

American Lutheran Church

March Council Meeting

March 8, 2021

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

Maureen led devotions from *Lutheran Hour Ministries for Today: A Warning* by Dr. Kari Vo, a reading from Mark 11: 12-14 and 20-21, and concluded with a prayer.

Secretary's Report – Shirley Bergman made a motion to accept the minutes of the February 8, 2021 council meeting as written. Second by Christa Leach. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – The check book balance at the end of February is \$10795.09. Sheila Collins made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Second by Christa Leach. Motion carried. The amount of \$325.00 has been paid this month on the Banklowa line of credit. Determination of making another payment later this month will be based on expenses vs. deposits. The financial paperwork transition for Banklowa will need to be completed when a new treasurer is found.

Committee Reports

Memorial - Contributions have been received in memory of Doris Lebahn.

Abundant Life – No report.

Hospitality – No report.

Parish Ed – No report.

Property – There is no visible damage from the ice jam in the southwest corner of the church building.

Scholarship – No report.

Technology – The committee is focusing on improving the audio for online worship before moving forward with purchase of the Switcher Studio App. Charlie Rod will check on the microphone for the organ and piano. Pastor Kristen will contact Bryan Tonne about the screens not always working.

Worship and Music – Shirley will choose hymns through Easter. Maureen will talk to Wayne Schneider about the need for an usher for the rest of March. Pastor Kristen is researching when we can return to singing in worship. (See Pastor's report). Beth Stanek suggested the confirmation students could possibly record a song for online worship or sing in person in the future as a service project.

Youth – No report.

Pastor's Report - We continue with in-person worship with Covid precautions, as well as livestreaming on Facebook Live. People seem to be responding well to these options. We are still working figuring out the tech to improve the sound for the Livestream; I think we are slowly figuring it out.

Now that vaccines are becoming more available, I am going to call the shut-ins and see if, once they are vaccinated, they might feel comfortable resuming in-person communion visits.

This morning the CDC released new guidelines saying that if people from different households are fully vaccinated, they can safely visit each other without masks. This is exciting news! However, it also says that because so many people still can't get vaccinated, we do need to keep up with Covid precautions in public spaces like churches, where many people from many different households gather. (I know public health experts are still predicting another likely surge from the new, more contagious variants.) So, we still need to wear masks, keep some of the pews blocked off, and have people sanitize their hands. I haven't heard anything yet regarding when singing will be safe, although I did just submit that question to one of the public health podcasts that I listen to regularly; hopefully that team will address that question soon, because I know that a lot of churches are wondering when it will be safe to resume congregational singing.

We are planning to have the Holy Week services in-person (and livestreamed) at the same times we have done in the past-- Palm Sunday (March 28) will be a regular 9am Sunday service, Maundy Thursday will be at 7pm, Good Friday will be at 7pm, and Easter Sunday will be 8am and 10am. Charlie would also like to put together a fully online, fancier YouTube service for Easter Sunday for those who prefer to still be online.

New Business

Kaye Jones and Charlie Rod were elected as delegates to NEIA Synod Assembly last year, but due to the Pandemic no assembly was held. Beth Stanek made a motion to accept Kaye Jones and Charlie Rod as delegates to this year's NEIA Synod Assembly on June 12, 2021. Second by Mike Waring. Motion carried.

As of February 17, 2021, the bid from Spahn and Rose Lumber Company to replace ten windows in the church basement is \$4,608.06 for materials. Wayne Schneider is checking with John Kies for a bid on the labor for installation.

Shirley Bergman checked with Bovard Studio in Fairfield, Iowa about assessing our stained-glass windows. She will discuss the findings with the property committee and let the council know their recommendations.

Beth Stanek suggested a pop can drive through Pop A Top Redemption in Independence, IA to raise funds. A notice will be put in the Lamp.

Audit Committee Report – On February 19, 2021 Mary Adams, Dorothy Thompson, and Sheila Collins conducted an internal audit of the ALC financial books and records following the ELCA audit guide. No material control weaknesses were found. Documentation has been signed by the committee and council President Maureen Even and filed in the church office. Two points of discussion have been addressed by the council: 1. Sunday and special offerings have been handled in dual custody by Mike Waring and either Maureen Even or one other person. 2. Mike Waring will be taking a picture and/or video inventory of the church's fixed assets for insurance purposes.

Zion Lutheran Jubilee wants to schedule a joint council meeting to discuss the agreement for contracted Pastoral ministry. Our council will meet March 14 at 6:00 p.m. on Zoom to come to a consensus on the

NEIA Synod's questions and discussion points for contracted ministry. We will then schedule a joint meeting date and time with Jubilee. After some of the details are worked out, we will ask Pastor Brackett of the Synod to attend a future joint meeting.

The Easter offering designation will remain the same as for Lent; split between EWALU and LSI.

Old Business

Pastor Kristen's research into the Treasurer position among other churches found:

- a. It is common for treasurer tasks to be divided between two people.
- b. Sometimes the church secretary increases hours worked to take on some of the duties.
- c. Some pay an accountant for quarterly or annual tax filings.
- d. Some pay the treasurer as a hired position which is usually still a member of the congregation.

Loren Corkery is developing a list of the treasurer's tasks and what could be shared. Maureen Even will take over handling of the Memorial Fund. We could possibly hire an online payroll company to do payroll.

Correspondence We received a thank-you from the NEIA Synod office stating we met 94.6% of our intent for their fiscal 2020 year.

Deacon Assignments – Deacon assignments will be postponed for now. Mike and Chris Waring will be ushers for April.

Mike Waring made a motion to adjourn. Second by Sue Hoey. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 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