

American Lutheran Church  
October Council Meeting  
October 11, 2021

President Maureen Even called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Present were Pastor Kristen Corr Rod, Maureen Even, Mike Waring, Shirley Bergman, Sue Hoey, Christa Leach, Beth Stanek, Loren Corkery, and Sheila Collins.

Secretary's Report – Mike Waring made a motion to accept the minutes of the September 13, 2021 council meeting. Second by Christa Leach. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – The checking account balance at the end of September was \$13,258.77. This number is inflated this month due to the changeover in payroll services to the CPA. Beth Stanek made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Second by Sheila Collins. Motion carried. Pastor Kristen will call Augsburg Fortress Publishing to change our order on church music to reduce the cost. We will need to have a joint council meeting with Jubilee to discuss Pastor's pay package for next year.

**Committee Reports** Note: Full committee reports are available in a binder outside the church secretary's office.

Abundant Life – No report.

Scholarship – No report.

Memorial – No report.

Hospitality – Once per month there will be a "Donut Sunday" for fellowship. Any birthdays for the month will be celebrated.

Parish Ed – Intergenerational Sunday School completed 42 backpacks for the LWR school kit project. They have also made cards for shut ins. Upcoming plans will focus on preparation for the Christmas program, tentatively set for December 12.

Presidents – No concerns. Councils are working on fair rotation of summer worship hours.

Property – John Kies will begin installing the church basement windows on October 12. Tim Davis will weed and feed the parsonage and church lawn October 12. The parking lot lines have been repainted. The outside announcement board will be updated. The smoke alarm batteries will be changed this fall. The parsonage walk through inspection will be October 17.

Technology – Research on improving the sound system continues. It was noted that the assistive listening devices need to work with any new equipment.

Worship and Music – Hymns will be chosen later this month for November, December, and January. If you have any ideas for contemporary worship services, please let any committee member know (Shirley Bergman, Joellen Yeager, Mary Adams).

Youth – Positive sidewalk chalk messages in town were created during the September 22 gathering. The next gathering will be October 24 with a bonfire and dinner. Plans are being made for an inner-city mission trip to Milwaukee next summer. Fundraising will continue for attendance at the ELCA National Youth Gathering in 2024.

Pastor's Report –

In the last month:

2 home communion visits (Jubilee folks)

2 non-communion visits (Jubilee folks)

1 funeral, Dawn Fratzke, 9/25/2021 at Jubilee

Some people still don't feel comfortable yet receiving visits, but I have been in contact with a few folks about creating a schedule/rotation for the home communion folks from both ALC & Jubilee to make sure that all the folks who want communion visits are able to have them on a fairly regular basis, whether that is from me or from lay people.

I attended the Tri Synodical Fall Conference, which was held over Zoom this year. The topic was Leading in Difficult Times, and we heard speakers talk about using the book of Acts to spark our holy imaginations about what Christian community can look like, and about being non-anxious leaders during anxious times. It was excellent!

I attended a class over Zoom about a book called Canoeing the Mountains-- Leadership in Uncharted Territory. This is part of the Moses Project, a continuing education group I am a part of. We met in person in August and will continue to meet monthly over Zoom to discuss books we are reading together.

I attended a Zoom presentation by Dr. Michael Osterholm, who is an infectious disease expert at the University of MN, about the Covid-19 pandemic and churches.

I attended a board meeting for the Independence Food Pantry. The Pantry currently has extra money due to grants received as part of pandemic relief funds, so we are trying to figure out how we can invest the money while still having access to it if needed. We are considering using some of it to create an endowment fund and are researching options for how to do that.

Confirmation class has started at ALC so that is keeping me busy on Wednesday nights. There are 5 9th graders who will be confirmed on Reformation Day, Oct 31.

The Jesup Ministerial Association is going to work on creating written policies regarding the Jesup Ministerial Fund, which provides assistance for folks in our community. We realized that we didn't have written policies regarding who can receive assistance, how often, how much, or what the assistance can be used for. (We have policies that have been passed along by word of mouth, but we want something written.)

The Ministerial Association also scheduled the annual joint Thanksgiving service. This will be held on Sunday, Nov 21 at 4:30pm at the United Methodist Church. Depending on the Covid numbers at the time, there may or may not be a potluck afterward, and we will try to have an online option for folks who don't feel comfortable attending.

### **New Business**

Sue Hoey made a motion to designate the Thanksgiving offering to Lutheran Services in Iowa. Second by Shirley Bergman. Motion carried.

The executive council will meet with Pastor Kristen for annual review on October 31, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.

### **Old Business**

Calls will be made to get bids for parking lot snow removal this winter.

Shirley Bergman made a motion to accept Katey Niichel, Christy Phillips, and Crystal Lysne as Parish Ed committee members. Second by Mike Waring. Motion carried.

**Correspondence** – none.

### **Deacon Assignments for November**

7 – Mike Waring

Reader: Sheila Collins

14 – Mike Waring

21 – Sue Hoey

28 – Maureen Even

Mike Waring made a motion to adjourn. Second by Christa Leach. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Collins,  
Secretary