**Salem Lutheran Church**

**Council Meeting Minutes from September 22, 2022**

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

MSC = The motion was seconded and carried.

**Present:** Al Schiffler, Paul Tesdahl, Warren Balfany, Terry Tichenor, Don Hales, Mark Boike, Pastor Amanda, Jason Kempthorne, Jena Reed, Renee Voller, Peter MacKay

**Call to Order**

**Opening Prayer by Pastor Amanda**

* Pastor Amanda also talked about point 5 on our Covenant: I will respect everyone I come in contact with. This includes respecting their time, unique gifts and abilities, emotions, thoughts and ideas, email box, and personal space.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Motion:** Approve minutes of the August 25, 2022 Council meeting. **MSC**.

**Motion:** Approve minutes from the Sept. 8, 2022 joint meeting of the Council and OGB. **MSC.**

**Treasurer’s Report**

* Terry Tichenor presented the treasurer’s report.
* Added Building Fund line 4100 to the financial system.
* Added Mortgage/Cap. Appeal line 7240 to the financial system.
* Had positive income again this month.

**Motion:** Approve the August 2022 Financial Reports. **MSC**.

**Pastor Amanda’s Report**

* Time and Talent forms are being collected – good response.
* Nominating team will be convened soon!
* Women’s retreat 14 - 16 Oct. That Sunday we will have a guest Pastor speaking.

**Outreach Report**

* Sept. 27th the Consultant will be here to talk about what works for other non-profits.
* Spray foam is completed!
* Box truck has arrived!
* Referrals doubled due to a different way of doing business – allowing the client to come and pick up their stuff.
* Impact is over $230,000 so far this year!
* October 11th is Volunteer Appreciation Dinner! All Volunteers are invited!!! Council will be involved with serving – a way to show our appreciation!!
* On Nov. 9th there will be a Community Thanksgiving Meal at Noon.

**Committee Reports**

* Columbarium: No update.
* Technology: The old UPS has a new battery and will be put on the Finance computer.
* Capital Appeal: Paul noted there is $78,053.74 in Deerwood Bank as of July 1st. The Capital Appeal pledges that are coming in are not enough to support the additional funds for the mortgage. The Capital Appeal Team recommended decreasing the mortgage payment from $15,408 to $10,000 per month starting in October. They will meet in December to make a recommendation for 2023.

**Motion:** Accept the Capital Appeal Team’s recommendation to move from $15, 408 to $10,000 per month starting in October. **MSC.**

* Facilities/Kitchen: No update. (Facilities & Maintenance person discussed below.)
* Faith Formation/Youth: Renee noted the backpack blessing and Rally Sunday were held. Confirmation is starting.
* Memorial: No update.
* Stewardship: Pastor Amanda noted that we will be putting our pledge cards in the offering plate on Sunday. They are compiling the Time and Talent forms.
* Welcome: New member Sunday will be on October 9th. Orientation classes on Sept. 25th and Oct. 2nd. All are welcome to attend these!
* Worship & Music: Pastor Amanda noted that they went over what has been and what will be. Shakers will be out for fun songs. Also noted that the Thrivent fund paid for the reflective strip on the steps for safety.

**Unfinished Business**

* Reducing the cost of mattress disposal: No update as Zoom connection was lost.
* Update on Salem’s Insurance review: The committee will get the quotes to the Council for the Oct. Meeting. A decision is needed before Dec. 12th as that is when the current insurance policy ends.
* Identifying qualifications for a contract pastor & the financial considerations: Tabled until next meeting as the team is still doing prep work.
* Review of joint Council/OGB meeting: A lot of work to be done.
  + Two families contacted, and fully understand the issues. They were supportive of moving the memorial and asked to be kept up to date with the movement/plan.
  + Getting three appraisals of the Mustard Seed.
  + Will speak with the neighbors to see if there is any interest.
  + Drawing up a plan for the memorial stone at Salem West.
  + Working on construction loan options.
* Update on hiring a Facilities and Maintenance person: Awaiting return of the background check. If all goes well, will offer him the job to start on Monday. Will give the Cleaning service notice.
* Final Summerfest financial report: Some information was missing regarding the donation box. This will be discussed at the October Council Meeting.

**Action:** Terry will check with Ruth to see if any money from the donation box was specified for a specific purpose.

**New Business**

* Health benefits for Pastor Amanda was discussed.

**Motion:** Continue with the Gold Plus Option. **MSC.**

* Designation of the Thanksgiving Offering:

**Motion:** Continue in 2022 with the Thanksgiving offering going to Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry. **MSC.**

* FYI: Pastor Amanda will convene the Nominating Committee soon.
* Review updated parking lot agreement with Deerwood Bank: Paul noted that the agreement has not changed.
* FYI: A misplaced Silent Auction item which was Four Greens Fees at Gold Club near Fifty Lakes, had a final bid of $75.
* Ruth Blum, our financial manager, has announced her leaving the position in December of 2022. We will post a vacancy.
* Our budget process for Oct/Nov is coming up. Receiving first draft soon.

**SOS**

* Some people use strong cologne (both women and men), while others are allergic to it. Pastor Amanda will make an announcement regarding this.
* Some people do not appreciate the type or loudness of the music selections: While not everyone loves everything, we have a blended service.

**Motion:** Continue with our music program the way it is currently. Concerns will be passed to the Music and Worship Team. **MSC.**

**Announcements**

* The next regularly scheduled Exec. Team meeting will be October 18, 2022, at 3:00pm in the conference room.
* The next regularly scheduled Council meeting will be on October 27, 2022, at 5:30pm in the conference room.

**Meeting Adjourned**

**Motion:** To adjourn. **MSC**

* Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Prepared by: Jena Reed