

## Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – Thursday, April 8, 2021 – 6:30 pm

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

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

Member absent: Scott Hagenson, Sondra Nelson (left after giving her report) (Senior Expo conflict for both)

**Devotions and Prayers:** Pastor Joel led us in devotions and prayer.

**Secretary's Report:** March minutes were available for review. There were no additions or corrections. Drake moved to accept the March minutes as written, Marci seconded the motion. All approved.

Communications and Correspondence – Letter from the ELCA regarding support for programs, such as World Hunger, etc. This will be passed on to Board of Life and Growth with suggestion to consider a “Noisy” offering in the future.

**Treasurer's Report:** Report was available for review.

Total income for March \$18,992.31

Expenditures for March \$25,234.11 (-6,241.80)

Checking account balance (3/31/2021) \$42,860.91

Building Fund balance (3/31/2021) \$1,631.36

CD's at Farmer's Trust Bank \$26,014.17/\$10,526.47

CD at MBT \$30,000/\$151.23

Drake clarified that the expenses in March were increased due to 1) health insurance payment for February was paid in March along with the March payment; 2) budgeted synod benevolence for January and February was sent in March.

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

2021 YTD total offerings (4/6/2021) \$58,884

2020 YTD total offerings (4/1/2020) \$67,563

Lenten “Noisy” offering total was \$322.12 This was raised to support the Living Waters Conference Feed my Starving Children meal preparation/packing events.

Heather moved to accept treasurer/financial secretary reports, Sue seconded the motion. All approved.

### Board Reports

**Board of Worship and Music** – Heather provided a written and verbal report. Holy week services were very successful. Work continues for upcoming services. The pipe organ is needing attention, Heather will be researching history/resources for organ maintenance. Marci added that there is \$4,602.00 in a fund from Darlene Groe designated for the organ.

**Board of Life & Growth** – Sue Langerud provided a written and verbal report. Updated status of the Virginia Thomas memorial hymn sing/concert with members of the National Lutheran Choir planned for July 10, 2021 at 4:00 pm. Sue is working with Diane Fleming. David Cherwien will be playing the organ. Sue also provided an update on plans for commemorating the 100-year anniversary of the Dedication of Salem on May 22, 2021, including memorabilia on display and a social event.

**Board of Stewardship** – Al Skellenger had nothing to report.

**Board of Property and Management** – Scott Hagenson was not present – no report. Shannon shared an update she had received from Scott regarding a proposed campaign to retire the cemetery board loan.

**Board of Youth** – Jennifer provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report that included: Easter “egging” activities last Sunday; Last day of Faith Formation will be May 2 and children will sing in church that day; agenda for Confirmation retreat was confirmed, updated remaining Confirmation

schedule and plans for Faith statements (May 12) and Confirmation (May 16); Graduation (May 23) blankets have been ordered for Salem Seniors.

**Pastor Report – Complete Pastor reports are available for review in the church office.**

Pastor Joel submitted a written report which included Pastoral acts in March and accounting for vacation and continuing education days/Sundays used and planned. Additional topics in his report included:

- Pastor Joel's COVID-19 Journey – Pastor Joel shared an update on his continued symptoms related to COVID infection. He has had his first Covid vaccine and will have his second on April 21.
- Summer Day Camp – Scheduled at Salem August 2-5, 2021. Pastor and Board of Youth continue to work with Okoboji team on preparation and promotion.
- Confirmation Retreat – 5 youth are registered/paid to attend the Confirmation Retreat on May 1-2. Four adults have volunteered to chaperone. Pastor continues to work with retreat coordinator to finalize plans and shared the proposed schedule with council. Has applied for a Thrivent grant to fund the canoeing and breakfast.
- Faith Formation – Reported on First Communion classes and Confirmation classes. Confirmation is scheduled May 16, 2021.
- National Lutheran Choir Concert – Plans continue for the Virginia Thomas memorial concert/hymn sing with National Lutheran Choir members (approximately 10). Diane Fleming and Sue Langerud are working together.
- Safe Gatherings – Marci has now completed the training and is the administrator of the training at Salem. She will assist other members with training. Council still needs to review a Child Protection Policy for Salem.
- Synod Reports – we reviewed annual Synod reports that Marci has worked on with Helen's help.
- VBS with One in Christ – Pastor provided an update for VBS scheduled for June 7-10 with One in Christ. Salem will be hosting the evening closing on Thursday, June 10.
- Senior Baccalaureate – Tentative dates are Tuesday or Wednesday, May 18 or 19 with Pastor Bill Peters and Pastor Doug Domokos working with the seniors. Salem has indicated availability for hosting if asked. Shannon will reach out to Pastor Bill to see where they are at with planning and if Salem will be asked to host.
- NEIA Synod Assembly – The Northeastern Iowa Synod Council has approved moving the 2021 NEIA Synod Assembly to a one-day online virtual event set for Saturday, June 12. Pastor Joel reported that the Living Waters Conference pastors are currently discussing how to best address and participate with it being a virtual Synod Assembly. Shannon and Sondra are also planning to attend virtually.

Heather moved to approve board/pastor reports, Al seconded the motion. All approved.

**Old Business:**

- A. Cemetery Loan – see Board of Property and Management report.
- B. Thrivent Choice dollars for 2021 - Shannon and Marci are working to verify how much Salem received through this process.
- C. Covid-19 Management Team Update: the following activities went well and there were no concerning issues.
  - a. First Communion Meal
  - b. Palm Sunday/Easter Sunday – larger crowds with most masking/families sitting together.
  - c. Next Steps – looking ahead at management strategies to maintain safety for upcoming events.
- D. Board By-Laws Review/Revision (continued) Shannon is continuing to review with individual boards.

**New Business:**

- A. Administrative Assistant Position – Shannon and Pastor Joel expressed that they are very pleased with how Marci has been performing in her role as Office Administrator. Marci has expressed interest to take on this role full time. Shannon led a discussion regarding job description including the number of hours required to complete tasks and responsibilities, a review of compensation and potential consideration of additional benefits such as a stipend toward coverage of health care (as was done with Helen previously). There was also discussion of how this role has a ministerial aspect and how that could be defined.
- B. Vote to accept Confirmands for Affirmation of Baptism on May 16. Sue moved to accept the roster of candidates; Al seconded the motion. All approved.
- C. Pastor Joel Mobility Papers Status – Pastor Joel updated the council on his current plans re: mobility/call process. Pastor shared that he has decided to put this process on hold and intends to remain committed to his call here at Salem for at least 2 more years, when he is eligible for retirement. It is his hope and prayer that we can find a more honest and transparent way to address our challenges.
- D. Other New Business – Summer feeding program will be coming up and Shannon will be looking into the logistics, including a review with the Covid management team.
- E. New Members: None
- F. Transfers: William and Debra Georgia have withdrawn their membership at Salem, they have not requested membership transfer location yet. They are now living in Florida.
- G. Next Meeting Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

Sue moved that the meeting be adjourned, Al seconded the motion. All approved, meeting adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal