**Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, November 9, 2023 – 6:30 pm**

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

Members present: Shannon Bruhns, Marci Adeogun, Laura Gardner, Sue Langerud, Mary Peterson, Dan Rice, Mike Swenson, Cindy Haugsdal

Absent: Doug Bruhns

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

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

Communication and correspondence – Two anonymous donations of $50 each have been received and $100 deposited in the general fund.

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

Total income for October 2023 $22,919

Total Expenses for October 2023 -$9,747.51 (Income less expense $13,171.49)

Checking account balance (10/31/2023) $56,001.18

FTSB/Tuckpointing account balance (10/31/2023) $52,509.32

CD’s at FTSB (10/31/2023) Reserves $48,334.93

CD at MBT (10/31/2023) Ness Estate $26,014.17

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

2023 YTD total offerings (10/29/2023) $156,887

2022 YTD total offerings (10/29/2022) $174,958

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

**Board Reports**

**Enduring Gift Fund –** Quarterly report is due in January 2024. Following up from October Council Meeting – available interest is $27,764.16.

**Board of Worship and Music:**  Mary provided a verbal and written report: Continue to work on pulpit supply for Jan-March 2024; Organizing Christmas Eve special music and organist; discussed Advent services and upcoming baptisms.

**Board of Life & Growth:** Sue provided a verbal and written report: Reported good attendance at the congregational birthday party which was funded by Thrivent moneys; Christmas decorating of the Sanctuary and Narthex scheduled on December 2; Fellowship coffee hour continues to be well funded and supplied with goodies; Children’s clothes tree will be outside of the church office.

**Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Dan provided a verbal and written report: Fall fundraising campaign underway with letters sent out to members of the congregation asking all to consider a 15% increase in giving in order to fund both the day-to-day operations of the church and mission and outreach activities as well as asking them to indicate if they would be willing to usher, read or help serve communion; Requesting that estimate of giving forms be returned by Sunday, November 19, some forms have already been returned; Quarterly noisy offering for the Lutheran Disaster response for the people of Maui amounted to $502.52.

**Board of Property and Management:** Mike provided a verbal report: See below in Old Business re: Bell Tower/Steeple; Winnebago County election was held in the Fellowship Hall on November 7th, and all went well; Food Shelf will continue to utilize our facility at least until the end of the year and probably into 2024; Volunteers are Insulating windows on the east side of the education building at no cost to Salem; a member has agreed to donate funds to pay for insulating the Chapel, Mike is looking into what this would involve for materials and volunteer labor (no cost to Salem and will be working with Board of Youth and Faith Formation use of Chapel to determine project timing, etc.); Boiler inspection will be in early December (new contact for Salem as a result of insurance change in July).

**Board of Youth:** Marci provided a verbal and written report: Bibles were given to 4 year olds and 3rd graders on October 29; Trunk or treat was later that day and was well attended; Faith Formation Christmas program rehearsal will be on 12/3 and the program will be 12/10 with a party in the fellowship hall following; Money from the Board of Youth dedicated fund was used to purchase new Nativity costumes; Making plans for Christmas Caroling on Wednesday, December 20 at 6:00 pm with community welcome to join in; No Faith Formation on 11/26, 12/24, 12/31 due to holidays; Faith Formation kids will be singing on March 10, there will also be a bake sale; 5th grade students and families will have First communion classes on March 3, 10 and 24 with First communion on Maundy Thursday on March 28.

**Pastoral Care Support:**

**Pastor Report:** None

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

**Old Business:** 2 funerals were held in the last month.

1. Call Committee Report – Bishop Jones updated the committee that they have not had any new candidates with an interest to interview at Salem. Bishop Jones noted that the number of people turning in the Rostered Minister Profiles have been lower lately.
2. Capital Project Update – Mike and Shannon received an email earlier today with information from Jared Beenken from Dean Snyder construction in Clear Lake regarding recommendations for repair/removal of the Bell Tower/Steeple. Shannon will set up a meeting for council to meet with Jared and Dave Randall (Randall Construction) to go over findings, options recommended and potential cost. These considerations are necessary before moving forward.
3. Stewardship Drive – see Board of Stewardship report.
4. 2024 Annual Meeting Planning – will plan a meal in the Fellowship Hall following the meeting.
5. 2024 Budget Planning – Board chairs have budget worksheets to be working on.
6. Nominating Committee Update – Shannon shared the 2024 proposed Ballot that the nominating committee has thus far. There are still a few openings, including Vice President. This document will be published for the congregation on December 3. Mike moved to approve the 2024 Ballot, seconded by Mary. All approved. Shannon will advise Council and request approval if any additional names are added to the Ballot before official posting date.

**New Business:**

1. New members – None
2. Transfers/statistical adjustments – None
3. Next meeting will be held Thursday, December 14, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

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

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal