

## Worship & Music Committee meeting (online: via Zoom) Nov. 7, 2023

Present: Deacon Cheryl Erdmann, Sherry Scheider, LaVon Downing, Carolyn Ciaccio, Richard Popp, Steve Larsen, and Susie Smalley

Deacon Cheryl opened the meeting with a prayer.

### **Old Business:**

† **minutes from last meeting:** Last month's minutes were approved.

† **home communion kit:** Sherry sent Pr. Scott the home communion kit he received as a gift from our congregation, and it was received.

† **All Saints Sunday (November 5, 2023):** 60 tealight candles were put out on the table, 8 were unused. Sherry will need to purchase more tealights for the future.  
We decided to not have a cake on All Saints Sunday this year, mainly because we would have had three Sundays in a row as "cake days" and thought that too much. So, we kept Reformation and confirmation Sundays and eliminated the middle Sunday, which was All Saints.

### **New Business:**

† **setting changes:** Beginning with 1 Advent (Sunday, Dec. 3), setting 2 will be used. We will continue with that setting through Transfiguration, which is Feb. 11, 2024.

Richard had many questions regarding setting 2, Advent season, Christmas Eve, Christmas Season, and Jan. 7th; Cheryl answered them, and he made his own notes.

I have also noted a couple things below:

† **Advent (starts Dec. 3, 2023):** We decided to sing "Oh Come, O Come, Emmanuel" during the lighting of the Advent wreath every week this year.

† **NYE (regular Sunday morn. service):** We're going to try a "Lessons and Carols" service on Dec. 31st. Dn. Cheryl will look more into it and communicate with Richard as to how that'll look.

† **Altar flower chart:** The new chart for 2024 has been put up; cost of flowers is still \$35.

† **Confirmation (November 12, 2023):**

There will be three confirmands: Roman & Dominique Hernandez, and Oliver Anderson. There will be a cake, as mentioned above. Sherry asked Kelsey what flavor her two like and she answered chocolate. Chocolate was ordered! We decided to write all the confirmands' names on the cake, along with the message "God Bless You," and ask if the bakery could put a larger cross design on it (they don't do little crosses on each individual piece - that has been asked (and refused) before).

† **Hanging of the Greens/Christmas tree (Sat. Dec. 2):** Sherry was a little confused about what Dn. Cheryl had written: "Although we will not put up the *actual Christmas decorations...*" Dn. Cheryl clarified it for her: things like the manger, the poinsettias, and the different color paraments will not be put up until after the 4Advent service on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>.

† **poinsettias:** The cost went up by \$1 to \$12. The order needs to be in by Dec. 6<sup>th</sup>, so the poster for orders needs to be up by Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>.

† **hymn familiarity:** Steve brought up that sometimes some of the hymns we sing during service seem unfamiliar to many people; Richard agreed and said that without a choir or more strong singers to lead it every time, the congregation does struggle. Richard said maybe he'll try to choose hymns that are a little more familiar to our congregation. (Problem is...he is not sure what *is* familiar to our congregation yet and asked for those who *do* know (and who get his list early) to perhaps help him with that!)

† **Taizé services:** Dn. Cheryl brought up an idea of collaborating with other area congregations to host a taizé service every so often. It would not replace our Sunday morning service.

A taizé service is an alternate style of worship. It is a meditative service with lots of singing of taizé (repetitive) hymns. There would be no sermon during this service. Dn. Cheryl described it as "spiritual" rather than "religious".

Prior to the pandemic, other area churches did these services periodically. If we wanted to consider hosting some, it would be perhaps once a quarter, and would most likely be held during an evening on a weekday.

This is just something that Cheryl has been thinking about doing - we can all just think about it for a while and decide if this is something we would be interested in doing.

The meeting was closed with a blessing by Deacon Cheryl.

**Next meeting: Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023 at 10:30am, via Zoom**

Respectfully Submitted,

Susie Smalley