

Meeting of Calvary Lutheran Church Council 5/12/2020

Attending: Kaylee Jahraus, Michelle Kotrba, Elissa Nelson, Craig Holmgren, Jena Berget, Kevin Hanson, John Kappers, Nikki Erickson, Holly Ulrich, Mike Haugsby, Charles Ulrich, Kim Larson, Britta Willenbring, Jeanne Ashburn, Sandy Hanson, Sara Bennett, Mike Newberg, Karen Loge, Pastor Tim, Pastor Dean, Pastor Naomi, Vicar David, Janel Skindelién

I) **Devotion:** Vicar David

II) **Icebreaker:** Naomi reminded us that this we are in a period of loss and grief

III) **April Minutes:** Holly motioned for acceptance. Mike Newberg seconded. Corrections requested in spelling of Elissa and Janel. Motion carried.

IV) **Treasurers Report:** Craig Holmgren states income was \$89,616 with expenses lower at \$71,201.60 vs the \$78,944.22 budgeted. Much of the decrease came in programing expenses. Our YTD income is about \$260,000 and we decreased our negative balance by over \$18,000 before the last mailing. The Payroll Protection money was finalized and we put \$45,498 in the general checking for payroll and utilities for April. We are on target to meet spending requirements to have the loan turned into a grant. Craig motioned to approve, seconded by Mike H. and Charles. Motion carried.

V) Staff Reports

A. Pastor Tim: Busy Tim with ministry and collecting info from various groups for strategy going forward. A second letter will go out to thank the congregation and the leaders.

B. Pastor Naomi: Last dinner church/confirmation on Wednesday. Working on possibly keeping people connected online for the summer. Also, Naomi is doing Sermon Camp.

C. Vicar David: Upcoming Candidacy Committee approval, then open for call.

D. Pastor Dean: Dean. 9am zoom every day for planning. He is calling 5 to 10 parishioners per day. Weddings scheduled for the future with counseling by zoom. There is a meeting with state representatives, Bishop and other Clergy tomorrow.

E. Janel: Finished Sunday school. We will continue Mom Squad meetings via Zoom.

VI) Board Reports

A. Board of Children and Family: June Green Lake Bible Camp has been cancelled. VBS in July is up in the air. An end of year Sunday school video is being put together to post on social media per Michelle Kotrba.

B. Board of Finance: Nothing beyond Treasurer's report per Craig Holmgren.

C. Board of Outreach: It was suggested we help our hard hit community partners with endowment funds. Holly Ulrich briefed the Executive Committee on the proposal. It went to the Endowment Committee and was unanimously approved. John Kappers motioned that we distribute from the Endowment Funds: Green Lake Lutheran Ministries \$25,000; Willmar Area Food Shelf \$1000; Meals on Wheels \$1000; Safe Avenues \$1000. Sara seconded the motion. Discussion explained the Endowment Fund and the need to distribute at least %5 per year. Teri will administer the funds with a letter crafted by Dean and signed by John Kappers. The notice will be put in the Sunday bulletin. Motion carried.

D. Board of Stewardship: Charles Ulrich appreciated the response to the Easter Challenge. The letter sent for May has generated over \$11,000 from council and \$22,000 from the congregation. Charles does not think another letter is warranted at this time. As we slowly open, we should contact the small groups to say here is what we can offer at the church, that's part of stewardship. Mike apologized for the May letter going out before council approval. The goal was aspirational and he appreciated the open opinions and thoughts.

E. Board of Worship: Jeanne Ashburn says they met on Zoom. Researching how other churches are doing worship other places and religions Looking to be creative for creative engagement and building relationships. They are looking to improve online visibility. Please share ideas.

F. Board of Youth and Family: Michael Newberg states they Zoomed May 7th. Events that have been cancelled: 50's Drive In, other in person events. Senior recognition will be von-line on May 25th. Abby Mathiason is doing a video. Looking into family Bingo on Zoom in June, family scavenger hunt in July on Zoom, Stuff the Bus in August.

VII) Topic: How and when do we open?

We want to be a leader and faithful and but staff should not make this decision alone. The Executive Committee discussed this and would like to make a motion.

Discussion on wording lead to Sara moving the following:

Whereas, Calvary Lutheran Church has been following the guidance of Federal, State, Local government and public health agencies by moving services and meetings online during the Covid-19 pandemic

And

Whereas social distancing is difficult in the sanctuary of Calvary Lutheran Church,

The Calvary Lutheran Church Council resolves to continue suspending in person worship services and other public functions, including funerals and weddings, through May 31st 2020, allowing only these

activities that are deemed critical to Church business functions to occur on the church grounds to be re-evaluated by Church staff and Council thereafter.

Michael Newberg seconded the motion and council approved. In discussion it was noted that a phased approach is how we will probably go. Small groups first, with protocol for sanitizing in place. It may be easier for smaller churches to open than large churches. We must protect our vulnerable parishioners. It is not a switch, but a decision tree. We respect the voices on each side. Tomorrow's meeting with other churches and Dr. Minces could be helpful. This was a civil discussion of pros and cons.

Kim Larson suggested that advance planning might mean a 3 to 5 person task force for opening. Tim agreed and added that medical people and staff should be included.

Council may have to meet more often as this evolves.

Dean weighed in on the polio crisis. It was worse. Children were paralyzed or died in 1 to 2 days. This stymied the Midwest.

VIII) New Business: none

IX) Closing Prayer: Pastor Tim