

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Sister Bay
Vestry Meeting, May 17, 2020
MINUTES

Due to the pandemic, the meeting was conducted virtually via the Zoom application. The meeting convened at 1 p.m. with a prayer.

Attendees were: Mother Barb, Betsy Rogers, Carol Ann Osinski, George Hughes, Karen Malzahn, Carol Heil, Pete Thelen, Paul Neuman, Susan Hoffert

Procedural

Agenda approved.

February minutes approved

Rector's report

Given the confusion of individual municipalities having the responsibility for determining whether and how to rescind stay at home orders, the Bishop's Ad Hoc committee has not set a date on when to return to in-Church services and advises each to use common sense and respond to their municipality's orders accordingly. Sister Bay has extended the Stay at Home order through the end of June and the town of Liberty Grove through June 17th. St. Luke's will therefore not have communion or gatherings through June, following Sister Bay's guidelines.

Summer education classes are on hold. Summer camp has moved online and is offered free of charge. The Christ in Crisis class is on hold although there is potential to move it online through Zoom, similarly the book club may use Zoom meetings. Betsy requested any Zoom meetings/classes to be kept on hold until after June 1st, when she will be returning to Door County.

Barb reported that the Church of the Atonement in Fish Creek plans to be closed all summer although they are considering online sermons. The Unitarian Universalist Church in Ephraim will also not be open during the summer.

The CD rollover is due in a few days and we will move forward with that action.

Barb contacted the Diocese in regard to the financial review. A letter to the Churches will be sent the week of May 18 requesting each send in their information by the end of June. Karen indicated that will not be an issue.

Jude Teicher approached Barb with an idea to create a buddy system with locked in residents of Scandia Village. The director is enthusiastic about the idea. It would involve phone calls, cards and other communications between an individual and a St. Luke's Church member. We are still looking into the logistics.

Senior Warden report

Betsy attended a Webinar sponsored by the Episcopal Church Foundation and the James Company, a professional fundraiser. She indicated she would cover this topic in the Stewardship Committee report.

Betsy is working on an online Episcopal Asset Map, a national Episcopal Church Foundation initiated project, to expand search engine optimization of the entire Episcopal Church as well as individual Churches. What that means is, when someone does a search online through Google or Bing or some other engine, the words entered will prompt our website to appear in

the results. She is continuing to tinker with it, needing to add our altar guild and outreach committee on the map.

Junior Warden report

George reported that Susan Crawford and her father have volunteered to plant flowers in our new planters. He is obtaining the flowers so that they will be ready when Susan and her father return to Door County.

He reported the insurance review on our buildings has been done to update the policy with current contact information. During the process he was able to connect with our agent who is located in Indianapolis as well as the inspector who is located in Illinois. The latter has stated he will travel to St. Luke's after restrictions are lifted to see the buildings in person and attend a vestry meeting.

The Diocese has a blanket policy that covers our workers compensation. Our policy covers liability and property, including the new window. The replacement value for the property is now estimated to be \$900,000 rather than \$1 million so there may be a premium reduction.

Treasurer

Karen reported that St. Luke's finances are in very good shape and we can weather the pandemic even if it continues through the end of 2020, as long as our pledges are continued to be met. Our cash situation is also good to cover budgeted expenses through the end of the year, as long as we don't incur any extraordinary expenses. Pledgers continue to respond well although we no longer have any plate or visitor income. She suggested that in June Barb send a letter to givers of record to encourage them to continue their support.

Committee reports

Stewardship

Paul expressed concern of the economic downturn's effect on our parish finances. He agrees with Karen on sending a letter and also suggested some kind of drive to ask parishioners to donate. He cautioned we must do what we can to protect our assets as he does not see an economic improvement in 2020 and even 2021. Paul also indicated that Outreach needs to remain a priority, perhaps more now than ever.

Betsy agreed and pointed out she learned in the April 22 Zoom fundraising seminar that even in such challenging times, giving continues, actually increasing as people realize the importance of churches and social agencies. The seminar suggested calling every active contributing Church member. She didn't suggest the Vestry do that now but we should consider some kind of messaging.

Old business

No report

New business

Betsy motioned that the Vestry approve up to \$1,000 (although the expectation is it will cost less) for a new computer for Barb. With the move to working from home during the pandemic it has become obvious she needs an upgrade to allow her more capacity. Her current computer is more than 7 years old. Pete seconded and the motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, June 21.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Ford-Hoffert
Vestry Clerk