

American Lutheran Church  
September Council Meeting  
September 13, 2021

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

Maureen led devotions from Psalm 119:169-176, a reading from *Christ in Our Home*, and concluded with a prayer.

Secretary's Report - Sue Hoey made a motion to accept the minutes of the August 9, 2021 council meeting as written. Second by Shirley Bergman. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report – The checking account balance at the end of August was \$10,604.22. We have begun using the payroll and tax preparation services of Mr. Keith Oltrogge, CPA. Sheila made a motion to accept the Treasurer's report. Second by Sue Hoey. Motion carried.

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

Abundant Life – No report.

Scholarship - No report.

Hospitality - The Hospitality Committee in conjunction with Prayer Chain met to discuss the logistics of celebrating anniversaries and birthdays in connection with the Intergenerational Sunday School. Sunday School will acknowledge the month's birthdays and make "thinking of you" cards. Hospitality will supply donuts and send anniversary cards for specific anniversaries.

Ideas were discussed and plans were started for the creation and training of a visitation team.

Memorial –The committee met to discuss the Memorial policy. The Memorial funds that have been designated for windows will be used to help fund the installation of the church basement windows this fall. Forty-two family members, friends, and parishioners attended our memorial service on August 21 for those who passed away during Covid.

Parish Ed – Plans were made for the new intergenerational Sunday School. Rally Sunday was planned for September 12. Services with lunch to follow will be held in the city park. The Parish Ed schedule was finalized through October 3, 2021. Katey Niichel, Christy Phillips, and Crystal Lysne have agreed to be on the Parish Ed committee and Beth Stanek will join later in the fall.

President's Report – There are currently no issues with the Pastor sharing contract. An attempt is being made to work out a schedule so that one church doesn't have all the summer months starting at 8:30 a.m.

Property – The windows for the church basement will be installed as soon as they arrive. One of the church furnace fan motors was not working. Independence Plumbing and Heating replaced it. Even Quality Works of Waverly was the lowest quote to repaint the parking lot lines for \$400.00.

Mike Waring made a motion to accept the bid from Even Quality Works to repaint the parking lot lines for \$400.00. Second by Sue Hoey. Motion carried.

Technology – To find a solution to the continuing issues with the public address system, the committee is recommending the purchase of a new sound mixer that can be installed and controlled in the back of the sanctuary. The funding could come from the money previously designated for improving live streaming. More research and discussion will be done on the size, cost, and placement of equipment before purchase.

Worship and Music – Hymns are chosen through September 19.

Youth – Lunch in the Park was held August 21, 2021 and raised \$409.00. The grand total for both Lunch in the Park events this summer was \$1,093.00. The next Youth Group meeting is scheduled for September 22 in conjunction with confirmation. In addition to dinner and games, Kristen and Alyssa Hoey will speak on the annual youth conference.

Pastor's Report - Pastor's Report to Jubilee & ALC councils, Sept 12 & 13, 2021

In the last month:

- 2 communion visits, 1 for a Jubilee member and one for an ALC member
- 1 meeting with the Jubilee Conference Pastors
- 2 Synod Council meetings
- 1 meeting of the Jesup Ministerial Association

I coordinated the Food Bank Site Visit for the Jesup Ministerial-- they are supposed to visit every few years to inspect the space we use to store their food, which for us is the St. A's cafeteria. They said that next year they would like us to log the temperatures in the coolers and freezer when we put food in and take it out, and they will be providing us with freezer blankets to put over the food when we pick it up from the Food Bank to make sure it stays cold. Otherwise they said we are doing a great job!

The Jesup Ministerial Association met and talked about what our policies are for helping people who request funds from the Jesup Ministerial Fund. (We help people with gas money, food money, and utility/rent type bills, as well as other things in certain instances.) We decided that we should make sure our policies are written down rather than simply being discussed verbally as they have been in the past. We will work on those in our next meeting.

I was informed this past week that the area hospitals have implemented more strict visitor restrictions because their Covid numbers are getting very high. Pastors are no longer allowed to visit hospitalized members, except for one visit if the member is actively dying. Because of the strain that Covid is currently putting on our hospitals, I think that when we move indoors, we should have a stronger mask policy-- either masks required or masks strongly recommended for everyone (not just the unvaccinated).

The synod has set up a Zoom meeting for congregational leaders to meet with Dr. Michael Osterholm, infectious disease expert at the Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy at the University of Minnesota, so that we can get his recommendations for congregations during this Delta variant surge. That meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 15.

I have a meeting with the Independence Food Pantry Board on Tuesday, September 14.

In a couple of weeks, I will be attending the Tri Synodical Fall Theological Conference. Because of the current Covid surge, the conference will be entirely online via Zoom. The theme is "Leading in Difficult Times."

I have set up a Sunday for the new Bishop, Kevin Jones, to come preach at Zion and ALC-- he will be coming on December 5. The installation service for Bishop Kevin will take place on Saturday, September 25 at 2:00 p.m. and will be in Mason City, and broadcast on the Synod Facebook and YouTube channels.

#### **New Business**

Due to the increase in Covid positive cases we will update our policy to masks being highly recommended for both the vaccinated and unvaccinated. We will also return to use of the prepackaged communion cups. We will continue to monitor the case counts and adjust the policy as necessary.

We need to find someone to do parking lot snow removal this year.

#### **Old Business**

We are still looking for someone to fill the Treasurer position.

**Correspondence** – We received our Second Quarter Mission Support statement from the Northeast Iowa Synod. We have given \$4,897.00, which is 40.74% of our \$12,000.00 goal set at our annual meeting. We also had a \$1,500.00 designated gift to Lutheran Services in Iowa through Northeastern Iowa Synod on the statement as well.

#### **Deacon Assignments for October**

3 – Mike Waring  
10 – Maureen Even  
17 – Mike Waring  
24 – Sue Hoey  
31 – Maureen Even

Mike Waring made a motion to adjourn. Second by Sheila Collins. Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sheila Collins,  
Secretary