Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2024, 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: 6:35pm by President Mark Boike

Members present: Pastor Amanda Kempthorne, Mark Boike, Lynn Hansen, Jason

Kempthorne, Sherri Godfrey, Sylvia Hoge, Peter MacKay, Via Zoom: Julie Fritz

Members absent: Nathan VanRisseghem, Don Hales, Tina Royer

* Opening Devotion and Prayer by Pastor Amanda
* SOS Announcement: None
* Approval of February 22 Agenda: Motion made; MSC
* Approval of Minutes:
  + Motion to approve minutes of January 25, 2023, Council meeting minutes and attachment with date change from January 26 to January 25. Motion made: MSC
* Treasurer's Report:
  + Operating funds report- reports cash in and out and doesn’t include in-kind donations. In-kind donations will be removed from this report.
  + Discussion on current month report, which is balanced, therefore reserves are automatically added. This group would rather see the report without the reserves added.
  + Building supplies and service- the church’s cleaning fees are listed here even though some is payroll.
  + Memorial fund- VBS may be asking for money from this fund.
  + Line 2360 of the SLC-SO Dedicated Accounts - Balance Sheet: rental deposit money will be moved to the general fund

o Motion to approve January 2024 Treasurer’s Report. Motion made: MSC.

* Pastor’s report
  + Compiling 2023 reports from committees and will be printing them within the next two weeks.
  + Servant Keeper fixed 2/15, importing information, resuming Photo Directory. Getting quotes on printing 180 copies from several printers. Can use money from the special gifts fund.
  + Covid and other illnesses are high. Increased stress on the sick and their caregivers. Keep them in your prayers.
  + Lent has begun! Wednesday worship rotation at noon and in evening
  + Synod Conference meeting 2/25, prepare for Synod Assembly
  + Visiting homebound members with more frequency
  + Incorporation of Strategic Planning goals into weekly work
    - 1. Increase church visibility in community
      * a. Worship at CRMC, 2 Bible study at Heartwood, Ash Wed at Heartwood
    - 2. Engage individuals in ministry needs
      * a. Preparing women’s Bible study leader
      * b. Spiritual Gift / Stewardship plan – visual giving of time event
    - 3. Improve music participation and quality
      * a. Goal shared at the worship and music meeting 2/6
    - 10. Develop creative worship experiences
      * a. Special worship services (MNTC, Lent, Easter worship)
  + Pre-marriage preparation for wedding Oct 5
  + Yearly Reports to the Bishop and to ELCA
* Outreach report:
  + Jake will be attending the SMCO Thrift National Training Conference in Knoxville Tn. 3-day conference. Topics include Importance of capturing donations, sorting and pricing concepts, metrics, merchandising, team services, wholesale, and transport. Also thrift store tours will look at different backroom sorting and processing techniques.
  + Completed meetings with all employees regarding updated employee policies.
  + Updated cashier & merchandiser handbooks.
  + Discussed having a monthly Clothing Team meeting with our new clothing staff. One has been completed.
  + Will need to stop bake sales at Mustard Seed. May need a food license to have them.
  + Volunteer Hours last month: 2,074. January Mustard Seed Sales: $27.500. 1500 customers. 75 referrals, 55 completed orders, 120 people served. 33 client deliveries. $37,000 in goods given out. Total impact: $108,000.

Old Business

* Summerfest: Alternative ideas for fundraising:
  + Hold something at Salem West during Crosby Heritage Days
  + Battle of the Bands with Raffle(s) and Dinner
  + Event 2x/yr. that includes dinner and various types of raffles.
    - Summer block party- spaghetti and band in parking lot. Legion provides beer.
    - Fall, meatball, gravy, and dessert dinner.
    - Possible Christmas dinner with piano. Valentine’s Dinner with childcare.
  + Decision: Saturday July 20, Spaghetti Dinner Event in parking lot – Need to ask congregation for volunteers and will set a meeting in March to discuss plans. Jason, Sylvia, Julie are interested in helping.
* Retreat’s Strategic Plan next step: Executive committee set measurable goals which will be tracked in a working document over the next 5 years. Color Red: goal not met. Color Yellow: goal in process. Color Green: goal met. Each year, the council will continue to use this consistent document. See attached document.
  + Motion to incorporate strategic plan into action: MSC
* Audit- Mark will continue to look for an auditor. $5000 in legal budget to use.

New Business

* Lent Offering Designation: Motion to give half the donations to the Cuyuna Range Food Shelf and the other half to Lutheran World Relief: MSC
* Donor Thank You- Policy Approval- Amanda will work on this policy for the next meeting.
* **\*March meeting will be Tuesday March 26 at 6:30pm.\*** instead of March 28.
* Quarter 1 Listening Session with the Church Council will be Sunday April 7 after worship. Topics: Strategic plan, summer fundraiser, mortgage, general financial YTD.
* Volunteer Appreciation Dinner- April 23rd or 27th. Sherri will talk to Kathy Sharp and pick a date. Council members are encouraged to attend and help serve. Volunteer dinner includes all church and outreach volunteers.

Committee Reports

* Capital Appeal- Lynn: Next meeting April 9
* Columbarium- Don NR
* Facilities- Sherri: There is a bid on a water softener for the kitchen. When we get a water softener, we will be able to buy a new coffeemaker. LED bulbs: Looking for solution for better lighting with the bulbs.
* Faith Formation- Sylvia: VBS will be Monday -Thursday July15-18. Sunday school is going well.
* Memorial- Peter: Next meeting they will discuss using funds for a new AED. The committee would like to know if they can put some of their funds into a CD.
  + Motion: If the Memorial Committee policies/rules allow, the committee can transfer funds up to $35,000 into a CD (Certificate of Deposit) for a period not to exceed one year: MSC
* Stewardship- Lynn: June 23-July 21 will be a visual giving of time event. Coins collected will buy food for the little food pantry. The Time and Talent form is being updated and will be presented in August.
* Technology- Julie NR
* Welcome- Tina NR
* Worship and Music- Julie: Thrivent funds will buy Cantata for this year. Staff were given strategic plan goals for music.
* Outreach- Sherri: Pancake breakfast March10. Need volunteers. There will be a prize for a 1st place pancake flipper.

Announcements: Sherri and Kathy will be going to St. Cloud in May for their food manager license renewal.

Adjourn: Motion made: MSC 8:25pm

Closing Prayer: Lord’s prayer led by Pastor Amanda

Respectfully submitted by Julie Fritz