

Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

December 28, 2023, 6:30 pm

We exist with God's help, to provide leadership for the Salem Lutheran Church Congregation.

MSC=The motion was seconded and carried.

- Call to Order
Members present: Pastor Amanda Kempthorne, Mark Boike, Lynn Hansen, Jason Kempthorne, Sherri Godfrey, Sylvia Hoge, Nathan VanRisseghem, Tina Royer, Don Hales
Members absent: Peter MacKay, Julie Fritz

- Opening Devotion and Prayer by Pastor Amanda
- SOS Announcement
- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes:
 - Motion to approve minutes of November 2023, Council meeting as corrected. MSC
- Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve November 2023 Treasurer's Report. MSC.
- Pastor's Report: Present and future actions and responsibilities.
 - Christmas Eve worship- 9am, 45 attd. 3pm, 145 attd. 5pm, 112 attd.
 - Epiphany Celebration- January 7 activities and home blessing
 - Annual Report- Committees need to submit reports
 - Lent planning- Ash Wednesday is February 14
 - Vacation- January 29-February 1. Guest preacher will conduct service.
 - Pastoral Acts At-A-Glance: 1 baptism, 0 weddings, 1 funeral, 17 pastoral visits.
- Outreach Report:
 - Salem West has assisted over 500 referrals from various social service agencies, serving 1057 individuals (431 families), and totaling at least 15,000 volunteer hours. The Outreach Impact Report is posted on a bulletin board by the Social Hall. If Salem West volunteer hours and donations were paid ministries, calculations would put them at \$754,592.00.
 - Dressers were recently purchased.
 - Summer store hours will commence in May, with Saturday hours in consideration.

Old Business

- Review Membership
 - Completed in November
- Parent's Night Out
 - 12.16 review- 11 children. 6 members, 5 community
 - Next date? This is an event that congregation members can participate in, so we will put the word out.
- Summerfest Funds Distribution
 - \$9,590.64 to church budget, remainder to Outreach. MSC
- Summerfest
 - Deerwood City Council has canceled it for 2024. Discussion on this will be held at January 6 retreat. Results of discussion will be put in Monthly Connections to inform congregation.
- Audit
 - Still to be completed and must be done! Internal audit first? No. Hire firm for late summer, early fall. Have Aimee make calls to see who's willing/available and procure bids. Mark will work with her on this important issue.

New Business:

- Approval of Employee Policies. MSC
 - Appropriate policy will be shared with every Salem employee.
- Preparation for January 6th Council Retreat
 - Saturday, January 6 from 9am to 2pm. Soups provided. Members bring sides and desserts.
 - Pastor Amanda distributed a Questions for Reflection form to all to examine personal expectations as a council member. Discussion will follow at retreat.
 - Majority of time will be spent on examining and defining Salem's Strengths, Opportunities, Barriers, especially in light of the 35 surveys returned by the congregation.
- Discussion: Old blue van that OGB will sell
 - 2012 Dodge Van. What to do with it? Decided to sell/trade-in on a new vehicle.
- Approval & Acceptance of the dissolved Trust to be deposited into Trust at Initiative Foundation
 - The Schwanke Trust has been dissolved, with approximately \$400,000.00 in it. A current trustee is looking into investing it in the Initiative Foundation. Salem can then use the interest accrued towards church needs. MSC: The Schwanke Trust to be given to the Salem congregation will, in turn, put those funds in the Initiative Foundation. Interest accrued will be used towards church needs.
- The Annual Planning Calendar, 2024 was distributed.

- Committee Reports:
 - Capital Appeal – Lynn Hansen. Meeting on January 23, 2024. Will determine monthly mortgage payments for 2024.
 - Columbarium – Don Hales. NR
 - Facilities – Nate VanRisseghem. Meetings after service on Sundays. Concern as to when a water softener will be installed.
 - Faith Formation – Sylvia Hoge. Met December 5th. Renee V. will handle the bulletin board. January 7-May ? is Sunday School. Looking for VBS ideas. Kid's Klub begins January 10, 2024. Next meeting-January 2.
 - Memorial – Peter MacKay. Currently reviewing by-laws.
 - Stewardship – Lynn Hansen. Met on December 14. Updating Time & Talent forms. Looking for ways to offer a visual of how members give beyond their money and keeping the congregation informed. Pledge updates will be shared in the bulletin.
 - Technology – Julie Fritz. NR
 - Welcome – Tina Royer. Next meeting is January 31st at 2pm.
 - Worship and Music – Julie Fritz. Planning January 7th Epiphany celebration-Story of the Magi. A party is planned for after the service; to include star cookies!
 - Outreach – Sherri Godfrey/Jason Kempthorne.
 - 2024 Goals: 1). Replace Suburban & Trailers, 2). Expand space vs reconfigure current space, 3). Hire staff. Clothing volunteers are aging out, and unable to keep up with the demands of quick product turnover. This is now a \$100,000.00 business. 4). Replace front and side doors.
- SOS – Request made that during winter months members refrain from shaking hands during Sharing God's Peace. Announcement will be put in bulletin.
- Announcements: Council Retreat January 6th. 9am-2pm.
 - Council meeting- January 25 at 6:30pm.
 - Executive Board meeting- January 16 at 3:00pm.

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:25pm. MSC

Close in the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Royer