

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – Thursday, March 11, 2021 – 6:30 pm

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

Members present: Drake Abbey, Marci Adeogun, Shannon Bruhns, Sue Langerud, Sondra Nelson, Pastor Joel Guttormson and Cindy Haugsdal

Member absent: Scott Hagenson, Heather Mannes, Al Skellenger

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

Secretary's Report: February minutes were available for review. There were no additions or corrections. Sondra moved to accept the February minutes as written, Sue seconded the motion. All approved.

Communications and Correspondence – Carryover from last month - Request for a donation from the 2021 After Prom Committee. The amount donated last year was \$50 from the Board of Youth. Request was passed on to the Board of Youth for consideration.

Treasurer's Report: Report was available for review.

Total income for February \$16,966.33

Expenditures for February \$17,397.07 (-430.74)

Checking account balance (2/28/2021) \$49,060.18

Building Fund balance (2/28/2021) \$1,071.36

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

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

Drake reported that Salem is not eligible to request a second PPP loan. Drake and Marci investigated a monthly fee related to noncompliance with Vanco electronic giving. Drake has completed the required paperwork and we are now in compliance. It was noted that monthly expenses related to Portico for February 2021 were made in March, so there will be 2 noted expenses in March 2021.

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

2021 YTD total offerings (3/10/2021) \$40,775

2020 YTD total offerings (3/10/2020) \$50,437

Sondra clarified that the 2020 memorials were recalculated because some of the memorials that went to the Building Fund (previously Heating/AC Fund) were not added into the previously published report. A new report has been produced with all the correct memorials. This report will be published along with the Blue Sheet/Council minutes this month. "Noisy" offering is being collected to pay off the Living Waters conference debt for meal preparation/packing for Feed my Starving Children. Along with other churches in our conference, funds have been raised to retire the debt and begin funding future packing events.

Marci moved to accept treasurer/financial secretary reports, Cindy seconded the motion. All approved.

Board Reports

Board of Worship and Music – Heather provided a written report that included updates on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday. Pastor Joel and Marci highlighted the Easter Resurrection Garden opportunity for members to sponsor Easter Lilies or other potted spring plants in memory or honor of loved ones to brighten our sanctuary Easter Sunday – see Salem Website, FaceBook or Marci for details.

Board of Life & Growth – Sue Langerud provided a written and verbal report. Sue reported that her board has been calling church members who have not given in the last year to update them regarding Salem service times and status of in-person worship. They are also inquiring if they have been listening to Salem on the radio, watching Salem's Livestream or attending/joined other churches. The board is seeking adults to be pen pal prayer partners with first graders. The board is working with Pastor Joel regarding a concert by the National Lutheran Choir in memory of Virginia Thomas. Sue also noted that May 22, 2021 will be the 100th Anniversary of the Dedication of the new building for Salem in 1921. The board is planning to mark this date

and provide a display of Salem history. There will be a virtual Easter prayer vigil from Good Friday through Easter.

Board of Stewardship – Al Skellenger unable to attend – no report.

Board of Property and Management – Scott Hagenson was unable to attend but noted the following issues that continue to be addressed – leaking roof, new vacuum ordered. Joan Krull contacted Lyle Thomson that she checked the AED in the sanctuary and batteries and electrode pads need replacement ASAP. Marci agreed to get these items ordered.

Board of Youth – Jennifer provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report that included Valentines were created and shared with Care Center residents, this will be repeated for Easter; plans for the children to sing on Palm Sunday and on May 2, the last day of Faith Formation; plans to “Egg” Families yards for Easter.

