**Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, January 11, 2024 – 6:30 pm**

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

Members present: Shannon Bruhns, Marci Adeogun, Delane Behr, Doug Bruhns, Laura Gardner, Sue Langerud, Mary Peterson, Mike Swenson, Cindy Haugsdal

Absent: Dan Rice

Shannon opened the meeting with devotion and prayer.

**Secretary’s Report:** December council minutes were available for review. There were no additions or corrections.

Laura moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Mary. All approved.

Communication and correspondence – Three anonymous donations of $50 each have been received and $150 deposited in the general fund. A monetary gift of $250 in memory of Martin and Mabel Lande was given by Robert and Gail Lande and deposited into the general fund. A thank you will be sent to Robert and Gail.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Doug provided a written report.

Total income for December 2023 $34,181.20

Total Expenses for December 2023 -$13,928.84 (Income less expense $20,252.36)

Checking account balance (12/31/2023) $80,888.97

FTSB/Tuckpointing account balance (12/31/2023) $53,544.32

CD’s at FTSB (12/31/2023) Reserves $48,334.93

CD at MBT (12/31/2023) Ness Estate $26,014.17

Mary moved to transfer balance of undesignated funds ($989) from 2023 to the general fund, seconded by Mike. All approved.

**Financial Secretary’s report:** Laura provided a verbal and written report.

2023 YTD total offerings (12/31/2023) $208,087

2022 YTD total offerings (12/31/2022) $219,186

Mary moved to accept Treasurer and Financial reports, seconded by Mike. All approved.

**Board Reports**

**Enduring Gift Fund –** Quarterly report from October–December 2023 was submitted by Wayne Van Veldhuizen and an annual report will be presented at the Annual Meeting.

**Board of Worship and Music:**  Mary provided a verbal and written report: Reviewed Christmas services; preparations for Baptism of our Lord Sunday; Discussed Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Holy Week services; have decided against holding weekly Lenten Services; Pulpit supply for January-March is complete and now working on the balance of the year; looking for special music for Easter; there are no confirmands this year; continue to look for more involvement of members for reading lessons, serving communion, ushering, etc.

**Board of Life & Growth:** Sue provided a verbal report: Taking down the greens/Christmas trees and decorations was not well attended and there was discussion regarding simplifying Christmas decorating in the church in the future.

**Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Dan was not present and there was no report.

**Board of Property and Management:** Mike provided a verbal report: See capital project in old business; Mike consulted with Midwest Roofing regarding insulation of the ceiling in the chapel that will be done by volunteers; a representative from Midwest Roofing will come to Salem to do an inspection of roofing of the education unit and chapel; discussed the plan to work with an Arborist to salvage the Elm tree on the south lawn which had been approved per Council vote in August.

**Board of Youth:** Marci provided a verbal and written report: Christmas Caroling on December 20th was well attended, especially confirmation students/families; New sign-up sheets have been posted for volunteers to help with Faith Formation; Confirmation will be bowling on 1/13/2024; Faith Formation kids will sing on February 4 and March 10; will also have a bake sale Fundraiser on March 10; First Communion classes scheduled for 5th graders scheduled for March 3, 10, 24 with First Communion on Maundy Thursday (3/28/2024).

**Pastoral Care Support:** No funerals last month.

**Pastor Report:** None

Mike moved to accept Board reports, seconded by Sue. All approved.

**Old Business:**

1. Call Committee Report – Meeting is scheduled with Bishop Jones via Zoom on February 7, 2024.
2. Capital Project Update – Shannon and Mike shared drawings from Atura Architecture of potential renditions for bell tower removal. One option maintains a steeple and part of the tower and the other removes the tower completely. These two options were approved per Council vote in December after consultation with Atura and Randall Construction reps. Consideration of water drainage to prevent further damage is an important factor. There have still been no estimates provided. Mike is also looking at other vendors that could provide another estimate, so that we could apply for grant funds.
3. Food Shelf Update – LMAMA sent a formal request asking Salem to be the permanent home for the community Food Shelf. Salem is pleased to be involved with the community Food Shelf. Salem will want to approach this in a thoughtful manner with discussions between Salem and LMAMA regarding all aspects of this decision, including a contractual agreement. In anticipation of the Food shelf locating permanently at Salem, Mike reported he is looking at cost/bids for improvements to Salem facilities to prepare for writing grant requests to fund improvements. Both Salem and LMAMA could apply for grants.
4. 2024 Annual Meeting –
   1. Draft Budget Approval – Doug presented the proposed 2024 budget; the proposed income represents a 15% increase over the actual 2023 income and the proposed expenses will include a salary for a lead pastor which includes call process expenses; reviewed additional expenses proposed for 2024. Laura moved to accept the proposed 2024 budget, seconded by Mary. All approved.
   2. Annual meeting agenda has been posted. The meeting will be held in the fellowship hall following the Sunday service and a meal will be served by council following the meeting.
   3. Shannon reviewed recent history (since 2015) of the Vice President succeeding into the role of President. There is nothing in the constitution that states that this is required, however this has been a documented succession progression which also provides continuity.

**New Business:**

1. Statement of Giving – Laura is working on a statement of giving for 2023 that will be mailed out to members by the end of January.
2. Thrivent Choice Dollars Campaign/2023 Contribution Distribution – tabled, will discuss next month.
3. New members – None
4. Transfers/statistical adjustments – None
5. Next meeting will be held Thursday, February 8, 2024, at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

Doug moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Mike. All approved. The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal