**Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday, October 13, 2022 – 6:30 pm**

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

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

Absent: Drake Abbey

Pastor Joel led us in devotions and prayer.

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

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

Communication and correspondence – Lake Mills Clothes for Kids/Christmas Tree Tags group has asked to have a tree with tags at Salem again this year, all agreed to continue our participation in this program. We received 2 - $50 anonymous gifts that were deposited into the general fund.

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

Total income for September 2022 $12,330.80

Total Expenses for September 2022 $19,753.34 (Income less expense -7,422.54)

Checking account balance (9/30/2022) $33,533.45

CD’s at FTSB (9/30/2022) Reserves $26,014.17/Ness Estate $10,614.41

CD at MBT (9/30/2022) Ness Estate $52,215.45

Drake sent information presented by Shannon: Re: Ness Estate CD (FTSB #5) This CD did not automatically mature but is soon due for renewal, Drake talked with FTSB about current rates – 2 options are available – a renewal rate of 0.70% for 182 days OR 0.80% for 12 months. Drake recommends renewing the remaining balance of approximately $3,230.02 into a CD for 182 days at an interest rate of 0.70% in case the funds are needed prior to October 2023. For reference, the previous interest rate on this CD was 0.40%. We will be withdrawing our annal allotted amount of $7,430.52 from the Ness Estate funds which will go into the general fund.

Sondra moved that we renew the CD (FTSB #5) for 182 days at an interest rate of 0.70%, seconded by Al. All approved. Cindy will email Drake regarding this council vote.

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

2022 YTD total offerings (9/28/2022) $156,299

2021 YTD total offerings (9/28/2021) $168,690

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

**Board Reports**

**Board of Worship and Music:**  Mary provided a written and verbal report. A Bell choir is being organized with plans to practice on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm; Confirmation Worship Coordinator role was discussed; Pastor Joel shared information regarding the impact of worship outreach impacted by the size of congregation; Worship notes – Hymn #s will no longer be posted as hymns are in the bulletins, 10/16 Faith Formation will sing, 10/23 Baptism, 10/30 Bibles handed out, 11/23 Thanksgiving Eve at 7:00 pm, Advent worship plans were also discussed which will include a guided meditation worship opportunity on Wednesday at noon and 7:00 pm.

**Board of Life & Growth:** Sue provided a written and verbal report: All church Birthday Party will be this Sunday, 10/16; Five 1st graders are being matched with adult pen pal prayer partners; will be scheduling a workshop for making new Christmas Chrismons for the Salem tree; Decorating the Sanctuary and tree will be Saturday 11/26; No hospice tree this year; Worship bags have been moved closer to the doors in the Narthex; Shipment to Lutheran World Relief last week– 108 Quilts, 37 baby care kits, 147 school kits and 2 blankets; Extra school supplies went to LM school and an additional 16 quilts went to the Mason City Salvation Army.

**Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Al provided a verbal report. Discussed request from Property and management board for capital project for tuckpointing repairs. Continue noisy offering for Good Samaritan Fund through 10/23.

**Board of Property and Management:** Shannon provided a written and verbal report. Boiler violation – evidence has been submitted regarding the repairs done after 1/26/2022 inspection; Chapel update – Youth board submitted suggestions for better utilizing the chapel including modern technology, removing the pews and replacing with chairs/rollaway tables to provide flexibility and brighten up the space, heating is an additional concern in the Chapel; Grinnell Insurance – Shannon and board are working on issues, including AED training/policy; Janitorial responsibilities – reviewing expectations to meet day to day duties of a PT janitor and discussed a “congregational work day” to address additional needs; Bell Tower – Board is requesting a capital project to tuckpoint the bell tower and additional areas of need, have one quote and continue to seek an additional quote; Water bill has taken a spike, looking into this; Donated Lord’s Prayer wall hanging (from Clarine Steffensen) location was discussed.

**Board of Youth:** Jen and Marci provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report that included: 10/30/2022 Trunk or Treat event for Salem and the community; 10/30 3rd graders receive Bibles during 9 am service, currently in classes; 10/30 4 year olds receive picture Bibles during 9 am service; Faith Formation enrollment (4 yo – 6th grade) 35 students; Confirmation enrollment (7-8th graders) is 6 students; there are some Confirmation students attending the UNI Lock-in on 10/21-22 and some attending Riverside Retreat this fall.

**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 August and accounting for vacation and continuing education days/Sundays used and planned. Additional topics in his report included:

* LMAMA – Participated by providing games for the Fall Festival – Salem sponsored Bingo.
* Confirmation – We have six confirmation students participating in our program this year. Three families have decided to participate in the program at Asbury United Methodist. We will be partnering with One Christ for the return to our annual field trip to Waverly or Decorah, this year Waverly on 9/26/2022. We have four youth attending the UNI Lock-in, Jill Budach and Pastor will be attending. On Wednesday, November 9, we will partner with One in Christ for the Community Food Drive.
* Community Food Pack – Living Waters Conference has been having conversations about sponsoring a Food Pack again.

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

**Old Business:**

1. Constitution (Continued)
   1. Review ELCA Model Constitution and Guidelines – Shannon continues to review, is reaching out to resources at the Synod and is looking for members to participate in the review process.

**New Business:**

1. Members List – will continue to review and update. Board of Life and Growth will work on this.
2. Special Congregational meeting on 10/23/2022 after 9:00 am service – Capital Project Proposal
   1. At the September council meeting, it was agreed that a second quote was necessary before moving forward with capital project proposal. Smokie Kloster (board of Property/Management) contacted a few additional contractors without success as of 10/3. A previous quote from a few years ago came in at $200k, but did entail more work overall. The initial quote of $65k by Pajic Tuckpointing was provided early August. In the essence of time and to comply with 2 weeks prior notice of a special congregational meeting, Shannon sent out a group text to all Council members and Pastor Joel with discussion points to resolve moving forward. All contributed to the text discussion asking about project scope and funding. On 10/5 Shannon, representing board of Property/Management, attended the Stewardship/Social Ministry board meeting to discuss the potential capital project and funding. This meeting was also conveyed via text message to Council. At that time, Mary made a motion to call a special congregational meeting on Oct 23rd to ask the congregation to support and commit to funding a tuckpointing capital project. Al seconded the motion. All were in favor.
3. Pastor Joel Retirement 2023
   1. ELCA North Iowa Synod Call Process Pilot Program – Shannon shared information from the Executive council meeting with Bishop Kevin Jones on 10/3/2022. Bishop Jones proposed a Call Process Pilot program that the synod has been trying that would allow us to form a call committee and begin work on the Ministry Site profile before Pastor Joel retires. Shannon further explained how this affects Pastor Joel’s role at Salem during this time. If approved by the council tonight, Bishop Jones will provide a video presentation for Salem that will be included during the church service this Sunday, 10/16/2022 and a representative of the Synod would attend the next Council meeting (11/3/2022) to further explain the process. Mary moved for Salem to participate in the Call Process Pilot program, seconded by Sue. All approved. Cindy will email Bishop Kevin Jones with our intention to move forward and he will send a video message to be shared this Sunday.
4. New members – None.
5. Transfers/statistical adjustments – Transfer request from Diane Clark to Emmons Lutheran Church; Statistical adjustment request to remove Michael, Jill, Leighton and Taelynne Flugum from Salem active member list. Mary moved to accept transfer and statistical adjustment, seconded by Marci. All approved.
6. Next meeting will be held Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 6:30 pm

Al 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