

ROSEAU EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH  
Quarterly Congregational Meeting  
April 25, 2017

*“To Share the Love and Hope of Jesus in Today’s World”*

*Exalt God, Expand God’s Kingdom, Equip God’s People & Express God’s Compassion*

**In attendance:** Pastor Steve Hoffer, Darrin Smedsmo, Tony and Traci Fichter, Pastor Kecia Stroot, Bryan Dickson, Todd and Sonya Peterson, Dennis Ingold, Rachel Krahn, Roger and RuthAnn Helgeson, Sheila Brinkman, Dave Anderson, Nora Parrill, Gary and Karen Markstrom, Chris Walberg Goodson, Elna Kofstad, Jon and Jill Helgeson, Jan Carr-Hereth, Don and Dorris Miller, Ida Day, Pastor Joe and Julie Elick, Amy Carlson, Nathan and Brenda Acker, Tim Johnson, Perry Roberts, Karen Granitz, Chris and Jeanie Hamness, Bryan Lundbohm,

Tony Fichter called the meeting to order.

Pastor Steve opened the meeting with scripture and prayer.

**New Members:**

Roger Helgeson announced that the Deacon Board is recommending Troy and Yvonne Wensloff as new members to our church. They were accepted, and will be officially introduced to the church congregation on May 7th.

**Advancing our Mission:**

Tony explained that a mission statement is basically the reason behind why we do what we do in the church. Next step would be developing a vision statement, then putting together a strategic plan. LC wants to let God lead us in a direction right now regarding our mission rather than trying to force anything. Pastor Steve asked Kristine Dickson to share about her vision for reaching kids.

Kristine started praying for the West Side trailer court. The Easter Hunt was one of the results of her prayers which took place on the Saturday morning before Easter at the West Side Park. We had games, craft activities, an egg hunt, and the Resurrection Easter Egg story. Each child received a bag with some gifts and an invitation for them to come to our church. We had 30 volunteers, and 45 kids attend, and made some connections with all that attended. She asked for some direction on what to do next such as ways to strengthen marriages and maybe a family event. She suggested mentoring younger families and using the CHIC family date night as a mission field for young parents to get out with the mentors paying for childcare. She would love to find ways we can keep in touch and possibly use our bus to bring kids to church or to family events.

Tony concluded stating that we have lots of ideas to advance our mission, but the LC really want to press into God and go where he leads us. We have four values stated in our Mission Statement: Exalt, Expand, Equip, Express. Each year we could pick one of our four values and really focus on that area. The hospital does a needs survey in the community and they have contacted the Roseau area church leaders to inform them of the main needs of our community. One idea is have small groups every fall/winter. The year of 2018-2019 is our 125th anniversary, so Exalt would be a great thing to focus on. We also had more ideas of investing in the West Side Park as some of our next steps.

**Ministry Growth** - Tony would like to see Ministry Growth start up again. It’s a think tank, brain-storming session, bringing new ideas to the table. Anyone can come and add their input. Needs to include pastoral staff, the Leadership Council, Board Members, Legacy Members (those part of the church when it first started), millennials, singles, Worship team, youth etc.

**Community Outreach** - This will be an on-going part of our agenda as we develop our mission.

**March, 2017 Leadership Council Meeting Minutes** were reviewed and accepted.

**Pastoral Reports:  
Pastor Steve Hoffer**

Busy with sermon prep, confirmation class, staff meetings, premarital counseling, ministerial meetings, monthly Roseau meeting and Red River Valley. Met with Cathy Olson on Friday to celebrate her service to our church as a custodian for the last 10 years. Followed up on connection cards and 11 people have attended a new membership class as a result. Currently taking three classes. Looking to fill our janitorial position. Will be interviewing for the position tomorrow. Heading to Maple Grove this weekend for the annual NorthWest Annual Meeting. Tony and Traci Fichter are attending as our church delegates.

**Children and Family Pastor Kecia Stroot**

Getting ready to go to Atlanta with April Ingold for training on the Orange Curriculum. IGNITE is going well and getting ready to end for the school year. Excited about getting more kids here for the summer who are not churched. Marriage ministry is underway. Met with a few couples to brainstorm ideas.

