing to join this committee. Luanne will discuss any names/suggestions with Pastor via e-mail once received and then will follow up with Dwayne once selections/nominations have been made. This will be discussed further at the March Council Meeting.
4. Delegates for the Synod Assembly: The Synod Assembly will be May 31st to June 2nd this year at Country Springs Hotel in Waukesha. Luanne is looking for 2 attendees (in addition to Janice who will be attending). Jan Tresch is interested in attending if she can ride with someone.
5. Dr. Miritz’ 25th Anniversary: Pastor is looking for ideas on how to celebrate as well as volunteers willing to plan the celebration. It was suggested that this something that Membership could lead this committee. Diane will follow up with the Membership Committee.
6. 19th Annual Congregational Leaders Event on Saturday, March 24th: Luanne encouraged Council members to attend. She has the registration forms (due no later than March 19th).

**Open items:** None.

**Closing Prayer:** Luanne Riedel

**Respectively submitted,**

***Dawn Jacobson***

Congregation Council Secretary

**Next Meeting: Monday, March 19, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**