

Salem Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 24, 2023

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: Pastor Amanda, Don Hales, Mark Boike, Lynn Hansen, Peter MacKay, Sherri Godfrey, Al Schiffler, Renee Voller, Tina Royer, Terry Tichenor and Jason Kempthorne.

Absent:

Call to Order

Prayer by Pastor Amanda

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Approve the Agenda for the August Council meeting. **MSC**

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Approve minutes of the July 2023 Council meeting as corrected. **MSC** (Copy of corrected minutes are attached.)

Approval of July Financials:

- Terry presented the financial report as of July. He stated that the benevolences have not been paid for the last few months and he will work with Aimee to get them paid up to date.

Motion: Approve the July 2023 Financial Report as presented. **MSC**

Pastor Amanda's Report

- We welcomed 9 new members to Salem.
Motion: Welcome new members to Salem. **MSC**
- We also had 1 baptism, 2 funerals and 21 pastoral visits.
- Personnel - Dan Quinn, Facilities Coordinator is working fewer hours as his schedule with his full-time employer has changed. We are currently using 4&47 for cleaning and Dan is concentrating on maintenance issues. I have spent time with training for the new Finance Manager, Aimee Watson. I have also hired and trained Jazmine Siliznoff who worked in the office for the summer.
- We are advertising the Office Manager position and will begin interviews the first week of September.
- Fall programming: encouraging volunteers for faith formation ministries, planning Confirmation and Intergenerational event for Reformation Sunday (same as budget presentation day)
- Stewardship letters along with pledge cards will be going out to the congregation. We plan to mail those with the quarterly giving statements.
- Nomination Team has met and is working. They will reconvene in early September.
- Compensation Working Group and Budget meetings are taking place.
- Delegate: review of each financial category for proper allocation of spending
- Delegate: visitation schedule for home communion visitors
- The Women's Retreat in October has no coordinator – unsure if it will happen.

Outreach Report – Jason

- We received our second grant of \$2,000.00 for Lunch Bunch.
- They are coming out to determine the placement of the bailer and it should be installed the end of October.
- Garage sale was down slightly do to lack of advertising and road construction.
- The parking lot is complete and payment will come from Labor Reserve Funds #2802 (21,885.46) and the remainder from operating reserves with the total being \$148,076.00.
- Sales at Mustard Seed continue to increase so it appears that the move has been beneficial. We have great access during the construction of the round a bout so don't expect that to be an issue.
- Kay Bendorf and Cathy Aykens will serve on the Compensation Working Group as the 2 representatives from OGB.
- Our wish list at this time is to replace the suburban and replace washing machines.

- Summerfest – Jason
 - Lack of help, planning and early execution. If we plan to continue Summerfest, we will need people to step up and assist with planning and execution.
 - Jason provided a report with information compiled from Summerfest and ideas for next year.
 - The total income was \$21,915.75 with expenses of \$2,640.43 for a net income of \$19,275.32. There are a couple of items that have not been picked up and paid for so the total may increase slightly.

Old Business

- Don presented the budgeting calendar with the following change being made: September 24th, return pledge cards during worship.
- Rally Sunday is September 10th - Sunday schools starts.
- Parents night out was August 22nd. 8 children attended, some not from Salem. The children made cookies and had a great time. Thank you to Pastor Amanda, the Hales and Godfreys. 2 couples are needed for the 6-8 pm event on November 14th. Announcements to invite will be on Reformation Sunday and at Trunks for Treats.
- Compensation Working Group will meet after Labor Day.
- Offering Counters – Don brought up what the Council discussed and moved on at the July Council meeting. It was also brought up that historically, Salem practiced the concept that the church minister should not know who is giving and how much. But we acted on the motion without hearing Pastor Amanda’s perspective. She stated that she doesn’t need to be involved in counting offering, but it is important that she is aware of who is giving and individual giving patterns so that she can respond to gifts and/or deviations from the evangelical and caring view.

New Business:

- Review membership - Went through the church directory and Pastor Amanda identified those she doesn’t recognize or hasn’t met. Asked Council members to help her by introducing them while at church or talking/calling them to encourage them back to church. If in-person doesn’t work, then the next best thing is an email or text.

Committee Reports

- Capital Appeal – Lynn: Next meeting is in September.
- Columbarium – Mark: NR, but a panel was sent in for engraving and still waiting on it.
- Facilities – Al: No report
- Faith Formation – Renee: Rally Sunday, September 10th. Will be coordinating an intergenerational activity on October 29th.
- Memorial – Peter: The committee received one application for the \$500 scholarship, and was pleased with the application contents and the student!
- Stewardship – Sherri: Next meeting is September 5th.
- Technology – Terry: No report
- Welcome – Tina: No report
- Worship and Music – Tina: \$1,800 was spent on organ repair, which is a temporary repair. The organ is 33 years old and we are in need of a new one. The committee will bring forth a request to purchase a new one at a cost of about \$30,000.

SOS – There was an email sent to Pastor Amanda with request to share it with the Council. After deliberation and careful consideration of the concerns raised, it was decided that Pastor Amanda will thank the concerned parishioner for sharing their thoughts and views with us.

The next Church Council Meeting is Thursday, September 28th at 5:00 p.m.

The next Executive Team Meeting is Tuesday, September 19th at 3:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned

Motion: Motion to adjourn. **MSC**

Pastor Amanda closed in prayer

Prepared by: Sherri Godfrey (Thank you to Tina Royer for covering the portion of the meeting that I missed due to another obligation.)