

Salem Lutheran Council Meeting December 19, 2023

Attending: Phil Barker, Rebekah Elling, Rev. Aaron Holmgren, Norma Johannsen, Carol Olson, Julie Reed, Jack Schluckebier, Mark Schmidt, and Nancy Wyatt.

Meeting convened at 7:02 PM.

Pastor Aaron opened the meeting talking about the song *Joy to the World*. Emphasis on *the Lord IS HERE*. Our new hymnals use *THE LORD IS COMING*. Perfect song between Advent and Christmas.

Covenant: Read by Council members.

Jack asked everyone to share a memory from Christmas.

Minutes of last Council meeting: Minutes were accepted as written.

Resignation: Elaine Hause has resigned from Council and the Evangelism Committee effective December 15, 2023.

Reports: All reports received.

Education: Carol said her check-writing will be done on Monday. Please have the slips done by Sunday night.

No Evangelism report, but the mittens from the mitten-giving-tree were taken to Moreland School today.

Properties is incredibly busy as the building ages.

Stewardship Committee will be reaching out to the houses near us where the city detected lead in the home's water. Pastor Aaron has already distributed letters about water filters on the West side of Gorman and all of Humboldt; that is 14 houses. Will be moving to the west side of the church. The type of filter is dependent on the sink faucet.

Music & Worship will be meeting right after the start of the new year.

Financial: On a year-to-date budget we are doing well. New budget should be in the system by next week. All committees got the funds they requested.

Parish Nurse: Great AED training session and blood drive.

Innovation: Expansion on prayer walk; asking God to guide you as you reach out into the neighborhood.

Endowment Fund Distribution: Carol made a motion to accept the report and recommend its approval at the Congregation meeting. Phil seconded. The motion passed.

Amendments to the Constitution: Change Properties & Finance to Properties & Operations. Motion to approve. Change quorum from 7 to 6. The motion was defeated. Jack will be sending out a letter to the congregation showing changes under consideration.

Annual Meeting: Annual Meeting will be on Sunday, January 28th. The meeting will be available on ZOOM but the packets of info should be sent out earlier for those ZOOM attendees. Bekah asked about doing the brainstorming after the meeting as was done last year. Will request a volunteer to organize food and drink.

Nomination Progress: Julie's committee people would like descriptions of what the committees do. This is Bekah's last year on the Nomination Committee so we'll need a new member on Council from this committee.

Signage: Properties has found that there are some electrical problems. There is some concern about problems long-term with these signs. Elaine attended the meeting tonight as Salem's representative with the West St. Paul planning commission. Sign permit approved but it now goes to the City Council. We approved spending \$22,000. We have sent a down payment of \$9000. Properties is asking should we be spending this money. They would like to back out of this contract if Council would approve. There is a cost for maintenance on this type of sign and possibly the return-on-investment isn't that great. Mark made a motion that Council President talk to the Vendor to cancel the contract. Julie seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Calendar: Council will be on Monday, January 15th.

Prayer assignment for January is Nancy's. Carol made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Aaron seconded. Meeting adjourned unanimously at 9:03 pm.

Jack gave the closing prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Nancy Wyatt; Secretary

Approved Jan. 16th, 2024