**Youth Director Bryan Dickson**

Started CHIC fund raisers the last few months. Parents night out has been a huge success. 40 ladies showed up for sign making. Chores for CHIC can hire kids out for \$10/hr. Silent auction is on May 21st, with bidding starting out on the 14th. Donations contact is Bryan or Kristine. May has no regular youth group. May 5th, Cinco De Mayo, youth are invited to have sopapillas. Will be showing all 8 Star Wars movies on May 20th. All City Summer Kick-off at the City Park is the last Wednesday in May. The 6th graders are invited to join. Lock-in scheduled for June. Where is Waldo at the fair. Annual GROSS night and MUJUUCE are coming up. Topic will be "Undeafated" this summer.

**Financial Report** was presented by Todd Peterson, Treasurer. March and part of April. We are running \$11,000+ under budget. Our monthly offerings are higher than last year, but still below budget.

**Board Reports**

**Deacon Board Roger Helgeson, Chair**

Brian Haynes from First Baptist Church(FBC) received a request from a person that had attended our church, but then asked FBC to help with finances to attend a funeral. Our church shared half the expense.

**Trustee Board Dennis Ingold, Chair**

Began by complimenting Rob Stroot and Todd Peterson on the job they have done with the budget and the books. Glen Johnson just retired and has been really helping with items that need to be done at the church. Sheldon has been very busy at the church as well. Will be doing some painting when it warms up. The decorating committee has been working hard on the foyer. The septic right now has been stable. The buses will be inspected to make sure they're in working order. Looking for custodial staff.

**Christian Formation Board Rachel Krahn, Chair**

Three new members, Tina Espe, Trish Hunter and Kelly Mertens. Bluewater Burger Bash went well in March and the kids sang for Palm Sunday. Excited about the trip that Kecia and April are taking for the Orange curriculum.

May 7th is teacher appreciation with a reception after church for them. May 21st is confirmation and CF is hosting a pot-luck. May 21st is the last day of Sunday School, and May 28th we will be honoring our graduates. We have two graduates this year, possibly four. VBS is scheduled the end of July, the week after the fair. Looking at using our church bus for transporting kids who may want to attend.

**Mission and Outreach Board Darrin Smedsmo, Chair**

Three missionary visits from Tom Lindstrom, Jackson Helstad, and JaNae Stynsberg. Planning a trip in August to move the garage in South Dakota with Jackson. He decided that he really needs to lead the people into the Bible and the word. He gets 30+ people coming to read the Bible. They come and do not want to go. We supplied them with 28 Bibles since they had none. Gave financial support for Jayden in Australia. Voice of the Martyrs may team up with VBS. MN Teen Challenge coming again this fall for Fall Fest.

**Bluewater Update:**

Traci really wants our church to be the face of Bluewater. Kristine is taking on some of the registrations for Bluewater with Bryan and Traci helping out. Really want to reach out to the families that attend Bluewater throughout the year. Noticed the 80% of the attenders of the Bluewater Bash were not from our church. The Bluewater Scholarship fund has been replenished to \$3,200.

**Decorating Committee:**

Amy Carlson spoke. Really just started the planning stages of the foyer update. Will start painting on Friday and try to have it finished up Saturday night before church on Sunday. Will be purchasing furniture and art-work from a local artist. Will have a Welcome Center - a custom built table on castors when you walk in with information located there. Someone would stand there and welcome people as they enter and answer questions. Received a donation for the purchase of new banners between the Christmas and Easter Seasons.

**Lead AV Tech:**

Tony has resigned his position as Lead AV Tech, and CJ has agreed to step up into the position. If help is needed or issues arise, he is the one to contact. He can also help if tech people are needed for an event. Want to get a signal to the nursery so that they can hear the sermon, and also listen if in another area of the church via Bluetooth.

**Other:** Pastor Steve wants us to be in prayer about our budget and financial situation; how we need to be involved or possibly contribute more. Asked for help with the Wednesday night meals for youth group. Have been using our budget for some meals, but would like to use that money for other things. Traci suggested that we really follow up and be intentional with meals.

**Next Congregational meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 29, 2017 @ 7:00 pm**

**Pastor Steve closed our meeting in prayer.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Sheila Brinkman*  
*Leadership Council Secretary*