

American Lutheran Church

Budget Hearing

January 10, 2021

Council President Maureen Even called the meeting to order electronically on Zoom at 10:01 a.m. Council members present on Zoom were Maureen Even, Pastor Kristen Corr Rod, Shirley Bergman, Mike Waring, Loren Corkery, Kaye Jones, Sara Borland, and Sheila Collins. Christa Leach was absent. Congregational members joining were Mary Adams, Barb Hayek, Pat Winblade, Dr. Merritt Jones, and Pastor Tom Jones.

Maureen Even led devotions from Mark 1: 4-11 and a reading from *Christ in Our Home*. She concluded with a prayer.

Maureen Even has provided information to parishioners that includes the 2020 adopted budget, 2020 actual budget, 2021 proposed budget with the Synod approved Pastor's package at Step 11, 50% of Pastor's package at Step 11, and Step 9 and Step 10 of the Pastor's package. She opened the floor for discussion.

Discussion points surrounding the 2020 financial statement were:

1. How the deposits are accounted for on the Shepard's Staff financial software compared to the YTD total deposits report. The software numbers come from the bank statements and the YTD totals are the actual deposits made by the financial secretary. The YTD deposits also include noncash donations to the non-synod benevolence account such as food bank donation items.
2. Explanation of the PPP Loan amount of \$16,984.00 and the insurance payment of \$7,624.95 which will not be part of the 2021 budget.
3. There is some cushion within our budget. The actual budget for 2020 is only 88.1% of the 2020 proposed budget due to the circumstances of this pandemic year and a substantial pay down of the line of credit.
4. Discussion of the building maintenance position (lawn care/snow removal) as a contractual employee vs. a statutory employee.

Shirley Bergman made a motion that the \$50.00 increase to the head organist salary in the proposed budget be removed and the corresponding IRS withholding be corrected. Second by Mike Waring. Motion carried.

Concern was expressed over the budget shortfall that will result without the PPP loan next year. If Zion Lutheran Jubilee is not interested in a contract to share our Pastor, we may have to continue to pursue an agreement with another congregation. Any sharing contract (and any financial savings) would not begin for a few months as details are worked out. Pastor Tom Jones shared information from personal experience in what is involved in Pastor sharing.

Budget hearing conclusion: After the Step 11 Budget has been adjusted for the removal of the head organist's increase with corresponding IRS correction and evaluation of the building maintenance position's method of payment, it will be proposed to the Congregation for approval at the annual meeting. Step 9 and Step 10 of the Synod's Pastor's package will be presented also. If Zion Lutheran

Jubilee has expressed an interest to continue talks on a contract for shared Pastor, 50% of Step 11 Pastor's package will be presented as well.

Sara Borland made a motion to adjourn. Second by Kaye Jones. The Budget Hearing was adjourned at 11:08 a.m. (This motion and all motions made electronically will be ratified when we are able to meet again in person).

Respectfully submitted,

Sheila Collins,

Secretary