

COFFEE WITH COUNCIL

7-26-20

Pr Bill George, Pam Meek, Nancy Cramer, Sara Meyers, Ron Easton, Jim McDonald, Carla Girkin, Ron Schwantes, Phil Gross, Suelyn Olson, Judi Williams, and Joyce Hoover.

Opening prayer was given by Pr Bill.

Pr Bill is working on setting up a bible study over Zoom. Ron E is helping him with the technical part. There is no camera on the church computer but one is being donated and installed.

Thanks to Ron Schwantes for the special music for the online service today. The readings and sermon were delayed today. The person lined up to submit the readings didn't get them to Ron S on time, so Ron recorded them and linked them and the sermon later in the morning.

Pr Bill shared that congregations that have held in person services have had mixed experiences. He has talked to 5 congregations. Attendance has dropped off at some because of an increase in vulnerability since the virus numbers keep increasing. A mixture of recorded music or no music has been used since they aren't able to sing. Like All Saints, they continue to have more hits online than the normal attendance. Some have had outdoor service in a variety of formats, but the heat has ended most of them. The trend of offering in person and online services will continue after the COVID situation is under control. We only want to move forward, not backward. This will help members that have health or transportation issues or during inclement weather.

One question about the online format is how visitors will support the church. Most churches have an online payment option available (a donate button on the website or Facebook using PayPal). We are currently doing ok financially. Members that give by check or cash might be most interested in other options for payment other than mailing their offerings.

Will online services take away from in person services? How do we keep members in touch with each other if they only use online worship?

Let council members or Pr Bill know of any worship ideas/formats that other congregations have used. We will continue to watch what other churches are doing and see if we can glean any ideas and/or come up with a hybrid service format for All Saints. As technology moves ahead, online worship may become more interactive such as an opportunity to read the lessons live. Curbside communion was suggested if it could be part of a service. We would not offer communion by itself without some type of worship.

We all need to learn how to think outside the box and not focus on what we have done in the past. Flexibility and an open mind will help us cross a lot of new experiences. A church stopped offering in person and online services because they felt it was dividing the church and they wanted to keep them unified.

Martin Luther Lutheran Church held outdoor services twice in July. They will hold another one on 8/9/20. Details will be sent to All Saints in an email if any members want to attend. They are asking people to sign up so they can limit the numbers to meet the social distancing requirements.

Brian and Joyce Hoover will be moving to Washington after Joyce retires

Project Comfort met on 7/25 with four members. Marie Benz said the girl scouts will begin meeting at church. All groups that use the church building must have prior approval before they can use the building. Contact the church office or Pam Meek for information.

Thanks to Ron Miller and Paul Blixrud for taking care of the church grounds and mowing equipment.

Prayers were requested for a college/seminary friend of Pr Bill that has cancer.

Meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.