**Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday, July 14, 2022 – 6:30 pm**

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

Members present: Drake Abbey, Marci Adeogun, Shannon Bruhns, Sondra Nelson, Mary Peterson, Pastor Joel Guttormson and Cindy Haugsdal.

Absent: Sue Langerud, Al Skellenger

Pastor Joel led us in devotions and prayer.

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

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

Communication and correspondence – Thank you’s from Megan Knudtson, the 2022 Lake Mills After Prom Committee and Ruth Sheldon; Anonymous donation for $50 that was deposited into the general fund.

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

Total income for June 2022 $11,763.38

Total Expenses for June 2022 $20,323.53 (Income less expense -$8,560.15)

Cemetery fund (dedicated account for cemetery maintenance/expenses) paid for cemetery expenses this month.

Checking account balance (6/30/2022) $30,705.03

CD’s at FTSB (6/30/2022) Reserves $26,014.17/Ness Estate $10,614.41

CD at MBT (6/30/2022) Ness Estate $52,215.45

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

2022 YTD total offerings (6/30/2022) $94,747

2020 YTD total offerings (6/30/2021) $103,429

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

**Board Reports**

**Board of Worship and Music:**  Mary provided a written and verbal report. Topics discussed were feasibility of having outdoor services w/livestreaming; Interest in resuming a Handbell choir; Liturgical choir taking a break for summer; Organ repair will be starting soon by Hendrickson Organ Company, estimated cost was $2,400; Pastor Joel vacation Sundays will be covered by Pastor Steve Smith (7/24) and Sondra (7/31); The Board recommends resuming passing the offering plate during service, this will begin this Sunday, 7/17; the Board discussed the timing of services and Faith Formation for fall with Board of Youth and Education and have agreed to keep the Sunday Service at 9:00 and Faith Formation at 10:00.

**Board of Life & Growth:** Sue provided a written report: Song Fest on Saturday of July Jubilee was attended by 44 people and $215 was donated to the Lake Mills Mini Golf Course. The Birthday Party Celebration has been rescheduled for October 16, 2022. Faith Formation kids will sing. New & Renewing Membership opportunity is scheduled for August 14 and 21 with a lunch following.

**Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Al was absent, no report.

**Board of Property and Management:** Shannon provided a written and verbal report. The Board agreed to pave the south boulevard; a church member has volunteered to do some interior plaster repair work, looking into this; talked about opportunities for using the Chapel space/removing pews (stored in a vacant room) for a trial of alternative uses; discussed the status of the dishwasher (leaking and repair could be $5,000, new would be $6-7,000) - holding any repairs for now.

**Board of Youth:** Jen and Marci provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report that included: Not much to report this month – next meeting is August 4 for Fall/Winter planning.

**Pastor Report – 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 April and accounting for vacation and continuing education days/Sundays used and planned. Additional topics in his report included:

* Vacation – Will be on vacation July 18-August 2. Pastor Steve Smith preaching on 7/24 and Sondra Nelson on 7/31.
* Pastoral Care in case of emergency – As with previous vacation time – Pastor Joel will manage phone calls/text messages and remain in contact with Marci and provide pastoral care remotely if needed during his vacation. Pastor Randy will be on call for Pastor Bill during this time. Pastor Randy will be gone to attend his father’s funeral next week.
* Congregational Discernment – Pastor Joel presented a comparison of Salem’s 2015 Ministry Site Profile when he was called to the status of Salem currently. He has presented the following questions to the council at council the last few months – what kind of church do we want to be? How can we be that church together? What resources do we have or need to be that church? Copies of the 2015 Salem Ministry Site profile are available by request in the church office.
* New and Renewing Membership – reviewed plans for classes being offered on Sunday, August 14 and August 21 from 10:30-11:30 in the chapel with lunch served following the classes in the lounge. For those attending the classes and desire to become members of Salem, their names will be brought to the Church Council for a vote on September 8. A new and renewing member reception is scheduled for Sunday, September 18.
* Stewardship Program & Faith Formation continuing education – Shared planning for stewardship and confirmation for this fall. Confirmation will begin September 25 with a parent/student orientation to the class and worship service opportunities.
* Sunday Worship and Events Planning – upcoming events include: September 11 – Quilt Sunday with a version of a God’s Work Our Hands Liturgy and a congregational monthly birthday sponsored by Life &Growth; Sunday September 18 – Rally Sunday, Stewardship coordinating with Faith Formation on an activity that includes inflatables, Music and Worship thinking about an outdoor worship, Faith Formation singing?, Students/Teachers/backpack blessings? Details and coordination being worked out.
* Presiding for Pastoral Acts at Salem – Pastor Joel shared examples of requests for pastoral care at Salem with Pastor Joel, Salem’s called and ordained pastor, being left out of the planning and delays in Pastor Joel being notified and involved in planning or addressing requests. Further discussion included a reference to the model ELCA constitution that would clarify and allows for some flexibility and openness to inactive and non-members pastoral care while maintaining some best practices for the sake of good order.
* Vandalism and Conflict – reviewed recent vandalism to cars in the church parking lot and dissatisfied neighbor who had used Salem’s dumpster without authorization.
* Portico Update – Nancy has completed paperwork for Medicare Parts A and B and this will affect Salem healthcare expenses beginning in October 2022.

Mary moved to approve Board/Pastor reports, seconded by Sondra. All approved.

**Old Business:**

1. Constitution (Continued)
   1. Review ELCA Model Constitution and Guidelines – work continues to complete the constitution. Shannon presented/highlighted some proposed changes for council to consider and review. Council is to review prior to next meeting and present recommended changes at August meeting.

B. Member Connection Program – continue development of this program.

**New Business:**

1. Drainage Ditch Repair – Drake explained how this is assessed and managed.
2. 2023 Portico’s Annual Enrollment Checklist will be reviewed.
3. New members – None.
4. Transfers/statistical adjustments – None.
5. Next meeting will be held Thursday, August 11, 2022, at 6:30 pm

Mary 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