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

**Attending:**

Luanne Riedel Janice Navarro Mary Ann Mantey

Diane Borgardt John Kirt Kari Weber

Dawn Jacobson Randy Laehr Christy Zygowski

Pastor Barsch

**Absent:**

 Paul Rossmann

Jan Tresch

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Barsch

**Prior Meeting Minutes:** The February Meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**Special Considerations:** Finance Committee will be presenting at the April Council Meeting

**Reports:**

***Pastor’s Report:*** New Members will be joining the church on Palm Sunday. Saturday, March 24th is the first of two classes for First Communion. Students will make their First Communions on Palm Sunday at the 11:00 service. The service schedule for Holy week is set. Beginning of May (5th -10th) Pastor will be going to a “Pastors for larger churches in the ELCA” in New Mexico. There was a question regarding if the “Men of the Church” will be selling tickets for Easter Breakfast. Diane will contact Fred Reichley to confirm. There was additional discussion on if there is a need to reinvigorate the group. More information is needed on current status of the group. We are hiring new janitorial staff named Rebecca Arreola. She will be working 16 hours per week.

***AIM Report:*** Written report was summited. Welcome to Janice’s new granddaughter! Congratulations!

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

***Treasurer’s Report:*** Income is under budget slightly and expenses are well under budget. Phone bill is up due to new internet provider (AT&T) rebates that should be coming soon. It was noted that the Council appreciated the good work done by Mary Ann, Terry and Cheryl to consolidate the services which generated savings.

**Committee Reports:**

***Finance (Dawn Jacobson):*** The Finance Committee met to review what they plan to present at the next Council meeting. Given the timing of the March numbers only being available sometime the week prior to the Council meeting, there will not be much time to really dig into variances, etc. Luanne mentioned that the Finance Committee should also be planning to update the Congregation at all the services sometime in April. There was discussion around March YTD numbers being a bit early to learn from. Finance Committee should look to provide guidance to the Congregation on the numbers shown in the weekly bulletin (trends). Luanne recommends following the guidance from Neal Nottleson by focusing on three main items only and be sure to leave with a positive comment. Finance Committee should be prepared to present to the Council next month what they plan to discuss at the Congregation presentations as well as a review of the financial situation of the church. Council may have some feedback at that time.

***Trustees (John Kirt):*** They have scheduled an Earth Day event on the April 22nd in west end of the church parking lot. This event is planned to encourage involvement and excitement for the new outdoor green area. April 28th is the clean-up day (rain date: TBD). Schmidt security is being reviewed. Lights in church need to be changed (working on this) and adding lighting is under consideration. Trustees are also looking into replacing worn carpet tiles for the pews. Terry is looking into the parking lot. The Memorials Committee is developing a proposal for benches to be place against the pillars by the parking lot entrance of the church. The estimate is $800 a piece for a 4 foot bench. Memorial money is available for this purpose. Luanne attended the Trustee meeting and added that roles and responsibilities need to be reviewed and the Church handbook needs updating. **All committees should start to think about items that need to be added, changed, etc.**

***Deacons (Mary Anne Mantey):*** Worked on assigning leads for the various sub-committees within the Deacons group. The Seder supper will be on Maundy Thursday and there will be a sign up sheet. Jill Schwartz has been baking the communion bread at home each week. Comments have been very positive. Thank you to Jill!

***Parish Ed (Kari Weber):*** Concerns were expressed on the Spring Mission fund raiser (garden bricks) as only three have been sold so far. Work has already begun on the Christmas program lead by Sonia Erikson. Parish Ed needs one more Assistant Superintendent. The Library automation project is currently on hold due to budgets constraints. Information on Camp Lutherdale was sent home with the students this past Sunday.

***Membership (Paul Rossmann):*** Pastor Barsch read an email from Paul with the following update: Membership meeting is doing well. Next event is the cooking event with Tony Baumgardt. For this event they are looking for 2 hot plates (Mary Ann will provide – THANKS Mary Ann!).

***Stewardship (Randy Laehr):*** Time and Talent Stewardship was discussed which goes hand in hand with Financial Stewardship. Stewardship would like to handle the Time and Talent database. As Dawn has the latest version of the database, she will send this file to Vanessa. Stewardship is working on the Church information packet for new members. It is nearly completed. 2012 stewardship campaign results are being reviewed for new learnings and setting plans for 2013.

***Church in Society (Christy Zygowski):*** Church in Society did not meet last month. The Green team continues making good progress. May is the approximate date for the makeover at HALO. Exact project date will be determined based on coordination with the donation of the theatre seating.

***Youth (Diane Borgardt):*** No report. Concern was expressed that this committee is losing several members.

**Old Business:**

* Dr. Miritz 25th Anniversary – Names/Membership. Luanne is looking for volunteers to help. They will set a date after discussion with Paul Rossmann. Current thinking is that it will be in the fall timeframe so that Sunday school students can be a part of the celebration.

**New Business:**

* 19th Annual Congregational Leaders Event is Saturday, March 24. There are eight members going and they plan to bring back lots of information to be shared.

**Open items:** None

**Closing Prayer:** Christy Zygoswski

**Respectively submitted,**

***Dawn Jacobson***

Congregation Council Secretary

**Next Meeting: Monday, April 16, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Closing Prayer: Christy Zygowski**