

**This is the Twelfth “blue” report for 2020 and it summarizes the actions of the Salem Church Council meeting each month.**

**This report is on the November meeting. If you have questions you may contact one of the council members.**

**Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes – Thursday, December 10, 2020 – 6:30 pm  
Virtual meeting held on Zoom due to Covid-19**

Acting President Shannon Bruhns called the meeting to order.

Members present: Marci Adeogun, Shannon Bruhns, Scott Hagenson, Heather Mannes, Sondra Nelson, Mike Swenson, Pastor Joel Guttormson and Cindy Haugsdal

Absent: Sue Langerud

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

**Secretary’s Report:** November minutes were available for review. Scott moved to accept the November minutes, Sondra seconded the motion. All approved.

Communications and Correspondence - None

**Treasurer’s Report:** Report was available for review.

Total income for November \$17,799.82

Expenditures for November \$13,326.08

Checking account balance (11/30/2020) \$44,558.51

Building Fund (previously Htg/AC Project) balance (11/30/2020) \$5,271.36

CD’s at Farmer’s Trust Bank \$25,869.36/\$10,500

CD at MBT \$30,000

Mike will meet with Office staff to be review accounts and verify that expenses are taken from appropriate accounts.

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

2020 YTD total offerings (12/4/2020) \$200,304

2019 YTD total offerings (12/4/2019) \$241,820

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

### **Board Reports**

**Board of Worship and Music** – Heather provided a verbal report. They continue to work on Christmas Eve service that will be pre-taped and available for viewing/listening on 12/24/2020 at 5:00 pm. The children’s video being developed by Board of Youth will be a part of this service.

**Board of Life & Growth/Board of Stewardship and Social Ministry** – Sue Langerud submitted a written report. The Nativity scene and Christmas tree are set up in the sanctuary.

**Board of Property and Management** – Scott Hagenson provided a verbal report. Barb Kinseth has been hired as Salem Custodian. The board arranged for clean-up of damaged trees at the cemetery and has contacted a firm in Austin, Minnesota to repair some damaged stones at the Sunnyside Cemetery. Heating system seems to be working well.

**Board of Youth** – Jennifer provided a written report. Marci led discussion of items in the report. Faith formation has been suspended due to no in-person worship. Videos are being collected to create a Christmas Program from the youth. They are also sharing children’s Christmas books online via Facebook. Confirmation is being held via Zoom. 4 year old’s will receive their Bibles this week and Jennifer will be coordinating delivery/pick up and will ask for a picture of the student with their new bible. Plans for First Communion (current 6<sup>th</sup> grade group cancelled last spring) and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade bible class from the fall are on hold for the time being. Shannon recommended that photos on the Salem website be updated.

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

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

- His personal COVID-19 Journey
- Virginia Thomas Memorial Concert – Pastor Joel has been in discussions with family of Virginia regarding a musical event. Scott moved to proceed with plans and seek leadership from Salem members to assist with planning, Sondra seconded the motion. All approved.
- Latino Ministry in Lake Mills – Motion to table discussion at this time by Scott, seconded by Mike. All approved.
- Summer Day Camp – Ingham Okoboji Bible camp has sent information for Summer 2021 Day Camp. Mike moved that this be sent on to the Board of Youth, Heather seconded the motion. All approved.

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

**Old Business:**

- A. In-Person Worship – Review of special online vote. An email discussion with all Council members began Tuesday, 12/1/2020 to determine In-person worship, which had been suspended effective Saturday, 11/14/2020 through Sunday, 11/29/2020. Three options were presented and one was added. The council voted and approved the following recommendation after considering for current COVID cases, predictions of increased cases and exposure risk by groups gathering indoors:

**“Suspend all Saturday services until January 2021, reconsider restarting Saturday services mid-January. Remain closed to in-person 8:30 am worship through December, with a limited number conducting worship for radio and livestream. In-person worship status for January will be revisited on 12/28/2020.”**

An email vote regarding in-person worship status will be sent to Council membership on 12/28/2020.

- B. Contact Tracing – Shannon provided clarification on contact tracing. Salem will continue to keep records of participants/attendance for any activities taking place in the building so that this information is available if needed for contact tracing.
- C. Stewardship Drive – Sondra reported that a letter from Pastor Joel regarding stewardship and the timeline for the stewardship drives was mailed this week. Pledge cards will be mailed out with stamped return envelope in January 2021.
- D. Custodian Position – Barb Kinseth has been hired as custodian. She started on Monday, 12/7/2020. She has another part time job; therefore, her hours will include some evening hours at Salem. Shannon has notified the LMPD so that they are aware that she will be in the building after usual hours. Scott will be checking in with her periodically to see how things are going.
- E. Office Administrator Position – Marci Adeogun has been hired as Office Administrator effective Monday, 12/14/2020. Starting salary will be \$13/hour with review and \$0.50 increase at 3 months and 6 months. She will be working 20 hours/week along with her current job. Planned hours in the office include Monday, 9-5; Wednesday, 9-1; Friday 9-5. (Marci reported later that she will be able to work 9-2 on Wednesdays).

**New Business:**

- A. Annual Meeting Agenda – Items that will be included on the agenda are:
- a. Splitting Board of Life/Growth and Stewardship back into 2 boards.
  - b. Continuing resolutions for 2021
    - i. Constitution Revision (2020 carryover)
    - ii. Membership (2020 carryover)
    - iii. Strategic Planning 2021
- B. 2021 Ballot was reviewed – still looking for a candidate for Vice President and need additional 2-3 candidates for the Board of Life and Growth.

- C. Synod Benevolence – Mike recommended that we send money to the Synod. Scott moved that we send \$5000 to the Synod, Cindy seconded the motion. All approved.
- D. Mike noted that no payments have been made to the Cemetery Fund toward loan for Heating/AC project. Current Building Fund is \$5,271.36 and Sondra noted an additional \$5,000 was recently added to this fund since the balance sheet reviewed tonight was printed. Mike moved that \$10,000 from the Building Fund (previously Htg/AC Project) and \$5000 from the general fund (total of \$15,000) be paid back toward loan from the Cemetery Fund, Sondra seconded the motion. All approved.
- E. New Members: none
- F. New members: None
- G. Transfers: None
- H. Visitor Comments/Questions – None
- I. Next Meeting Thursday, January 14, 2021 at 6:30 pm. Executive Council will meet at 5:30 pm.

Sondra moved that we adjourn, Heather seconded the motion. All approved, meeting adjourned.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Cindy Haugsdal