

American Lutheran Church

February Council Meeting

February 8, 2021

President Maureen Even called the meeting to order electronically on Zoom at 6:34 p.m. Present on Zoom were Pastor Kristen Corr Rod, Maureen Even, Mike Waring, Christa Leach, Loren Corkery, Shirley Bergman, Beth Stanek, Sue Hoey, and Sheila Collins.

Maureen led devotions from Acts 14: 1-7 and a reading from *Christ in Our Home*. She concluded with a prayer.

Election of President and Vice President – Maureen asked for nominations for President. Sheila Collins nominated Maureen Even. Second by Christa Leach. There were no further nominations. A vote was taken, and Maureen was elected President. Maureen then asked for nominations for Vice President. Mike Waring nominated Shirley Bergman. Second by Christa Leach. Mike moved that nominations cease. A vote was taken, and Shirley Bergman was elected Vice President.

Secretary's Report – Christa Leach made a motion to accept the minutes of the January 11, 2021 council meeting with three corrections. Second by Mike Waring. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – The check book balance at the end of January is \$13,102.66. Expenditures for the month were approximately equal to deposits after accounting for some once per year payments. A motion to accept the Treasurer's Report was made by Christa Leach. Second by Sheila Collins. Motion carried. To pay off the BANKIOWA loan by its maturity date in August we need to make monthly payments of approximately \$650.00 per month if possible. We will make two bimonthly payments of \$325.00 this month and reevaluate at each council meeting hereafter.

### **Committee Reports**

Memorial – Council representative will be Shirley Bergman.

Technology – Council representative will be Pastor Kristen. Work is still being done on the audio and visual upgrades to online worship. Once in place, volunteers will need to be trained to operate the system.

Abundant Life – No report.

Hospitality – No report.

Parish Ed – No report.

Property – There is an ice jam in the southwest corner of the church building. In the spring we may need to see if there is a problem with the rain gutters. Due to below zero temperature predictions, the thermostat in the church basement has been adjusted to make sure the water pipes don't freeze.

Scholarship – The application deadline is March 1.

Worship and Music – We need to determine a safe way to distribute ashes on Ash Wednesday. Lenten services will be online and in person, Covid numbers permitting.

Youth– The next youth gathering will be in 2022.

Pastor's Report – I continue to do a lot of research to try to stay current regarding the case numbers, vaccines, treatments, etc. for the coronavirus pandemic. I'm trying to do better to stay connected with other Lutheran pastors in our synod-- it sounds like many of them are currently doing the same things we are doing-- moving to in-person worship with many precautions while still offering online worship and watching case numbers and test positivity rates closely.

Ash Wednesday will be next Wednesday, Feb 17, and I have been working on creating a spoken version of an evening prayer service that we can use in person for Ash Wednesday and the following 5 Wednesdays. We will also offer online worship.

The technology committee has been trying to test out new possible products for improving online streaming services, but setup has been difficult. We are going to try adding some additional microphones this Sunday to see if we can improve the sound quality before we work on anything else.

### **New Business**

Filling Treasurer Position – Pastor Kristen is trying to find how other churches handle the job to make it less time consuming. Maureen will contact the NEIASynod office to see what is allowed. Shirley will check with United Methodist Church in Jesup to see if their treasurer is a paid position.

Meeting Time for Council Meetings – Council meetings will remain the second Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. on Zoom until it is safer to meet in person.

Financial Paperwork Transition – On hold until March to determine what information is needed by BANKIOWA.

Appoint Audit Committee – Sheila Collins will contact Mary Adams and Dorothy Thompson and set up a time when the three of them can conduct the financial audit.

Zion Lutheran Jubilee – We will wait to discuss plans for Pastor sharing after their next council meeting on February 14.

Window Replacements – The windows under consideration for replacement are the windows in the basement fellowship room, two in the pantry, and one in the west hallway. Previous bids are outdated. Mike Waring will contact Wayne Schneider about getting new bids from Spahn and Rose Lumber Company in Jesup and determining if group vs. individual replacement is a more cost-efficient plan. Shirley Bergman will research stain glass window restoration.

**Old Business** – None.

**Correspondence** – None.

We will wait to make deacon assignments when the new technology is working.

Christa Leach made a motion to adjourn. Second by Mike Waring. Meeting adjourned at 7:57 p.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