

Calvary Council – Together in Christ, Empowered to Be and Make Disciples

Tuesday December 14, 2021- 7pm Bethany Hall

Present: Janel Skindelein, Mary Jo DeCathelineau, Pastor David Severtson, Jeanne Ashburn, Charles Ulrich, Shawn Swenson, Sara Bennett, Teri Sokulski, Pastor Dean Johnson, Holly Ulrich, Pastor Naomi Mahler, Jena Berget, Pam DeKraai, Amber Willis, Shane Baker, Richard Wog

Devotions: Pastor Naomi led devotions.

Previous Council Minutes- Elissa Nelson made a motion to approve November minutes. Mary Jo DeCathelineau seconded. Motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: November general fund is at a 8k loss. Year to date 86k loss. 39k more of a loss than budgeted. Income is down 15k less, but 16k less in expenses. Similar financial position to last year. Jena Berget made a motion to approve financial reports, Kim Larson seconded it. Motion passed.

Pastor Dean Johnson- A new phone system was installed today and training was done for the staff. Personnel reviews are completed for all staff and then discussed with the Personnel committee. Pastor Dean will be going to Svea on Thursday to their council to discuss the continuance of our agreement. The staff is willing to continue providing services through May, however Pastor Ingrid will not be able to continue after May. He will be requesting that Svea complete a Ministry Site Profile as well to figure out what it will look like going forward. Grief care had their potluck last night and had a Christmas program.

Pastor Naomi Mahler- She urged people to keep vigilant towards COVID. She has been working on the Constitution committee and they have had some meetings last Sunday and this Sunday regarding the changes. The library is getting closer to being reopened, and they are looking for furniture to put in there. She is working with the 8-12th graders who are going to the ELCA convention. High School kids went shopping last Sunday for some remaining gifts for the Giving Tree. She has been working with Naomi Baker planning Christmas services and the Blue Christmas service on Sunday. The Blue Christmas service is for people who are struggling either with mental health or grieving, for people who are not feeling the joy of the season. She reported for Naomi Baker (who was absent) that the Christmas programs last Sunday went well, and the bell choir played both Thanksgiving and at the Christmas program. She is working with the confirmation 9th grade class as a small group leader. Worship details for Christmas services are being finalized. They are looking for more musicians for the praise band.

Pastor David Severtson- The Pastors have been making home communion visits and visiting all members before Christmas. Tomorrow the confirmation and 6th graders will be caroling. They will be having two studies on raising awareness on racism starting on January 12th, that will

meet for 7 weeks. He is working on the Befriender ministry which is a one-on-one lay lead ministry. Anyone is welcome to take the training to become a Befriender.

Janel Skindelein- She reported that the Christmas programs last Sunday went well and were well attended. December 5th was early childhood Sunday school. She has been teaching 6th grade connection on Wednesday nights. She is attending Svea's Christmas program this Sunday.

Teri Sokulski- She reported that the giving tree was a huge success, and social kindness is coming to distribute the items. The new phone system that was installed allows video meetings, so we can utilize that feature in the future. Annual reports are due, if you can send them to her. She reported that she has received 156 cards for Stewardship already.

Board of Children and Family-Elissa Nelson reported that they will meet next week and they had Christmas programs last week. Christmas ornaments were distributed to the kids last Sunday as a gift from Calvary.

Board of Youth and Family: Sara Bennett reported they met last week and discussed the budget, green space, new board members and the ELCA youth gathering.

Board of Outreach: Holly reported that they met tonight. They talked about cleaning up the membership roster even further and how to go about that. They discussed the 150th anniversary committee wanting to have concerts there this summer and the possibility of turning the greenspace into an amphitheater. She presented a resolution regarding First Fruits Giving for 2022. The only change to the resolution is a change of giving to start giving 1.5% to the "The Link", a New London based Food Shelf and resource center. She made a motion to approve, Shane Baker seconded. Motion passed.

Board of Stewardship: Amber Willis reported that they exceeded their funds for the bell drive. The ornaments are in for those who donated. They reviewed their fall stewardship drive and how it went and discussed nominating committee options.

Board of Finance: Jena Berget reported that they met yesterday and discussed the sale of the farmland and how the money will be invested. They discussed doing a traditional offering (passing the plate) during services and would like discussion of starting that back up. Kim made a motion to begin passing the plate, Shane Baker seconded it. Motion passed.

Board of Worship: Mary Jo DeCathelineau reported that they met and discussed Christmas services and the bell dedication service. They also discussed meeting with Ushers in January and a favorite hymn bulletin board they will be making.

Executive Board: Sara Bennett reported that the previous strategic planning committee spoke with them and they will have someone come to the council in January. Kristine Fladeboe Duinck sent a note regarding the auction land sale next week. They will be having a zoom

meeting with her on Saturday morning to discuss the plan for auction day and anyone in council can join. They discussed the Nominating committee and they have started their work with 4 spots slotted with people. 7 people are still thinking about it.

New Business: Budget- Council got a copy of the budget ahead of time and Jena Berget reviewed the budget and presented the final numbers. Jena made a motion to approve the 2022 budget, Shane Baker seconded. Motion passed.

Strategic Planning and Ministry Site Profile: The Executive committee would like to get a Ministry Site Profile started. They need 4-5 lay leaders to sit on the committee. Pastor Dean will discuss with Mary Jo DeCathelineau to gather names of people who could be asked to participate. The synod does not work with a call committee until the MSP is finished. Would like to have the names in time for the Annual meeting. The Executive committee met with the Strategic Planning and Building committee and they are willing to come to Council to present in January. Kim Larson encouraged the council to review the Strategic Plan from 2013.

Motion to Adjourn: Jeanne Ashburn made motion to adjourn, Richard Wog seconded. Motion passed.