**Salem Lutheran Church**

**Council Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2018**

*Council Mission Statement: “We exist, with God’s help, to provide leadership for the Salem Lutheran Church congregation.”*

The regular meeting of the Salem Lutheran Church Council was called to order at 6:00 p.m. on March 15, 2018 at Salem Lutheran Church, by Vice President Di Hein.

## Present: Randy Holmvig, Mark Carlson, Di Hein, Meriellen Pisarek, Pastor Mike Briggs, Kris Schmidt, Sherri Godfrey, Terry Tichenor. Also Present: John and Elaine Greene Absent: Ken Stebbins, John Wojciak

**Opening Prayer** was led by Pastor Mike

**Congregational Input**: John and Elaine Greene were present and voiced their concern about the benevolence.

**Book Study** –“A Field Guide for the Missional Congregation” – Chapter 3.

## Additions to Agenda:

## Discussion was held regarding the need for expanded floor space at the Mustard Seed. A motion that the council approve the general idea of expanding the foot print of the Mustard Seed knowing that the funding for the expansion will be 100% from the Outreach funds and the final approval of Council to be when the costs have been determined was seconded. Motion carried.

## Approval of Minutes:

## A motion to approve the minutes from the Council meeting on February 17, 2018 was seconded. Motion carried.

## Treasurer’s Report:

## Utilities ran more in February due to the weather.

## 7205 Maintenance and 7220 Building Repairs are negative. Money was donated to cover some of those expenses.

* Motion to move the following dedicated funds: 2230 Sanctuary Rock Wall to 2215 Memorial Garden and move 2337 Mother Daughter Banquet to 2338 Women’s Christmas Dinner seconded. Motion carried.
* Motion to accept the February 2018 financial report was seconded. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report:**

* Charlie and John Frahm will receive 1st communion on Maundy Thursday.
* March 11th we will hear from Michele Plagman, one of 2 mission interpreters in the NE-MN Synod.
* March 18th we will hear about Crow Wing County Habitat for Humanity and the Deerwood build.
* Rev. Linda Johnson-Seyenkulo, the missionary we support, will be at Salem on Sunday July 1st to tell us about her work in Liberia.
* Council volunteers are needed to help cook and serve supper at the Brainerd Soup Kitchen on Tuesday April 10th from about 4-8 p.m. Typically serve between 50 and 60 people.

**Staff Reports – Deacon Greg:**

* Mustard Seed computer change over, to comply with the mandate of the new “chip technology as well as upgrading to a new version of Quickbooks, has had many issues. Deerwood Technology has been responsive and great to work with, and it appears the struggles are coming to an end.
* Sales have been strong at the Mustard Seed despite the lack of donations. Outreach has been working hard to get the word out that they need donations and it seems to be working.
* Salem West has had a strong volunteer staff all winter. Despite the seasonal travel, they have been able to fulfill all their duties of this ministry.
* Salem West has been working on Summerfest and are accepting and storing large donations.

**Committee Reports:**

* **Praise and Worship Committee**:
  + Barb Schiffler will be taking over the alter guild position.
  + 5-year plan, their two experiments: 1) Change in the Lenten services this year; 2) Music coordination with the gospel message.
* **Outreach**:
  + The Initiative Foundation shared their investment programs for what we could do with our new donation that will be liquidated sometime the summer of 2018. The presentation explained how endowments work and the options. Outreach is hoping to hear from a few other investment groups.
  + Deb Selk is doing great and she is back to work after her injury.
  + Salem West had 77 referrals in January and 70 referrals in February.
  + The Casino has donated 200 dressers for Salem West’s use.
  + No meeting in March for Social Outreach as many board members will be gone. Next meeting will be April 11th.
* **Faith Formation:**
  + Discussed the Children/Youth Faith Formation Coordinator Position and discussed creating a priority list for the new Faith Formation Coordinator.
  + VBS is still in the planning stages. Dates for VBS are June 11th – 15th.
  + Pastor Mike introduced a summer program for youth in grades 6 – 9, called Summer Stretch. First Lutheran of Aitkin Youth are doing this program and have invited our youth to participate with them.
  + The youth attending the gathering in Houston will be riding on the bus with First Lutheran Youth.

**Unfinished Business:**

* Update on Faith Formation Coordinator position:
  + Motion to hire Witney Cragun to fill the Children/Youth Faith Formation Coordinator Position seconded. Motion carried.
  + Discussion held regarding her start date. Consensus was to have her start as soon as possible.
* Update on date for council to meet with Renae Shields:
  + Meeting set for May 17, 2018;
  + Renae Shields is a consultant supportive of our Outreach program;
  + She has asked that we contemplate our history, what guides us, our vision and how are we hoping to make a positive impact in our community.
* Nuts & Bolts Workshop on March 17th at Zion Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids:
  + Attending will be Pastor Mike, Di Heins, Meriellen Pisarek and possibly Whitney Cragun.

**New Business:**

* Update Security Protocol: A subcommittee to work on updating the security protocols was created and consists of Ken Stebbins, Debbi Carlson, Kris Schmidt and Pastor Mike.
* Kathy Schultz gave her resignation as Kitchen Coordinator effective June 1st. Discussion was held regarding this position. Tabled until next month.
* Discussion was held regarding adding a floating holiday to staff holidays. Motion that all employees receive one floating holiday added to their holidays subject to the existing vacation policy seconded. Motion carried.
* Weather Cancellation Policy. Tabled until next month.

**Suggestions, Observations, and Solutions:** None

Adjournment

* Motion to adjourn was seconded. Motion carried.
* The next regular meeting will be on April 19, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at Salem Lutheran Church.
* Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Meriellen Pisarek, Secretary.