



HOLY LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

MINUTES FOR COUNCIL MEETING - **October 20, 2021**

- In attendance: Roger Collins, Laura Flynn, Darryl Harvey, Eric Hermanson, Pastor Brittany Kooi, Jean Roenfeldt, and Amy Schmuck.

Absent: Debbie Anderson, Brian Last, Sheila Rice

- Call to order: Darryl Harvey
- Opening devotion: Amy Schmuck presented “When We Hide” from this quarter’s *Christ in our Home* devotional booklet. She reminded the council that Holy Love has renewed this subscription, and booklets are available in the Narthex.
- Council approved September council minutes, with some spelling corrections. Darryl remaindered representatives to cc Lori at admin@holylovelutheran.org when submitting committee reports.
- Pastor Brittany Kooi presented highlights from her October report:
 - Bishop Gonia approved “pulpit swaps” with her husband Matt.
 - She recently spoke with several former members, after receiving their names from other members concerned about their absence. Pastor didn’t have any profound insights to report, but felt the conversations were valuable. She requested that council and other congregation members continue informing her of individuals who may need pastoral care.
 - Pastor called for honesty and openness in the budget process after repeatedly observing suspicion of budget inflation at the committee level. The disturbing practice reduces transparency, diminishes trust between committees, and doesn’t reflect the shared values of our Christian Community.
 - She highlighted the current budget deficit to reinforce our monthly finance reports, which may not always receive the attention/impact required.
 - Jean reminded the council that the shortfall is not unexpected and has been projected in previous meetings. PPP funds helped sustain us during the pandemic but won’t be continuing, therefore our situation is actually more dire than it appears.
 - Pastor Brittany asked about the need to inform the entire congregation about the deficit. Roger indicated that in years past, he has contributed financial articles to the congregation’s monthly newsletter and offered to restart the practice. Laura encouraged brevity, as readers may miss the critical message if overwhelmed with too many details. Roger mentioned a thermometer graphic previously used as visual tool. The council supported this idea and will pursue other communication efforts.

- Amy Schmuck, Ministry Partner for Worship and Faith Formation, reported on youth programming.
 - She introduced the phrase “Give us a Second” to be used as reminder that confirmation and the high school youth group will gather every 2nd Sunday of Month.
 - Amy thanked the volunteers and families who attended Sunday Funday. She was pleased with the high turnout and was glad to see so many families took time to gather, catch up and have fun.
 - On the worship side, a second recording session for music to be featured in upcoming online worship services was recently held. She encouraged attendees of in-person worship to consider watching the broadcasts and highlighted several contributing ensembles.
 - There will not be a 2021 Thanksgiving or Thanksgiving Eve service this year.
 - Laura asked about adult Sunday School. Pastor Brittany shared her intention to start an evening Bible study via Zoom on Wednesdays in November. It will be different from the Thursday Morning group – both with respect to participants and topics. Pastor Brittany was not aware of any interest Sunday morning classes.

- Old Business
 - Darryl reviewed Worship Protocol. Without changes in the recommendations from public health or synod officials, the council agreed to continue current practices.
 - Darryl called attention to Brian’s report regarding the AC/Furnace in sanctuary, but tabled the issue until Brian is present.

- New Business
 - Council unanimously agreed to support Pastor Brittany’s grant proposal to the synod office to develop a school-break camp for children in the congregation and community.
 - Darryl promoted Holy Love’s 2nd Trunk or Treat event to be held Saturday, Oct. 30.
 - Jean brought up the need to designate a source for Thanksgiving offering and made the motion to continue donating to the ELCA’s world hunger initiative, Pastor 2nd and council approved. The Christmas Eve offering will be addressed at the next meeting.
 - Eric reported 10-12 attendees at Fall Fest. There was less work than usual, as leaves hadn’t fallen, but it was still a protective and enjoyable event.
 - Darryl shared results of the Crop Walk: approximately 10-12 members walked together, despite the absence of an official, designated route. The group raised approximately \$2,000.

- Pastor gave the Closing Blessing

Submitted by, Laura Flynn