

Calvary Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Tuesday, June 9, 2020 7:00 PM

Purpose

Together in Christ Empowered to Be and Make Disciples

Attending: Pastor Tim, John Kappers, Pastor Dean, Sara Bennett, Mike Haugsby, Nikki Erickson, Kaylee Jahraus, Karen Loge, Kim Larson, Michelle Kotrba, Jena Berget, Sandy Hanson, Kevin Hanson, Britta Willenbring, Elissa Nelson, Jeanne Ashburn, Charles Ulrich, Holly Ulrich, Janel Skindelien, Shane Baker

Call meeting to order – Mike Haugsby

Devotions by Holly Ulrich

Approval of March 2020 Council Minutes – Holly motions, Sara seconds: Motion carried

Treasurer's Report: Presented by Jena Berget as Craig Holmgren's mother passed today. In May we received \$98,000 with \$40,000 of that from Continuing Calvary's Mission in Covid-19. Expenses were about \$10,000, which is under budget. Thus there was a net income of \$32,000. Of note were some outside donations from people watching on YouTube. Jenna Motioned to approve the report. Kevin Hanson seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Staff Reports

1. Tim – He appreciates the hard work of task force. Naomi and David are on vacation.
2. Dean – There are 5 or 6 baptisms in the queue. One request is for this Friday for 5:30 PM in sanctuary. Also working with a couple of people in hospice. Then there are some chemical dependency issues. Covid-19 increased negative behaviors. Possible memorial services in July. A graveside service is planned for Saturday for a former member at Cloverleaf.
3. Janelle – Day camp cancelled. Trying to work on realistic summer plans.

Board Reports –

1. Children and Family – Check in meetings on Zoom, discussions on plans.
2. Board of Finance – Need approval from the council to replace 31 year old Air Conditioner in the kitchen. Chappell Central quoted \$5906. Jena Beget motioned we use Chappell Central to replace the kitchen air conditioner for \$5906, with a contingency for up to \$6,500. This will come from the HVAC replacement fund. Shane Baker seconded.
3. Board of Outreach – nothing for council
4. Board of Stewardship – Grateful for the response to the drive. Second, we need to transition from financial to stewardship of support. How to facilitate opening, working with the task force. Charles Ulrich will give a temple talk Friday on moving forward.
5. Board of Worship – Jeanne. We will probably need tech upgrades for online service. Not specific yet, working with task force.
6. Board of Youth and Family Ministry – Last Thurs. Working to have family events once a month. Bingo at end of months Sara Bennett. A book study started by staff. Continuing to work on connecting with youth.

7. Executive Committee – The survey should last 2 or 3 weeks. Noted that we will need volunteers to open

Task Force Report – Sara Bennett

Sara Bennett, Joel Halbritter, Charles Ulrich, Tim Malek, Ashley Johnson, Erica Matthews, Duaine Amundson. Every one brings a different perspective.

Four things under consideration

1. Staff
2. Small groups
3. Worship practices
4. Communion

There are no hard and fast scientific rules. We only have access to state wide numbers, not regional. This makes decision making more complicated. The numbers are not really going up or down. Joel is using positivity rate, which is going down with more testing, but is still too high. State rules have changed since the last meeting, which complicates things. We are not at peak. This is where we are at:

- 1) Reopen the church June 15th to
 - a. Staff
 - b. Small groups of 10 or less
 - c. Funeral
- 2) Poll the congregation – would you return to worship if you
 - a. Had to wear a mask
 - b. Needed to make a reservation
 - c. Were unable to speak or sing in unison
 - d. You were required to have at screening temperature/answer a medical questionnaire
- 3) Plan for a July 5th open air service on the Bethesda property.

Toward these goals we must

- 1) Have a Covid-19 Preparedness Plan/Administrator posted
- 2) Ensure compliance with HVAC recommendation
- 3) Limit numbers to ensure social distancing
- 4) Establish what custodial staff or volunteer need are for cleaning/sanitizing
- 5) Decide on worship frequency

In light of this Sara Bennett motioned for the approval of a resolution and it was seconded by Britta. Discussion on baptisms, funerals, capacity, feasibility of having all requirements in place in a timely fashion occurred. It was noted that some members feel we are being over cautious and are frustrated. The concerns were gatherings of more than 10 people – multi family groups or youth would not be allowed indoors. Thus each board needs coordinate indoor small groups of 10 or less and outdoor small groups of 25 or less.

After consideration, the amended motion read:

Whereas, the Calvary Lutheran Church Council voted to suspend all in person activities on church grounds through May 31st and,

Whereas, the Minnesota stay safe executive order 20-62 now allows for Church services of up to 25% capacity in our building;

Be it resolved, that Calvary's church council in collaboration with the Safely Re-opening Calvary task force recommends that Calvary Lutheran Church reopens the church to staff, small groups of 10 or less indoors and 25 or less outdoors, and funerals, effective June 15, 2020 subject to the guidelines outlined in Executive Order 20-62 or any subsequent revisions,

Be it further resolved, that we will conduct baptisms on a case by case basis working with Pastoral staff effective June 9, 2020.

Be it further resolved, that Calvary Lutheran Church will conduct an outdoor worship service July 5, 2020 on the Bethesda property again subject to Executive Order 20-62 or any revisions thereof.

The task force meets again Thursday, June, 11, 2020 and will continue to move forward.

Pastor Tim recommends a "soft opening" walk through with council prior to actual services.

New Business – none

Closing Prayer – Pastor Tim

Adjournment