Salem Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 24, 2025

We exist with God’s help, to provide Leadership for Salem Lutheran Church.

MSC=The motion was seconded and carried.

Call to Order

Members Present: Pastor Amanda Kempthorne, Mark Boike, Lynn Hansen, Sherri Godfrey, Don Hales, Nate Van Risseghem, Sylvia Hoge, Tina Royer, Julie Fritz, Alan Niemann

Opening Prayer: Pastor Amanda

SOS announcement: None

Approval of the Agenda: Additions to new business: 1. gift card for synod assembly

2. Listening Sessions

Motion to approve the April 24 agenda with additions, MSC

Discussion questions for Chapter 3 of Unlocking Your Church’s Invite Culture

(not more than 15 min.)

* The group was surprised that 75% of people go to church because of the sermon, 30% because of music- seems like people would say friends or go with their lifestyle.
* Wondered how we can extend to community- ? use Facebook or our sign - before message is given weekly or reflection after message is given.

Approval of minutes:

Motion to approve March 27, 2025, meeting minutes. MSC

Approval of Financials:

Motion to approve the March 2025 financial report. MSC

Pastor’s Report – Pastor Amanda:

* Special Worship for sharing Honduras Stories (Apr 27)
* Confirmation final 4 weeks
* End of term celebrations for Confirmation and Kids Club (and Sunday school)
* Preparing for experiment: alternating worship styles beginning June 1
* Summer Worship plans, outdoor worship on 5th Sundays?
* Synod Assembly, May 3-4, registration is complete

Outreach Report – Julie reported that the Outreach governing board voted to send $500

to the Cuyuna Range Farmer’s Market for the Power of Produce program which gives children $2 tokens to spend at each farmer’s market. At the $500 sponsor level, Salem Lutheran Church receives visual advertising as a sponsor and are asked to have a table at 1 of the markets during the year. The advertising will be under Salem Lutheran Church- but we can advertise the church and outreach programs at the table on the day we decide to attend.

Other outreach information can be found in their April 22, 2025, minutes

Committee Reports

* Capital Appeal – Sherri – no report
* Columbarium - Don Alan- meet in May
* Facilities – Nate- Furnace: After investigating the best option for the furnace, the conclusion is that it will be best to change out parts instead of buying a whole new furnace. May 3 is clean-up day at 8 am.
* Faith Formation – Sylvia Dates for VBS July 14-17. We will partner with Immanual again. We will provide training events at Immanual to increase leadership there.
* Memorial – Don
* Spiritual Gifts – Alan- Alan is reviewing past material as a new member
* Technology – Julie no report
* Welcome – Tina- Currently, 4 households want to join. Will look at dates for new member orientation soon.
* Worship and Music – Sherri- Holy week prep. Synod assembly – will watch Bishop’s sermon May 3. Planning on June 29 for outdoor worship.

Unfinished Business:

* Furnace quotes: Motion to replace parts of the furnace rather than buy a whole new furnace, at not more than $7000. Take money from account 2205. MSC
* Volunteer Appreciation Dinner: Kathi and Sherri can do it Tuesday May 20. 5pm gather, 5:30pm Dinner. Set up at 4pm. Need to know number of attending by May 12. Council Members and Outreach will be present to serve and thank all volunteers.
* Home Communion: Pastor Amanda will ask who would like to be visitors in the May Newsletter. She has several people on the list who could be visited and will confirm with them their interest. Will ask members if they have family or friends who would also like to be visited
* Honduras re-cap: Don discussed all the things we as a church provided.
	+ Home of Blessing: Dennis’s new legs, new stove, food in their freezer
	+ Central American Ministry Outreach: 5 houses built (1 house was paid for by the Alaska church)
	+ Kids Ark International: 200 kids attended camp. Bracelets made by church kids
	+ Freedom House: 20 handmade quilts
* Thrivent Dollars: For several years, there has been a small committee that has worked with the Thrivent dollars given to the church and has decided where these dollars should be spent (probably originally through the Council). Thrivent rules state that the Church council needs to vote on where the money is spent. Therefore, the small committee can continue to meet and offer options which will be brought to the Council once a year for a vote. May ask if others are interested in joining the committee for the once-a-year discussion.

New Business:

* Parents Night Off: Need RSVP deadline. Tina Royer volunteered to plan this on the last week in May or first week in June. She will find someone to help.
* End of year plans for Sunday School- 5/18.- party- snack and treats
* End of year plans for Confirmation-5/21 6pm- and last kids club- need help

grilling. Don volunteered to help grill. Pastor Amanda may need more assistance as she plans.

* Memorial Day Service 5/25 Flags will be placed in the front of the church.
* Lunch Bunch: Will use money from another grant that has been freed up for Lunch Bunch
* At the Synod Assembly the weekend of May 2, there will be an Emmaus Fund Fundraiser (*supports leadership development, youth and young adult engagement, and congregational outreach by providing micro-grants for new ministry programs and opportunities)* Pastor Amanda said that several churches are providing restaurant gift cards from their town for the silent auction. She asked if the Council would like to participate.
	+ Motion to take $25 from account number 7505 to purchase a gift card from the Deerstand for the Synod Assembly Emmaus Fund Fundraiser. MSC
* Listening Session: We need to do one every quarter. Next one will be May 18.

Announcements:

Executive Team Meeting: May 13 3p-4p Next Council Meeting: May 22 6:30pm

A motion was made to adjourn at 8:00pm.

Closed in Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Fritz