

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday, August 12, 2021 – 6:30 pm

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

Members present: Drake Abbey, Marci Adeogun, Shannon Bruhns, Sue Langerud, Sondra Nelson, Al Skellenger, Pastor Joel Guttormson and Cindy Haugsdal. Becky Helgeson attended as representative of the Board of Music and Worship.

Members absent: Heather Mannes, Scott Hagenson

Devotions and Prayers: Sondra led us in devotions and prayer.

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

Becky moved to accept the minutes. Al seconded the motion. All approved.

Communication and Correspondence - none

Treasurer's Report: Drake provided a written report

Total income for July 2021 \$12,763.25

Total Expenses for July 2021 \$22,137.60 (-9,374.35)

Checking account balance (7/31/2021) \$28,862.53

Building Fund balance (7/31/2021) \$11,231.36

CD's at FTSB (7/31/2021) \$26,014.17/\$10,526.47

CD's at MBT (7/31/2021) \$30,000/\$151.23

There was discussion regarding the balance sheet and decreased income this month.

Financial Secretary's report: Sondra provided a written report

2021 YTD total offerings (8/3/2021) \$130,852

2020 YTD total offerings (8/3/2020) \$133,726

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

Board Reports

Board of Worship and Music: Heather provided a written report and Becky presented a verbal report.

Per council recommendation at July meeting, the Saturday evening service attendance will be revisited in October; Contemporary music/words are difficult for some to read on the screens – working on making the words to these songs available in the bulletin; Board would like youth more active as ushers and acolytes – will be offering training to confirmation students on September 19.

Board of Life & Growth / Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry: Sue provided a written/verbal report.

Membership review process continues – she presented a list of members that we have no way of contacting and request that they be placed on the “friends” list, 5 were known to council members and will attempt to obtain address/contact information; Children's worship bags have been cleaned and restocked; with the success of the hymn sing during July Jubilee, considering having another similar event for next year's July Jubilee; Advent services will begin November 28.

Board of Property and Management: Scott was absent, Shannon gave verbal report from Scott: Coffee maker is working; new pulpit microphone and microphone cords/headsets for pastor/assistant have been replaced; laptop and video equipment for livestreaming has been ordered (Thrivent dollars have been allocated); Courtyard has been cleaned up; Cementing the boulevard on the south side of the church property has been tabled; Carpeting in the elevator in need of replacement, bid from Christianson Interiors for \$300 to replace.

Sue moved that elevator carpet be removed/replaced for quoted \$300, Becky seconded the motion. All approved.

Board of Youth: Jen provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report that included: Blessings of the Backpacks for students/school staff on August 22; Rally Sunday on September 12; Faith

Formation and Confirmation will be held from 10:00-10:45 am on Sunday mornings; Youth board will start recruiting teachers to assist with games and crafts for the year; Bibles to 4 yo preschoolers and 3rd graders on October 31; Considering Trunk or Treat event on October 31; Christmas Program December 12 with weather make-up date December 19; Christmas caroling at 5:00pm December 19; Confirmation schedule is complete and will be mailed out to families; parent/confirmation student meeting on September 12 and 19; Pastor Joel is asking for at least 1 parent volunteer to be present at each session starting September 26.

Office Administrator Report: Marci provided a written report regarding member statistical adjustments that have been completed. These are members who requested they be removed from the membership list. They are now listed under non-member/friend. These names have been reported in previous minutes.

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 July and accounting for vacation and continuing education days/Sundays used and planned. Additional topics in his report included:

- Pastor's fellowship Breakfast – Pastor Joel will host second Breakfast on Friday, 8/13/2021.
- NEIA Synod Assembly – Resolution calling for action on Child protection and a memorial to the 2022 Churchwide Assembly to develop and adopt a Social Statement on Child Abuse and Child Protection – Salem will need to develop a Child Protection Policy. Pastor Joel anticipates that the NEIA Synod staff will provide guidance for policy structure. Safe Gatherings trainings of staff and members in roles interacting with children will continue.
- Membership Roster Review process – previously discussed under Life and Growth. **Marci moved that members on the list with no contact information available be moved to non-member/friend of Salem status. Al seconded the motion. All approved.**
- Confirmation Classes Overview – Pastor Joel reviewed the preparation for Confirmation classes. Letters are going out for students/family.
- Stephens Ministry – Currently not an active ministry. There is a need for more participation for the ministry to be reactivated. A message for congregation will be developed to see if there is interest in continuing this ministry.
- Building Maintenance – the condition of our building and maintenance/repair needs and our ministry goals was discussed at length. Decreasing financial support and resources add to the ongoing dilemma of balancing the short-term fixes with what we should look at as long term goals.

Marci moved to approve board/pastor reports. Sue seconded the motion. All approved.

Old Business:

- A. Safe Gatherings/Child Protection Policy – See previous discussion under Pastor's report; Shannon proposed that members of the Youth Board be the next to complete Safe Gatherings Education; we will await guidance from NEIA Synod to develop our child protection policy.
- B. Constitution and By-Laws – Al, Shannon and Pastor Joel are working through the model ELCA Constitution and By-Laws. They will be seeking guidance from the synod as to a resource person to address questions/concerns.

New Business:

- A. Covid Management Team Update – The Delta variant of Covid 19 is causing increased concerns; the management team will be meeting again on 9/8/2021 to review guidelines. Suggestions in the meantime are to make masks available for those who wish to wear and make hand sanitizer available in the sanctuary.
- B. Cemetery Board Loan Update - \$8900 has been raised secondary to the mailing regarding the remaining cemetery loan for Heating/AC project. Plans are to assess any further giving and make a payment towards the loan next month.
- C. Portico 2022 annual enrollment – process is ongoing.

- D. ELCA "God's Work, Our Hands" Service Project Day – Sunday, September 12 (Rally Sunday) – Shannon asked that all council members consider projects that could be done in our community. Life and Growth will also be looking into possibilities.
- E. Other New Business - none
- F. New members: none
- G. Transfers/statistical adjustments - none
- H. Next meeting Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 6:30 pm

All moved the meeting be adjourned. Sondra seconded the motion. All approved – the meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal