

American Lutheran Church

January Council Meeting

January 11, 2021

President Maureen Even called the meeting to order electronically on Zoom at 6:32 p.m. Present on Zoom were Maureen Even, Pastor Kristen Corr Rod, Kaye Jones, Sara Borland, Christa Leach, Shirley Bergman, Loren Corkery, Mike Waring, and Sheila Collins.

Maureen led devotions from Genesis 17: 1-13 followed by a reading from *Christ in Our Home* and concluded with a prayer.

Secretary's Report – Sara Borland made a motion to accept the minutes of the December 14, 2020 council meeting with one correction and the minutes of the January 10, 2021 Budget Hearing as written. Second by Mike Waring. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – The check book balance at the end of December 2020 is \$14,929.93. \$2,395.00 of undesignated memorial funds will be designated to the Technology Committee for upgrades. Sara Borland made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Second by Mike Waring. Motion carried.

Committee Reports

Memorial – Any undesignated funds beyond the sum mentioned above will remain in the account.

Abundant Life – No report.

Hospitality – No report.

Parish Ed – No report.

Property – Water lines need to be run occasionally due to lack of regular use.

Scholarship – No report.

Technology – Sara Borland, Charlie Rod, and Bryan Tonne met recently on Zoom. They have researched the equipment necessary to very much improve our audio and video systems for live streaming worship services. The funding for this project comes from the \$2,395.00 designated gift from the memorial committee. After a Synod grant of \$150.00, the total estimated cost is \$1,985.00. The Switcher Studio App proposed to make this work requires an annual subscription of \$588.00. A free trial is available for fourteen days. If the church WIFI signal is not strong enough, we may need to upgrade our internet service. Sheila Collins made a motion to purchase the proposed equipment for live streaming, pending testing of the necessary App. Second by Christa. Motion carried.

Worship and Music - Joellen Yeager, Mary Adams, and Shirley Bergman are choosing hymns for several weeks ahead and submitting them to Pastor Kristen. More prerecorded hymns with Shirley and Jessica Saunders will be made in case we are unable to return to in-person worship.

Pastor's report – In the last month, there were two graveside services; Mary Jo Sullivan and a member of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Independence; Darlys Schmitt. Pastor was able to have a hospice visit with Doris LeBahn before her passing.

Pastor Kristen is grateful to the Synod office for providing worship services in December which allowed her time to work on the joint Christmas Eve service with United Methodist Church. It was well received.

Pastor Kristen is gathering ideas from other Pastor's on how to safely do Lenten services this year, especially Ash Wednesday. She continues to watch the Covid statistics and new information closely. She is hopeful that all who want to, get vaccinated soon and we will be able to sing together again.

New Business

According to Keith Oltrogge of the NEIA Synod office we are paying all our employees correctly. The 2021 proposed budget has been adjusted to remove the head organist's increase and corresponding IRS withholding. Mike Waring made a motion to approve the 2021 budget and that it be proposed to the Congregation for approval at the annual meeting.

Please get all committee reports to Jessica Saunders, church secretary, by January 16, 2021.

There are currently three candidates to fill two council vacancies. The candidates are Beth Stanek, Dr. Merritt Jones, and Sue Hoey. Shirley Bergman has agreed to be a candidate to fill the remaining two years of the three year term vacated by Dan Kopplin. A candidate for treasurer has not yet been found. On January 24, 2021 we will have in-person worship at 9:00 a.m. and in-person annual meeting at 10:00 a.m. with ZOOM access. Voting at the annual meeting can be done by email, text, or phone for those joining remotely and tallied before the meeting ends. Details of confidential voting and the annual meeting information will be provided prior to the meeting. For this pandemic year, communion will not be a factor in voting member privileges.

There has been some ongoing conversation with the council presidents of ALC and Zion Lutheran Jubilee. Pastor Kristen would like to have some talking points ready to present to the congregation at the annual meeting, including:

1. What sharing a Pastor would mean beyond the financial aspect.
2. Consider what our strengths are.
3. Length of contract.
4. What happens financially if we do not reach a sharing agreement.

Our PPP loan was fully forgiven as of November 16, 2020. We are not currently eligible to qualify for a second PPP loan in 2021.

Old Business

Mike Waring will remove and store the Christmas decorations and Nativity this week.

Correspondence

A Christmas card and appeal was received from EWALU. Lutheran Chaplaincy sent a newsletter. ELCA ministries sent an appeal for donations. A thank-you was received from LSI/Bremwood.

Sara Borland made a motion to adjourn. Second by Kaye Jones. The meeting was adjourned at 8:01 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