**Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes**

**Thursday, February 8, 2024 – 6:30 pm**

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

Members present: Shannon Bruhns, Delane Behr, Doug Bruhns, Sue Langerud, Marci Prescott, Dan Rice, Cindy Haugsdal

Absent: Laura Gardner, Mary Peterson

Guests: Kevin Hardy

Kevin Hardy, certified arborist from Cutting Edge Tree services and Arbor master services, provided an update of recommendations regarding planned treatment of the Elm Tree on the south lawn, including the likelihood of treatment prolonging the viability of the tree. The council had previously approved to move forward with this treatment plan at the August 10, 2023 council meeting. Delane Behr and Mike Swenson were not present for the vote in August 2023 and expressed dissent to spending money to treat the tree and preferred to consider taking the tree down. Members present that had voted to go ahead with treatment to save the tree stood by their vote.

Shannon started the meeting with devotions and prayer.

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

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

Communication and correspondence – Anonymous donation for $50 deposited into the general fund.

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

Total income for January 2024 $15,255.50

Total Expenses for January 2024 $11,001.79 (Income less expense $4,253.71)

Checking account balance 1/31/2024) $86,043.01

Building Project account balance 1/31/2024 $53,814.32

CD’s at FTSB (1/31/2024) Reserves $26,014.17

CD at MBT (1/31/2024) Ness Estate $48,334.93

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

2024 YTD total offerings (1/29/2024) $14,930

2023 YTD total offerings (1/29/2023) $14,511

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

**Board Reports**

**Enduring Gift Fund report:** The next quarterly report (Jan-March 2024) is due at the April Council meeting.

**Board of Worship and Music:**  Mary provided a written report: Board met on 1/31/2024; reviewed worship coordinator role, weekly sign-up sheets and future board meeting dates; Lenten Season and Easter planning with Pastor Steve Smith will be with us for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday; supply pastors for April through June reviewed.

**Board of Life & Growth:** Sue provided a verbal report: Plan to distribute a document, “40 Days of Lent” at services on February 11 and available in the Narthex for members to use to enhance the Lenten season in their homes; this Board is serving coffee hour on February 11 in the fellowship hall.

**Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Dan provided a verbal report: Working on Thrivent Choice information; making plans for Noisy Offering for Good Samaritan ministry in March; planning Barbecue along with other events on the final Sunday of Faith Formation/Community Clean up April 28.

**Board of Property and Management:** Mike provided a verbal report: Mike continues conversations with Jared Beenken and Dave Randall regarding a revised rendition/picture of the bell tower removal with the spire remaining and quotes for this project. Mike talked about possibly doing the project in phases with the first one being removal of the bell tower. The disposition of the bell itself will also need to be considered.

**Board of Youth:** Marci provided a verbal and written report: Snow tubing/skiing event scheduled March 3 at Mt. Kato with a discount for church groups that day, those attending will meet at the church (all members are welcome to attend); Faith Formation kids will sing again on March 10th along with a bake sale fundraiser, will be needing donations for the bake sale; Letter with information for parents of 5th graders regarding first communion classes which will be held at 10:00 am in the lounge on March 3, 10 and 24th with Maundy Thursday (First Communion) on March 28; the board will host the “Welcome to the Table Meal” for the fifth graders and families in the Fellowship Hall before the Maundy Thursday Service.; Easter Egg hunt during Faith Formation on March 24 and will be asking for donations of plastic eggs and candy to fill eggs; Faith Formation last day will be on April 28 with the kids singing in church and after worship a spring clean up in the Lake Mills area for a service project is planned (open to all members/families); Confirmation classes will be completed on May 1 with a May 8 pizza party planned; Graduation Sunday will be on May and graduation gifts have been ordered; still looking for more volunteers to help with Faith Formation with a sign up sheet on the bulletin board across from the chapel.

**Pastoral Care Support:** No funerals in the last month.

**Pastor’s Report:** None

Doug moved to approve Board reports, seconded by Mike. All approved.

**Old Business:**

1. Call Committee Report – Met with Bishop Jones via Zoom on February 7. There have not been any new candidates to be considered, hoping this improves in the spring; the committee asked about a possible candidate that is rostered with the Disciples of Christ Church. The Disciples of Christ Church does not have full communion partner with the ELCA, an exclusion as a candidate. Mike suggested Salem consider opening a conversation with One in Christ Parish.
2. Capital Project Update
   1. Next Steps – See Property and Management report above.
3. Food Shelf – a Special Council meeting was held on Monday, February 5, to discuss the request from the LM Food Shelf and LMAMA to locate the food shelf at Salem permanently. The council voted to accept this request. (See Special Council Meeting minutes). Shannon shared a completed copy of the agreement document that has now been signed by LM Food shelf administrators, LMAMA representatives and Salem representatives.

**New Business:**

1. Summer Feeding Program – status for this summer is yet unknown.
2. Winnebago County Public Health Blood Pressure Screening
   1. Scheduled in the lounge the first Monday each month, the same hours as Food Shelf and Clothes Closet.
3. Sanctuary Worship Computer
   1. Virus Scan Diagnostics – Phil Seifert checked out the computer and took care of issues.
4. New members – None.
5. Transfers/statistical adjustments – Request to transfer from Michael Adam Hengesteg and Andor Hengesteg to Trinity Lutheran Church in Webster City, IA; Request to transfer from Taylor Nelson to Immanuel Lutheran Church in Forest City, IA. Dan moved to accept these requests for transfer, seconded by Marci. All approved.
6. Next meeting will be held Thursday, March 14, 2023, at 6:30 pm in the Salem library.

Sue moved the meeting be adjourned, seconded by Doug. All approved. The meeting was adjourned.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal