

SALEM LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF JULY 18, 2019

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 July 18, 2019.

Present: Pastor Mike, Meriellen Pisarek, Joel Huntley, Terry Tichenor, Jake Frahm, Mark Carlson, John Wojciak, Jeff Mitchell. Absent: Di Hein.

Opening Prayer was led by Pastor Mike.

Congregational Input: None.

Approval of Minutes:

- A motion to approve the minutes from the Council meeting on June 20, 2019, was seconded. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

- Council reviewed the Treasurer's Report for June, 2019. Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was seconded. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held regarding the untimeliness of receiving the treasurer's report prior to the council meeting.

Pastor's Report:

- VBS week was amazing. Somehow the Faith Formation Team put it all together in a month, and it was a great week. There were over 60 kids and over 50 youth and adults involved the week of June 24-28. Thank you to everybody who played a role in that ministry!
- The Aitkin Area Churches "Season of Creation" series for this summer continues on July 21st with Pastor Jordan Gades from 1st Lutheran in Aitkin and on August 25th with Pastor Rebecca Hinz from Bethlehem in Aitkin. I'll give my "Season of Creation" sermon at Salem on July 28th for a total of 4 presentations. This is an experiment, so please share your thoughts and reactions with me and/or the Worship Team.
- 28 men will pursue the elusive walleye, tell big fish stories, and study the apostle Paul during the annual Men's Fishing Retreat at Lake Kabetogema next week. Pray for safe travel, good fellowship, and growth in faith for all of us.

Committee Reports:

- Facilities: Next meeting is August 5th. Facilities will go ahead with the striping of the parking lot.
- Welcome: In the process of writing a couple letters, one to be put in the Welcome bags, who we are, and what we do. They are working on getting a list of property transactions for the last 6 – 9 months and plan to send them a mailing to welcome them to the area and highlights Salem West and all the activities that we do at Salem.

- Worship and Music: No meeting. Kevin mentioned at the last church service that we were very close to having all the money for the organ speakers. We received some donations that Sunday so we are very close.
- Columbarium: Sue Stromberg joined the Committee. They are alternating weeks taking care of the plants. Relative to the bench, the materials will be in on the 25th and Dick Hicks and Ken Stebbins will pick up the materials and install it. So hopefully by the beginning of August it will be complete.
- Outreach: 43 referrals for the month of June. 674 people have been assisted by Salem West so far for the year 2019. Hired Erica as a temp and closed Wednesday and have been able to get ahead and get organized. They have had more volunteers which has been helpful. Discussion was held whether Salem West advertises and solicits for donations. They currently are using Facebook, brochures, and website. Vehicle purchases at Salem West need council approval and ample discussion was held regarding a replacement vehicle and the type of vehicle they are wanting to purchase. This vehicle purchase is already in the budget for Outreach. Motion that Council approve Outreach expenditure for a replacement vehicle up to \$25,000.00 was seconded. Motion carried. Update on construction at Mustard Seed was presented.
- Faith Formation: Biggest priority Faith Formation is facing is the unfulfilled position of the Faith Formation Coordinator. The Committee would like some guidance from Council so that they can start planning fall activities. They also discussed Summerfest activities with stickers, costumes, etc.
- Technology: The technology team had a meeting with Jim from Deerwood Technologies. Discussion was held regarding the computers that need to be either purchased or upgraded to Windows 10 and the need for this to be addressed prior to the Church budget. Also there were several other items discussed, such as the need for better router security. Once we have bids from Deerwood Technologies, these topics will be discussed further.

Unfinished Business:

- Summerfest: Council needs to have 2 people yet sign up for the 2-5 p.m. shift on Saturday in the ice cream booth. Ken Stebbins will do that shift. Di will distribute the list of shifts to Council members.
- Faith Formation direction: A lengthy discussion was held regarding ideas of what to do with the Faith Formation Coordinator position. Some suggestions were hiring an intern from the seminary, possibly team with another church or another organization we could contract. This is very difficult to pull together in a short period of time. John will talk with St. John's Cedarbrook church and Mark will talk with Cascade about whether there is any interest. Work on creating a team to work seriously on this matter consisting of a couple council members and some of the Faith Formation committee members.
- Security team: Greg Reed had good input with questions that should be asked of the security company and suggested discussing this matter with our current security company, Midwest Security. Midwest Security is interested in meeting and discussing the needs of Salem, currently hoping to meet in August. They will send a bid for 6 cameras and installation costs. They recommended hard wire system rather than Wi-Fi.

New Business:

- Parking Lot Striping: The striping is going to happen. The contract with Bank doesn't talk about patching in the parking lot, but the snow removal and 50% of the striping is covered in the contract. Wendy from the Bank stated they are aware that the contract is up in October and she has already sent it to the CEO of the Bank. Anderson Brother's bill was paid in the amount of \$4,139.84 and came out of line 2205 Building Maintenance Reserve.
- One Worship Service: Lengthy discussion was held regarding returning to one service or continue with two services. Reasons people attend one or the other service. Why are there some that wish to have one service, is it the music, the larger size congregation? No decision was made and Council felt it should go back to Praise and Worship Committee for them to research and make a proposal to Council.
- Compensation Working Group. This group worked really well last year and the first meeting last year was in August. The process this year for the budget should go smoothly.
- Renea Shields. Discussion held whether Council would like to meet with her in August. She will be here to meet with Outreach. Possibly have our topic be Faith Formation. Pastor Mike will talk with her and get some available dates.
- American Flag. Discussed the placement of the American Flag in the front or the back of the church. Pastor Mike will do some research and bring this to the next Council meeting to be discussed further.

Suggestions, Observations, and Solutions: None

Announcements: Next council meeting – August 22nd, 2019

Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Meriellen Pisarek, Secretary