**Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes, Thursday, October 14, 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, Heather Mannes, Sondra Nelson, Al Skellenger, Pastor Joel Guttormson and Cindy Haugsdal.

Members absent: Scott Hagenson

Pastor Joel led us in devotions and prayer.

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

Drake moved to accept the minutes, seconded by Sondra, all approved.

Communication and correspondence - none

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

Total income for September 2021 $17,255.02

Total Expenses for September 2021 $19,681.14 (-$2,426.12)

Checking account balance (9/30/2021) $25,137.51

Building Fund balance (9/30/2021) $181.36

CD’s at FTSB (9/30/2021) Reserves $26,014.17/Ness Estate $10,526.47

CD at MBT (9/30/2021) Ness Estate $52,176.00 (previously two CD’s – now combined)

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

2021 YTD total offerings (9/28/2021) $168,690

2020 YTD total offerings (9/28/2020) $166,530

Noisey offering collected 9/26-10/10/2021 amounted to $81.94 for Lutheran Disaster Response.

Sue moved to accept treasurer and financial reports, seconded by Heather. All approved.

**Board Reports**

**Board of Worship and Music:**  Heather provided a written/verbal report. Saturday evening service attendance was discussed, averaging 6-10 people attending; looking into the condition of computer used for screens and music/had trouble last Sunday; Special music planned for October 31 service, theme is “God’s Work, Our Hands”; working on Advent services; always looking for members to sign up to help with worship and thank those who have already been helping!

**Board of Life & Growth:** Sue provided a written/verbal report. Samaritan’s Purse/Operations Christmas Child fliers are out; offering support for serving the lunch on Sunday, October 31; creating a “suggestion list” for ways to serve/give/share with others; making plans for giving tree gifts for kids in need; working on Advent preparations; considering a birthday list of members.

**Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry:** Al provided a verbal report. Stewardship education will include a video about Lutheran Disaster response on 10/24/2021. Noisey offering for Lutheran Disaster relief – Hurricane Ida will continue through 10/24/2021.

**Board of Property and Management:** Scott provided a written report. Cemetery board approved taking out another CD with remaining funds from the building fund (heating/AC fund); 7 stones at Salem Sunnyside cemetery were repaired at a cost of $2,443.50; oak trees trimmed at Salem Lutheran cemetery; LM Pump will be handling the snow removal for this winter.

**Board of Youth:** Jen and Marci provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report that included: Enduring Gift Fund provided financial assistance to pay the Ingham-Okoboji summer camp staff (funding from usual supporters was not available this year); made the decision to discontinue summer day camp due to lack of attendance and support; children’s bulletins are available at worship services; Service project for “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday, 10/31/2021 is being organized for faith formation and confirmation kids as well as welcoming all members of Salem to participate in cleaning ditches around town followed by a chicken noodle soup and hot dog meal in the fellowship hall; looking for volunteers to donate bars for the meal; 3rd graders class to prepare them for receiving new Bibles will be on 10/31/2021; 4 year olds will also receive Bibles; Faith formation will be singing at services on 10/31/2021; Christmas Program has been selected and will take place on 12/12/2021 at the 9:00 am service.

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

* Community Day Camp – discussed plans not to host summer day camp next year.
* Child Protection Policy – Reviewed Commitment statement from our Synod at the 2021 Assembly on Child protection; discussion on need for Salem to continue process of educating staff and congregation on this important topic and develop a Salem policy.
* 8th grade Washington DC Trip – Pastor will be attending this trip as chaperone for Chike Ikefuama 3/19/2022 – 3/26/2021.
* ELCA youth gathering is in Minneapolis, 7/24-7/28/2022 – Winnebago will be having an interest meeting on 10/17/2021 at 4:00 pm. Pastor will not be attending this gathering due to a prior family commitment.

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

**Old Business:**

1. Covid Management Review – Shannon advised regarding status and recommendations by executive Council for Covid practices at Salem. Discussion will continue at Altar Guild regarding communion kits vs disposable cups with bread offered with tongs. General reminders for everyone’s safety will be included in bulletin weekly.
2. Portico 2022 Annual Enrollment – Annual enrollment in Portico (health insurance plan for Pastor Joe/Nancy) is due in October. Shannon and Drake explained that the Synod has now recommended the Silver plan with a few options for HSA with and without congregational contribution. This would be a change to current Gold plan coverage. Following plan guidelines, the Executive Council recommends changing enrollment from the Gold plan to the Silver plan with HSA contribution ($1800 up front). Pastor Joel supports and agreed to this change. Savings to the congregation will be about $1000 for the year. Al moved to make the change – Marci seconded the motion. All approved.

**New Business:**

1. Budget Reporting – Shannon reported that she and Drake are working on looking through financial reports and trying to clarify accounting processes.
2. Saturday Worship service – The Executive Council has reviewed attendance numbers, which includes a core group of members. Shannon contacted some of these members to poll how they would feel if the Saturday service was not held. Other discussion included the radio broadcast and Sunday service time. Pastor Joel is supportive of continuing the Saturday service. The Executive Council is recommending that we continue the Saturday services. After group discussion, the Saturday service will continue and be re-evaluated in 6 months (April 2022).
3. 2022 Annual Meeting
   1. Sunday, January 23, 2022 with a make-up date of January 30, 2022
   2. Nominating Committee – open Council/Board positions need to be identified.
4. Other New Business – None
5. New members – none
6. Transfers/statistical adjustments
   1. Sarah (Gudmonson) Roelfs and London
   2. Kjerstin (Back) Hulke and Morgan

Marci moved to approve statistical adjustments; Al seconded the motion. All approved.

1. Next meeting Thursday, November 4, 2021 at 6:30 pm

Sue 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