**Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday, February 10, 2022 – 6:30 pm**

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

Members present: Drake Abbey, Marci Adeogun, Shannon Bruhns, Sue Langerud, Sondra Nelson, Mary Peterson, Pastor Joel Guttormson and Cindy Haugsdal.

Member absent: Al Skellenger

Pastor Joel led us in devotions and prayer.

**Secretary’s Report:** January Minutes were available for review. There were no additions or corrections.

Sondra moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Drake. All approved.

Communication and correspondence – Request presented from LMCS After Prom 2022 Committee. Mary moved that we send a donation consistent with our previous years’ donations, seconded by Sondra. Marci will check the records and send the donation.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Drake provided a written and verbal report.

Total income for January 2022 $15,510.85

Total Expenses for January 2022 $27,804.79 (Income less expense -$12,293.94)

Balance sheet was not available due to software issues which continue to be addressed.

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

2022 YTD total offerings (2/1/2022) $14,717

2020 YTD total offerings (2/1/2021) $20,886

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

**Board Reports**

**Board of Worship and Music:**  Mary was welcomed as new chair.

**Board of Life & Growth:** Sue provided a verbal report. Continue to work on New and Renewing membership classes/bible study, planning soup meal prior to the classes during Lent. Working on ways to display and provide education on symbols of the church. Exploring a musical event in the Sanctuary during July Jubilee weekend.

**Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Al was absent. No report. Shannon will remind Al to raise awareness about donating Thrivent Choice dollars in March. Pastor Joel shared that the board had met and are planning a service of thankfulness with stories of what congregational gifts have done.

**Board of Property and Management:** No report – Shannon reported that the 1st meeting will be held on February 23 at 6:00 pm.

**Board of Youth:** Jen and Marci provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report that included: First Communion Classes for 5th graders and parent, Maundy Thursday Meal for those receiving First Communion, Confirmation Retreat in April, Confirmation Plans for Faith Statement Night and Confirmation Sunday, Easter morning options and Summer Camp Registrations. Faith Formation will be singing in church once a month through May. The last day of Faith Formation will be May 8.

**Pastor Report – Complete Pastor reports are available for review in the church office.**

**Lead Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Joel shared a written report that included Pastoral acts in January and accounting for vacation and continuing education days/Sundays used and planned. Additional topics in his report included:

* New and Renewing Membership program– Pastor provided more details on this program that will be piloted on Wednesdays in Lent starting March 9. The five week program will be based on three ELCA publications: Honoring our Neighbor’s Faith, Baptized We Live, and Called Forward Together in Christ – ELCA Future Directions 2025.
* Change in Porticoe Benefits – Pastor thanked those involved with assisting him to make the changes in his benefit package to include an HSA (Health Savings Account).
* Riverside Confirmation Retreat – Scheduled on April 2-3, Pastor share the planned schedule.
* Living Waters Conference Meeting – Sunday, February 20 from 2-4 pm there will be a pre-assembly Zoom meeting. Pastor Liz Albertson, the new Assistant to the Bishop will preach at the opening worship. This meeting will include a presentation by Lutheran Services in Iowa (LSI) to talk about the Afghan Refugee resettlement plans that are in the works. The Living Waters Conference is working on a possible resolution addressing the need for lay education, support and mentoring for persons providing pulpit supply and pastoral care alongside pastors or serving in congregations where there are vacancies.
* Covid Guidelines/Communion – Plan to continue with communion packets through Easter, 4/17/2022. Discussions in preparation to return to normal distribution of communion include adequate assistance through volunteers.
* Reconciling Works – Pastor shared personal reflections related to pastoral care that was recently provided to the Grothe family. He raised the question - How do we refuse access to some aspects of pastoral care and expect individuals and families to be cared and nurtured at other times?

Sue moved to approve Board/Pastor reports, seconded by Marci. All approved.

**Old Business:**

1. Constitution
   1. Review ELCA Model Constitution and Guidelines – Shannon provided documents of the ELCA Model Constitution and the Guide for Use of the Model Constitution for Congregations. Requesting council members read and review these documents prior to the next meeting.

**New Business:**

1. Financial Secretary – Drake moved to appoint Sondra as acting Financial Secretary, seconded by Mary. All approved.
2. New members – none
3. Transfers/statistical adjustments:
   1. Joe and Lanelle Lawson – request membership transfer.
   2. David and Deb Kingland – request removal from membership list
   3. Jordynn Finer – request removal from membership list.

Cindy moved to honor requests for transfer and statistical adjustments, seconded by Sue. All approved.

1. Next meeting
   1. Due to a conflict, will reschedule March meeting to Thursday, March 3 at 6:30 pm
   2. Reschedule April meeting (Maundy Thursday is 4/14/2022) to Thursday, April 7 at 6:30 pm

Sue moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Sondra. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal