**Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday, September 9, 2021 – 6:30 pm**

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

Members present: Drake Abbey, Marci Adeogun, Shannon Bruhns, Scott Hagenson, Sue Langerud, Heather Mannes, Sondra Nelson, Al Skellenger, Pastor Joel Guttormson and Cindy Haugsdal.

Members absent: None

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

Scott moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Sue, all approved.

Communication and correspondence - none

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

Total income for August 2021 $23,368.27

Total Expenses for August 2021 $21,695.21 ($1,673.06)

Checking account balance (8/31/2021) $28,110.09

Building Fund balance (8/31/2021) $14,381.36

CD’s at FTSB (8/31/2021) $26,014.17/$10,526.47

CD’s at MBT (8/31/2021) $30,000/$151.23

ELCA Congregational Giving: Mission Support for 2021 YTD as of 7/6/2021 is $11,013.07 or 48.95% of our congregational budgeted intention for 2021.

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

2021 YTD total offerings (8/31/2021) $154,043

2020 YTD total offerings (8/31/2020) $150,531

Al moved to accept treasurer and financial reports. Sue seconded the motion. All approved.

**Board Reports**

**Board of Worship and Music:**  Heather provided a written/verbal report. The Board didn’t meet in August. Rally Sunday is September 12; words for contemporary songs will continue to be printed in the bulletins; working on a schedule for acolytes, offering and communion; working on planning a parent meeting to go over instructions for helping with worship services.

**Board of Life & Growth:** Sue provided a written/verbal report. Looking for prayer pals for this year’s first graders; planning to show the movie Shadowlands with a devotional series during Lent; Quilt Sunday is September 19; 15 quilts delivered to Salvation Army in Mason City; ELCA theme - God’s Work, Our Hands – will be part of the Sunday service on October 31.

**Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Al reported that the Stewardship Board met and will focus on a theme of generosity and encourage the congregation to participate in stewardship by highlighting and educating them regarding options for giving at Salem. Plans include: “Stewardship Thought for the Week” to be included in weekly announcements; “Noisey” offering quarterly to support a specific cause, this quarter will be for Lutheran Disaster Relief; future plans for potluck/chili cook-off type event pending Covid-19 status.

**Board of Property and Management:** Scott provided a verbal report. Grinnell Mutual’s annual report has been received with suggestions that were reviewed; Scott will meet with Dan Kirschbaum to discuss some recommended modifications.

**Board of Youth:** Jen provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report that included: Youth events kick off this Sunday; Confirmation will now be on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am; Pastor Joel sent confirmation families the upcoming schedule; Faith formation will continue on Sundays from 10:00-10;45; families were sent a list of events for the Sept-Dec season, as well as a registration form; families have the option to register via a paper form or online via SurveyMonkey.

**Pastor Reports – 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:

* Community Day Camp – Summarized this year’s day camp experience, positives, and challenges. Challenges include finding a good week for participation, a director/adequate volunteers, and the expense of approximately $1600.00. The Board of Youth will be evaluating the future feasibility of Day Camp at Salem.
* Pastor’s Fellowship Breakfast – the second breakfast served 22 with a cost of food being $40 and $101 raised for youth activities. Planning to continue monthly in the lounge on the second Friday of the month.
* Summer 2022 Vacation plans – Plans for vacation July 17 – August 2, 2022. This is a family camping vacation planned in Washington state. (This will conflict with the ELCA Youth Gathering dates July 24-28, 2022).
* 8th Grade Washington DC trip – Pastor will be participating in the DC trip March 19-March 26, 2022 as chaperone with Chike Ikefuama.
* Covid variant zoom presentation – Pastor will be attending on Wednesday, September 15, 2021 at 3:00 pm featuring Dr. Michael Osterholm, Director of the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota will share strategies for navigating the continuing Covid-19 situation.
* Tri-synodical conference – previously scheduled in person on September 20-21 in Des Moines, will now be via Zoom.
* Rev. Kevin T. Jones as NEIA Synod Bishop Installation – Saturday, September 25, 2021 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Mason City.
* Church security – Pastor shared two recent incidents involving 2 individuals acting/speaking inappropriately within the church building. LM Police have been involved and have advised church staff.
* Faith Formation – Pastor shared that he is involved in pastoral counseling and education with two families (one inactive member and one non-member) interested in Baptism and confirmation programming.

Scott moved to approve board/pastor reports. Sondra seconded the motion. All approved.

**Old Business:**

1. Covid Management Team Update – Will continue with communion packets through November 28; will encourage discretion with sharing of the peace; will continue to monitor status of spread in our community for further changes.
2. Portico 2022 Annual Enrollment – After discussion, Scott moved that the Executive Board meet with Pastor Joel to determine enrollment choices for 2022. Sue seconded the motion. All approved

**New Business:**

1. Cemetery Board Loan Update - $15,181 has been raised to pay back the Cemetery Board loan for $15,000. Sue moved that the Loan to Cemetery Board be paid back and the remaining funds will go to Building and Property account within the general fund and the account at FTSB labeled Building fund will be closed. Heather seconded the motion. All approved. The Heating/AC project is now completed and paid in full.
2. New members: none
3. Transfers/statistical adjustments – Lee Morgan and Lisa (Nelson) Kubick request to be removed from Salem membership list. Heather moved to approve removal from the member list, Al seconded the motion. All approved.
4. Next meeting Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Al moved the meeting be adjourned. Scott seconded the motion. All approved.

The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal