

## Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, July 13, 2023 – 6:30 pm

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

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

Absent: Sue Langerud

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

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

Communication and correspondence – Three anonymous donations of \$50 each will be deposited in the general fund.

On June 29, 2023 the council conducted business by email to approve Salem's insurance policy through Church Mutual (5% discount to ELCA churches). Shannon provided the quote and coverage specifics, including monthly estimated premiums of \$1,014 (previous policy was \$1043.99/month). Laura moved to accept the proposed quote, seconded by Cindy. All approved.

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

Total income for June 2023 \$14,921.86

Total Expenses for June 2023 -\$12,745.10 (Income less expense \$2,176.76)

Checking account balance (6/30/2023) \$39,695.92

FTSB/Tuckpointing account balance (6/30/2023) \$130,984.00

CD's at FTSB (6/30/2023) Reserves \$26,014.17

CD at MBT (6/30/2023) Ness Estate \$52,215.45

**Financial Secretary's report:** Laura provided a written report.

2023 YTD total offerings (6/30/2023) \$13,485

2022 YTD total offerings (6/30/2022) \$11,826

Marci moved to accept Treasurer and Financial reports, seconded by Dan. All approved.

### Board Reports

**Enduring Gift Fund** – Reports are due in Mar/Jun/Sep/Dec – Balance of \$472,670.67 on 6/30/2023. Members of this committee will hold a 'coffee talk' during coffee fellowship on July 23, 2023. This 'coffee talk' will include the significance of the Enduring Gift Fund, how monies can be accessed, and what monies can be spent per our constitution, etc.

**Board of Worship and Music:** Mary provided a verbal and written report: Cowboy Church is scheduled for July 30 at 9:00 and will be in place of our regular service/there is no set fee and a free will offering will be collected along with our regular offering for Salem, announcements will be made ahead of time to the congregation; continuing to fill pulpit supply through the end of the year; discussed finding special music and communion servers; reminder that we pay pulpit supply for each Sunday as well as for funerals and weddings out of the general fund. Because there are several scenarios regarding funerals, a procedure has been developed to allow for all types of situations. In some cases, pulpit supply compensation is not required.

**Board of Life & Growth:** Sue provided a written report: Songfest on July 8<sup>th</sup> with the Sletten Family performing/\$250 was donated and \$100 donated for Floyd Thomas prints. These funds will be used to purchase a bench for Kruggel Park.

**Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Dan provided a verbal report: considering options for stewardship drive this fall; considering an event for Rally Sunday.

**Board of Property and Management:** Mike provided a verbal report: A/C update – the north unit was leaking freon and Dan Kirschbaum is working on the unit; Shannon reported an update on facilities agreement adding that vaping is prohibited in the facility and that a tobacco free policy will need to be written for Salem (this will be discussed at the next Council meeting); Light bulbs in the sanctuary have been replaced; Plaster repair in the education unit and fellowship hall have been completed by volunteers; Sanctuary plaster repairs are still needed and this is planned to be done through an outside resource due to insurance concerns with setting up necessary scaffolding and to avoid damage to the altar and stained glass windows, also to avoid worship disruptions (this work is Phase III of the Capital project); Issues regarding the Tuckpointing/Steeple projects will be discussed in Old Business.

**Board of Youth:** Marci provided a verbal and written report: Board will be meeting next week to finalize planning for the August 6, 2023, Picnic Potluck with a sign up sheet in the Narthex.

**Pastoral Care Support:** Shannon provided an update of pastoral acts (Funerals/Weddings) taking place at Salem outside of Sunday services. Safe Gathering paperwork was adjusted to reflect status of leadership (Pastor Joel retirement/no current Pastor).

**Pastor Report:** None

Doug moved to accept Board reports, seconded by Mary. All approved.

#### **Old Business:**

- A. Call Committee Report
  - a. Zoom call with Pastor Lanny Westphal/Bishop Kevin Jones on June 27, 2023 to continue work on the MSP to reflect the current status of Salem.
  - b. Pastor Lanny Westphal MSP Consultation scheduled on July 19, 2023.
- B. Capital Project Phase I and II – Tuckpointing and Steeple repair updates – Tuckpointing is in progress with a down payment of \$20,000 and Young Construction contract (steeple repair/shingling) signed with a down payment of \$41,000. Pajic Tuckpointing has found significant damage to the bell tower (the wall of the bell tower is clay and deteriorating, there is nothing for the bricks to adhere to) consequently, tuckpointing on the bell tower was discontinued and work continues on other areas. Mike and the property and management board and Shannon are working on finding a company that could provide an assessment of what it would cost to remove the bell tower section – take steeple down and once bell tower section is removed, the steeple would be replaced on the existing tower. Once an estimate and resource to do the work is found, this will be brought to the congregation.
- C. Church Mutual Insurance – Insurance coverage has been secured through Church Mutual Insurance. Premiums for worker's compensation will be paid annually (\$1,296) and the rest of the coverage twice a year (\$5,090 now and in December). Monthly premiums would incur an additional \$1,738.28 per year.
- D. Elm Tree Update – Shannon has contacted an arborist in Mason City to come and check on the tree free of charge on July 18, 2023, Mike will meet with him.

#### **New Business:**

- A. Thrivent Monies Allocation – current money available of \$3,584.02
  - a. Sanctuary Monitors/hardware – options for new monitors in the sanctuary and use of current monitors elsewhere in the church was discussed.
  - b. Board of Youth Project – new laptop will be purchased using monetary gift given for youth (\$10,000).

Mary moved to use Thrivent funds for new monitors in the Sanctuary and relocating existing monitors, seconded by Doug. All approved.
- B. Drainage District #92 Construction Issues – letter received regarding a drainage ditch assessment at the Salem Memorial Cemetery which will incur an additional charge, yet unknown amount.

- C. ELCA Leadership/Stewardship Coaching Program – Shannon provided a review of this program presented at the Synod assembly in June. Discussed potential benefits of using this program at Salem and how this program would reflect positively when calling a new pastor. Council members encouraged to review the website.
- D. New members – None
- E. Transfers/statistical adjustments – None
- F. Next meeting will be held Thursday, August 10, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

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

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal