

Salem Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 26, 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, Terry Tichenor, Lynn Hansen, Renee Voller, Mark Boike, Al Schiffler, Tina Royer, Peter Mackay and Jason Kempthorne.

Absent: Sherri Godfrey

Call to Order

Prayer by Pastor Amanda

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: to approve the agenda for the October Council meeting. **MS**

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Approve the minutes of the September 2023 Council meeting. **MSC**

Approval of September Financials:

Terry presented the financial report as of September.

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

Pastor Amanda's Report

- * Led Women's Retreat on Bay Lake Island – 19 participants
- o Re-connecting with area clergy 1/month (Immanuel, Assembly of God, LifeSpring, Heartwood chaplain)
- o Training- more supportive per Laura Martin's eval. (only 2 weeks with Debbi)
- o Heartwood Bible Study
- o Kid's club kick-off event and Nov. 8 plan
- o Nomination Team – and clarification of positions open
- o Columbarium Team – reactivating the team and updating policies
- o Continued training of Grace – learning well and doing excellent work

- Reformation Sunday worship plan, games (prepare and set up after funeral)
- New member orientation classes and welcome on 10/29
- Connect with Ellen Uglem and preparing for Lee's funeral on 10/28
- All Saint's Sunday – Nov 5: help setting up candle stations?
- Salem's Photo Directory – photo make-up dates, correcting information (Nov. 2 retakes)
- Thanksgiving Eve Worship with Cascade hosted at Heartwood, Nov. 22 6 pm
- Prayer Buddies – calling adults and matching with Salem's children
- Employee Policies Update – typing final changes to present to new council in December
- Annual meeting preparation – write reports!
- Continuing Education November 13-16 at Holy Wisdom Monastery in Madison, WI – Benedictine spiritual practices and congregational invitation
- Baptism at end of November
- Care Center Worship at 4 locations in Aitkin
- Advent worship planning, Christmas worship services
- 12 days of Christmas – faith formation activities for families
- New Confirmation Class begins January/February

Pastoral Acts At-a-Glance: 0 baptisms, 0 weddings, 0 funerals, 12 pastoral visits

Outreach Report – Jason

- Skid steer arrived and is being put to use.
- Bailer will arrive Nov. 6
- May need to cancel the community Thanksgiving dinner due to health and availability issues of the Kitchen Team

Old Business:

* Church /Budget Presentation – Terry: Discussion and clarification of information.

Motion: To approve the presentation with the changes. **MSC**

- **Motion:** To approve the 2024 budget as prepared. **MSC**
- Nominating Committee – Pastor A sample ballot was distributed with some blank spaces. Pastor Amanda and the Nominating Committee are still calling people to

try to fill the slots on the ballot. Please encourage people to run for Council, Outreach Governing Board and VLM delegates.

- Parents Night Off 11/14 6 to 8 PM Tina and Rad Royer, Lynn Hansen and Warren Balfany. We are seeking volunteers for a Saturday morning in December.
- Fall Clean-up 10/28 8AM to noon

New Business:

- Annual Meeting 11/12
- November Council Meeting, election of officers and potluck dinner 6:30 PM 11/21
- Columbarium – **Motion:** To approve updated policies and increased costs as presented. **MSC**

a. No more than two urns shall be placed in any double niche: or more than one in a single niche. The fee for a double niche is \$2000 and the fee for a single niche is \$1000. There shall be no additional charge for the urn, which will be supplied by Salem Lutheran Church. The fee shall be uniform regardless of the location of the niche. The church will determine the location of the niche based on the order in which the payment is received and preferred location, if any, specified by the applicant. Salem Lutheran Church shall attempt to honor application requests for contiguous niches, provided that all fees for such niches are paid in full.

- Thank you to Terry, Renee, and Al for their service on the council.
- A motion was made to bring the payroll back in house beginning in January, since we have a financial manager here. This will save time and money for our church. **MSC.**
- **SOS** - The topic of the SOS was discussed, and Don will get back to the person regarding concerns and the need to respect confidentiality.

Committee Reports

- Capital Appeal – Lynn: The team will meet on January 23, 2024, to look at pledges and end of year giving to determine if the mortgage payments will continue at \$9000 per month. The next regular meeting will be April 9, 2024.
- Columbarium – Mark: Was covered in New Business.
- Facilities – Al: Church cleanup on Saturday. Lighting changes are being done.
- Faith Formation – Renee: Instead of a Sunday School Christmas program, the students will participate in the service. Confirmation classes will begin again this winter because of small numbers and difficulty scheduling. There will not be a Nov. meeting.

- Memorial Committee – Peter: The Women's Retreat received \$650.
- Stewardship – Pastor Amanda: In January, focus will be on sharing time & talents, resources throughout the year. Consider sharing monthly or quarterly statements showing how the budget is doing.
- Technology – Terry: No report
- Welcome – Tina: Six new members (2 couples and 2 singles) will be welcomed on Oct. 29. Activity is being planned for winter.
- Worship and Music – Tina: No report

Next Church Council Meeting is Tuesday, November 21st at 6:30 PM with a potluck to welcome new members.

Meeting Adjourned

Motion: Motion to adjourn. **MSC**

Pastor Amanda closed in prayer

Prepared by Lynn Hansen