

## **Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – Thursday, May 13, 2021 – 6:30 pm**

President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

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

Member absent: Sondra Nelson

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

**Secretary's Report:** April minutes were available for review. Two corrections were made after minutes were distributed to the congregation. The changes are reflected in the attached minutes and include a clarification by Helen Rice regarding a healthcare annuity paid to Helen while employed at Salem and clarification by Pastor Joel in his report to council regarding mobility process.

Heather moved to accept the April minutes as corrected, Al seconded the motion. All approved.

Communications and Correspondence – None

**Treasurer's Report:** Drake reviewed the report.

Total income for April \$21,177.81

Expenditures for April \$21,276.14 (-98,33)

Checking account balance (4/30/2021) \$44,362.82

Building Fund balance (4/30/2021) \$2,631.36

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

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

Scott raised asked for status of the recycling fees. The final charges will be in May as this service has now been cancelled. There was discussion regarding the final fee for the company picking up the receptacle. Scott will review the contract/agreement with the company for services rendered.

**Financial Secretary's report:** Sondra didn't have a report this month.

Scott moved to accept treasurer report, Marci seconded the motion. All approved.

### **Board Reports**

**Board of Worship and Music** – Heather provided a written and verbal report. Baccalaureate service for LM Seniors will be May 19; Brady Kurtz has been providing musical support; the computer used for worship needs updating, possible funding through Thrivent dollars (see new business this meeting); the organ requires maintenance and this is being addressed.

**Board of Life & Growth** – Sue Langerud provided a written and verbal report. Update on first grade prayer pals; update on plan to lift up 5 members/families each week in prayer; Anniversary of Salem dedication will be Saturday, May 22 and recognition will include a review of church history, display of memorabilia and refreshments; the board continues to contact members as to their status of membership; Salem sent 127 quilts, 25 baby care kits and 106 health kits to Lutheran World Relief in April.

**Board of Stewardship** – Al Skellenger provided a verbal report. Board met last week for the first time. Plan to have "Noisy" offering collections quarterly; Thrivent generosity/stewardship grant information was shared.

**Board of Property and Management** – Scott Hagenson provided a verbal report. Mowing contract has been signed – 10% increase this year; Cemetery fund will pay for repair of some of the older stones; kitchen coffee machine is not working; the company will be contacted to arrange repair.

**Board of Youth** – Jennifer provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report that included: Last Sunday of Faith Formation activities on May 2; Confirmation Faith statements on May 12 and Affirmation of Baptism on May 16; Graduation Sunday if May 23; PowerPoints for both Confirmation and Graduation are being prepared; Youth Board will provide confirmands with cross plaques and Salem Seniors

with blankets on behalf of Salem congregation; VBS planning underway with area churches; Day Camp scheduled in August, information and registration forms are being shared with congregation and community.

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

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

- Confirmation Retreat – Excellent retreat at Riverside including 10 youth from Salem and 2 from One in Christ along with 4 adults. Pastor shared a review of the retreat.
- Faith Formation – Parent participation in the last 3 confirmation classes went well with productive classwork completed. Pastor reviewed change to Sunday Confirmation programming in the fall.
- Holy Week Services – Reviewed Holy Week student/parent involvement and the success of livestreaming the services.
- Becoming a Hybrid Church – Pastor reflected on worship during the pandemic and led a discussion on how to consider what we have learned and how we can apply to future worship and outreach.
- Constitution and By Laws – the ELCA Model constitution includes a Board of Digital Technology, Communications & Social Media, Pastor led a discussion about our current technology equipment, members who can operate this equipment and ways to interact and connect with those watching the live streaming service.
- NEIA Synod Assembly – A virtual event is scheduled on Saturday, June 12, 2021.

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

**Old Business:**

- A. Cemetery Loan – Shannon is working on a letter to congregation asking for giving designated to retire the loan.
- B. Covid-19 Management Update:
  - a. Funeral – Recent funeral in the building with a family only catered meal following went well.
  - b. Policy Revision – Shannon shared revisions to the Covid policy based on changes in guidelines.
    - Congregational singing will be allowed while masks are worn.
    - OUTSIDE OF WORSHIP: During activities held outside of the sanctuary, it is by group consensus that masks are worn or not worn by those present.

Unanimous voice vote supported these revisions.

  - c. Baccalaureate – Shannon reviewed the plan for hosting Baccalaureate
  - d. Summer Feeding Program – will continue with “grab and go” routine this summer
  - e. VBS Program – Discussion continues as to how the program will be managed.
  - f. Next steps – New CDC guidelines were released today and will likely lead to relaxing of many recommendations going forward. Plan to meet with management team again in early June.
- C. Office Administrator Position Update – Discussion regarding increased hours for this position continues and Shannon will present a proposal at the next council meeting.

**New Business:**

- A. Thrivent Choice Dollars (\$3,420)
  - a. Live Stream Video Equipment/Laptop/Pulpit microphone – Brad Evenson has evaluated the current equipment for live streaming and identified replacement needs with a cost of approximately \$3500. Scott moved that Thrivent funds be used to update live streaming equipment. Drake seconded the motion. 8 members in favor, 1 opposed.
- B. Pending Checks Report (Bills/Payroll)
  - a. Approval process for monthly bills was reviewed.

- C. Other New Business – Heather mentioned the speakers in the sanctuary have not been working consistently and asked that this be addressed.
- D. New Members: None
- E. Transfers/Statistical adjustment: Ronald Kvale, Paul Kvale, Makenzie Aukes, Bentley Aukes, Dylan Aukes, Elizabeth Shaper, Aiden Hurley. No transfers requested. Sue moved to accept the statistical adjustment; Marci seconded the motion – all approved.
- F. Next Meeting Thursday, June 10, 2021 at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

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

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Haugsdal