**Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday, August 10, 2023 – 6:30 pm**

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

Members present: Marci Adeogun, Shannon Bruhns, Doug Bruhns, Sue Langerud, Dan Rice, Cindy Haugsdal.

Absent: Laura Gardner, Mike Swenson, Mary Peterson

Shannon opened the meeting with prayer.

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

Marci moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Doug. All approved.

Council members were contacted by Shannon via text on August 2 regarding the 2023-2024 Confirmation classes. The Board of Youth and Shannon had discussed options to provide Confirmation classes to the 9 seventh graders (there are no 8th graders this year) and proposed reaching out to Pastor Melinda McVey with Synod approval. Pastor Melinda expressed an interest and the Synod approved of this arrangement and suggested a pay schedule ($30/hr teaching time/prep time + travel time) and recommended a written agreement between Salem and Pastor Melinda. Moving forward with this plan required Council approval. Doug moved to approve having Pastor Melinda teach Confirmation classes for the 2023-2024 year, seconded by Sue. All approved. Further details will be determined and presented at future council meetings.

Communication and correspondence – Anonymous donation of $50 will be deposited in the general fund; we received a letter and request for support of the summer reading program at the LM Public Library. Sue moved to donate $50 to the LM Public library summer reading program, seconded by Dan. All approved.

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

Total income for July 2023 $19,894

Total Expenses for July 2023 $18,404.07 (Income less expense $1,493.00)

Checking account balance (7/31/2023) $41,178.68

FTSB/Tuckpointing account balance (7/31/2023) $51,064.32 (Expenses paid out: $65,450 to Pajic Tuckpointing – project complete; $41,337.99 to Young Construction – project on hold pending bell tower assessment; Total disbursed - $106,787.99)

CD’s at FTSB (7/31/2023) Reserves $26,014.17

CD at MBT (7/31/2023) Ness Estate $52,215.45

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

2023 YTD total offerings (7/30/2023) $110,252

2022 YTD total offerings (7/31/2022) $108,343

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

**Board Reports**

**Enduring Gift Fund:** Wayne Van Veldhuizen presented an update on the EGF (Enduring Gift Fund) at coffee fellowship on Sunday, July 16.

**Board of Worship and Music:**  Mary provided a written report and Shannon presented the verbal report: Confirmation meeting with students and Pastor Melinda scheduled on August 20; Rally Sunday scheduled on September 17; Cowboy church rescheduled to Sunday, September 24; Discussed continued pulpit supply; Shannon provided updates regarding chapel and sanctuary monitors; Discussed leaving the railings up as much as possible to offer assistance to pulpit supply pastors.

**Board of Life & Growth:** Sue provided a verbal report: The board will provide refreshments following Cowboy Church on September 24.

**Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Dan provided a verbal report: Making plans for the congregational cookout on Rally Sunday, September 17, working with Board of Youth; working on developing a Stewardship Drive for this fall, discussions include requesting financial and time/service and talent commitments; Doug provided a quarterly report on Salem finances last Sunday, August 4, at coffee fellowship.

**Board of Property and Management:** Mike provided a written report: Discussed steeple and bell tower repair; agreed to contact Iowa Demolition and Iowa Sawing Co to see if there is interest in taking down the bell tower (and researching other potential companies); Discussed the A/C status and work has been done to optimize air conditioning of the Sanctuary; Discussion regarding the education wing and chapel, including heating options. Tuckpointing contract has been completed.

**Board of Youth:** Marci provided a written and verbal report: Discussed status of plans to move monitors from the Sanctuary, moving one to the chapel for Faith Formation; Additional electronics will be purchased (donated funds are in a dedicated account to cover cost) for Faith Formation including speaker system, TV mount, Roku system and a laptop; Picnic potluck was held on August 4 in the fellowship hall instead of the park due to weather was well attended; Finalized plans for a confirmation boating/tubing event with Bill and Linda Tweeten on Tuesday, August 15 with pizza afterwards, students have been contacted with a postcard invitation; Blessing of the backpacks scheduled for August 20, keychains ordered and will be provided to students; Rally Sunday is September 17 and activities are being planned along with a congregational cookout meal provided by the Stewardship Board; Letters will be sent out to Salem Faith Formation families with information and request for volunteers (2 adults needed for 2 groups each Sunday – sign up sheet is posted across from the chapel); Pastor Melinda McVey has agreed to teach Confirmation classes on Wednesdays at 6 pm, confirmation student/parent meeting is scheduled for September 13; other upcoming events/dates include 3rd grade bible classes on October 15 and 22, Bible Sunday October 29 (4 year olds and 3rd graders).

**Pastoral Care Support:** Upcoming graveside service September 15 at 11:00 am for Donald Thompson with Pastor Melinda McVey residing.

**Pastor’s Report:** none

**Old Business:**

1. Call Committee Report – Consultation with Pastor Lanny Westphal is now complete and the call committee found his input very helpful to personalize and honestly portray a picture of Salem in our MSP (Ministerial Site Profile). The call committee met with Bishop Jones earlier this week and finalized the MSP and it was submitted on 8/9/2023. The call committee also completed a document called Reflections on Ministry and Context that will also be submitted to the Synod for review by prospective pastoral candidates. Shannon reviewed the content of this document. The Call Committee has also requested a non-Salem community member to complete a Reference recommendation. This document is confidential and will be submitted to the Synod directly by the individual completing it.
2. Capital Project Phase 2 – Steeple update – see Board of Property and Management report above.
3. Elm tree update – The Elm tree has been evaluated by Kevin Hardy, ISA Certified Arborist of Cutting Edge Tree Services. Kevin addressed the council per phone to discuss his findings. His opinion is that the tree does not have Dutch Elm disease and is not dying but rather is primarily suffering from drought along with other care issues that have caused some damage over the years. He provided a detailed review of what he recommends to treat and save this tree and promote the health of the tree for many years. His estimate for treatment, including labor and equipment is $2996. A bid had been obtained for removal for $2500. Doug moved that we accept the bid to treat the Elm tree, seconded by Dan. All approved.
4. Food Shelf Update – Management of room assignments for supply/storage for Summer feeding, Food Shelf and facilities for Faith Formation students is taking place.
5. Sanctuary Monitors/Library Monitor/Chapel Updates – items have been purchased and Brad Evenson is coordinating the installation.
6. Confirmation Classes for 2023-2024 – Pastor Melinda McVey
   1. Compensation/Agreement – Shannon shared a proposed Employment Agreement that details responsibilities and reimbursement for Pastor Melinda.

**New Business:**

1. Tobacco/Nicotine Free Policy continues to be revised and signage posted.
2. New members – Marlys Stille transferring to Salem from St. Paul Lutheran Church in McAllen, TX. Cindy moved to accept this membership transfer, seconded by Sue. All approved.
3. Transfers/statistical adjustments – Gail and Nathan Porter requested to be moved to the Salem Friends List. Marci moved to make this statistical membership adjustment, seconded by Dan. All approved.
4. Next meeting will be held Thursday, September 14, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

Doug 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