

Faith Lutheran Church – Council Minutes

Tuesday, April 21, 2020

In attendance via Zoom: Penny Stuber, John Olsen, Gail Telecky, Carl Horton, Kathy Silvernale, Marlys Miller, Maria Weikle, Andrew Weckwerth, Monica Wehler, Katie Brecht, Dan Moe, Niki Pokornowski, Marsha Schmit, Sara Wegner, Jeff Amundson, Pastor Scott, Pastor Dave, Pastor Paulus, Pastor Paul, Wendy Magruder, Kristen Matthews, Will Holt, Laura Weikle, and Bob Kreie

Call to order by President Bob Kreie at 7:33 p.m.

Opening Devotion by Monica Wehler

Secretary's Report: Action – M/S/P to approve the minutes as presented.

Treasurers Report: Offerings have been higher than expected, even up a little bit from 2019, though not quite meeting expenses. The checking account balance is down about \$17,000 from the beginning of the year. The mortgage is down to approximately \$364,000 (11% of the original balance). A lot of pledges to Upon this Rock have been completed, so giving to this campaign is down. Simply Giving is up a little, including from non-members finding us online and giving one time gifts. **Action – M/S/P** to approve the Treasurer's report.

Pastor/Staff Reports: Open to questions or comments from the report that was sent out. Discussion about calls to members and lots of thanks to the staff.

Ministry Team Reports:

Management Team:

- a) Looking at shingling the garage this summer
- b) Elevator repair has two options at this point: 1) one last repair for which we are awaiting an estimate or 2) replace the whole thing at a cost of about \$40,000.
- c) The wood trim on the bell tower needs to be painted.
- d) So far, the church has continued to make our regular benevolence payments.

Worship:

- a) Rejected a request from Pr. Dave to do a survey on current online offerings
- b) No planning for outdoor services yet as things are too up in the air as to what we will be able to do

Children, Youth and Family:

- a) Appreciation was expressed to Laura and Kristen for how they are connecting with youth.
- b) No Faith Family Fun plans for May at this time. We would like to do something extra special when we can finally be together again.

Church in the World:

- a) Postponed the May 12 Foster Parent event
- b) Postponed a backpack food-packing event at Common Cup Ministries.

Congregational Life:

- a) Food shelf drive continues through the end of the month when Niki and Marsha will deliver food
- b) Team is doing some online research of what other churches are doing to gather ideas for Faith
- c) May 24 picnic in the park or parking lot with BYOB(average) event

Discipleship Team:

- a) Discussed a survey on Faith's online offerings, Gail and Mark will do some playing around with options
- b) Community Meal in June – would like to do the usual picnic event, either with social distancing on tables outside or just as a take-out meal.
- c) Talked about how to continue to engage congregational members and what virtual offerings could be helpful to continue as pandemic ends.

Old Business:

- 1) Congregational/community care during the pandemic – what we are and should be doing
 - a. Evaluating online offerings
 - b. Caring for our Faith community and beyond – phone calls to members have found folks are doing well and even organically reaching out and helping one another
 - c. Talked a bit about the article on not administering Holy Communion during the pandemic.
 - d. Talked about continuing livestream broadcasts after people are able to gather again for those not comfortable or able to come to church yet for a while
- 2) Update on “The Rock”: A large rock has been placed on the east side of the building as part of the 150th Anniversary Celebration, but it may not be possible to engrave it as was originally planned.
- 3) Other
 - a. Marsha reported she was laid off from ILT, so her hours are now reduced to 30 per week. Bob Kreie noted that the Management team had discussed various options going forward.
 - b. Kristen mentioned that the Mission Trip through YouthWorks has been changed from one large trip to two smaller ones. It’s possible they may be cancelled, so plan C is to look at local mission opportunities

New Business:

- 1) Proposed maintenance projects, discussed during Management team update. May 16 is set for a St. Morten’s cemetery clean-up day.
- 2) Should the congregation appeal to members who received government stimulus money, but do not need it? It was suggested that we could encourage members to dedicate some of this money to missions. How do we present this to the congregation as an “opportunity”?
- 3) Other: Note that this year Memorial Day is early (May 24) and we hope to be able to begin outdoor worship that weekend with plenty of room for “social distance” outside.

Correspondence:

Thank you letters from NHMS, Camp Penuel, Sola Publishing were shared with the council.

Closing Prayer by Pr. Dave

Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 19 beginning at 6:00 p.m.

Devotions for next month: Andrew Weckwerth