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

Pastor Joel submitted a written report which included Pastoral acts in February 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.
- Summer Day Camp – Scheduled at Salem August 2-5, 2021. Shared with LMAMA group opportunities to support camp/camp staff.
- Confirmation Retreat – 5 youth are registered/paid to attend the Confirmation Retreat on May 1-2. Four adults have volunteered to chaperone.
- Faith Formation – There are 8 fifth and sixth grade students with their parents attending first Communion classes. These families have been given the plan for the Maundy Thursday Table Meal program which will be held in the fellowship hall following COVID safety measures. A Kid Friendly Hymn of Praise will be a part of the Liturgy for the 10 Sundays after Easter. A Confirmation parents meeting was held. For the balance of classes, a parent will be required to attend. This is to comply with Safe Gathering policies and to assist with the confirmands. Fall Confirmation classes will be held on Sunday. The hope is that we will have more parental involvement and Sunday Worship participation.
- National Lutheran Choir Concert – Plans are underway for Salem to host a Hymn Sing and Concert with the National Lutheran Choir or select ensemble in memory and honor of Virginia Thomas. The goal, if possible, is to schedule during July Jubilee this July.
- Safe Gatherings – Pastor completed Child Protection recertification this month. Marci has been set up as the administrator for the website and will be taking the training. Plan is to have others who work with our youth take the training as well. Pastor recommended that Council draft a Child Protection Policy.
- Synod Reports – Helen assisted Marci to file electronic ELCA reports. Salem still needs to complete and file a statement of intent for Salem’s Plan for Mission Support. Pastor provided a copy of this document for Drake to complete. Synod benevolence was approved at the annual meeting as part of the 2021 budget, therefore Salem will resume giving by sending 10% of the monthly offerings each month.
- VBS with One in Christ – Planning underway for VBS June 7-10. Salem has been asked to host the evening closing on Thursday, June 10.
- Senior Baccalaureate – LM Senior Class has voted to have Baccalaureate this year. Planning underway with Pastor Bill Peters and Pastor Doug Domokos working with the seniors.
- 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.

Drake moved to approve board/pastor reports, Sondra seconded the motion. All approved.

Old Business:

- A. Stewardship Drive Update – Sondra provided a Statistical Report on Stewardship Drive/Consecration Sunday held in January of this year. This report will be published along with the Blue sheet/Council minutes later this month.
- B. Synod Benevolence – See Pastor’s report under Synod reports.
- C. Remaining Cemetery Loan - Tabled to next month.
- D. Board Budget Responsibilities – Tabled to review near the end of the year.
- E. Thrivent Choice Dollars – Inserts with more information will be included in the bulletins/announcements. This option of giving is through March 31.
- F. Bank Signatories – all official signatures have been completed at MBT and FTSB.

New Business:

- A. Board By-Laws Review/Revision – Shannon gave all present board directors/chairman copies of the by-laws for their given board and requested that they begin the work of reviewing/revising them. Under the ELCA constitution template, by-laws will become resolutions which will allow more flexibility and enable revisions to be made without a congregational vote.
- B. What Makes Us Lutheran Survey – from Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. The ELCA, as a member of the Lutheran World Federation, is participating in the study process to explore our Lutheran identity globally. Council members were provided with information and invited to participate in an online survey (Global Survey on Being Lutheran) to reflect on your Christian and Lutheran identities.
- C. Covid-19 Management Team Report
 - a. First Communion – plans for families of first communion students to share a Maundy Thursday meal/discussion were reviewed and this will be a pilot to see how things go following COVID safety procedures. Each family will be at 1 table/limit of 8 per table. The meal will consist of soup, bread, grapes and chocolate. All items will be set out at each table prior to seating the participants. The Fellowship Hall will be sanitized after the event. The COVID-19 Management Team will reconvene in the days following the event.
 - b. Funerals/Weddings – Per our current COVID Guidelines for In-Person Worship, funerals and weddings with social distancing and masking is allowed with a capacity of approximately 80 people on the main floor. The COVID-19 Guidelines were shared with Isaiah Schott for his awareness during funeral planning.
- D. Other New Business - none
- E. New Members: None
- F. Transfers: None
- G. Next Meeting Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

Marci moved that the meeting be adjourned, Sondra seconded the motion. All approved, meeting adjourned.
We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Haugsdal