

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes  
January 13, 2022 @ 6:30pm via Zoom

Members present: Jennifer Bufkin, Jim Farrell, Sarah Sedlacek, Pastor Sami Pfalzgraf, Carol Bunge, Sylvester Heeler, Marilyn Hunt, Debbie Taylor, Cyndee Simpson, Brenda Bass, Jim Pierce

Members absent: Terry Cotton, Kristy Langdon

Meeting was called to order by Jim Pierce at 6:30pm.

Debbie T. shared devotions, drawing on a book she used during Advent and comparing the changes we experience as we anticipate this new season in our congregation's life with the changes a woman experiences during pregnancy and labor. Change does not come without discomfort and pain, but those things are worth living through because of the new life they bring.

February devotions: Brenda B.

December Council meeting minutes were reviewed as emailed. *Debbie T. made the motion to accept the minutes as printed. Marilyn H. seconded. Motion carried.*

December Treasurer's report was reviewed as emailed by Cyndee S. *Marilyn H. made the motion to accept the treasurer's report as printed. Debbie T. seconded. Motion carried.*

Pastor Sami presented her report as emailed. Pastor Sami also gave a brief synopsis of the difficulties she experienced in dealing with the moving company and locating a satisfactory home in St. Joseph. She expressed thanks for members of the congregation who supported her in dealing with an uncooperative landlord and in moving her belongings from first rental property into temporary storage. The movers are scheduled to arrive with her household belongings Saturday, January 15.

Pastor Sami also asked for discussion regarding Altar Guild's decision to use up the remaining stock of individual communion sets with wine and then switch entirely to sets containing grape juice due to the significantly higher cost of the kits with wine. Council members counseled that some members of the congregation would be critical of this move and suggested that she and the Altar Guild educate the congregation on the relative cost of wine and grape juice sets and to the fact that the Altar Guild has been providing these with no reimbursement and is unable to continue to afford to do this. If persons want to continue to have the option of the wine sets they can be given the opportunity to contribute towards that cost. Pastor Sami will follow up with the Altar Guild on this recommendation.

Old Business:

--Constitution and Bylaws: Jim P. invited further discussion on what percentage of voting membership should constitute a quorum for congregational meetings. Council members requested translating percentages into actual numbers needed. Jim P. will present this at the next council meeting. Discussion of this item will continue at that meeting.

--Sanctuary Sound System: Jim P. informed council that the down payment has been made and that Lanham Music is waiting on all the parts to arrive before beginning this job. Discussion about the microphones and upgrades needed, especially for livestreaming.

--Office Furniture: Sylvester H. states that the new furniture will be installed this weekend.

--Congregation's Annual Meeting: Jim P. states that the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022 following worship with the snow date being Sunday, February 6, 2022.

--One time event guidelines: Marilyn H. asked that this topic be tabled until the next meeting.

--Tolo Estate gift: tabled until later meeting.

#### New Business:

--Pastor Sami's moving expenses: Jim P. brought forward that there is an additional moving cost that is due upon the arrival of the moving van. *Marilyn H. made the motion to cover the additional moving cost of \$3049.84 for Pastor Sami. Jim F. seconded. Motion carried.*

--Pastor Sami's Compensation Split for tax purposes: Jim P. presented the following motion: *Resolved that Reverend Samantha Pfalzgraf for the calendar year 2022 will receive a salary of \$46,600.00 and a housing allowance of \$16,000.00. Motion seconded. Motion carried.* Brenda B. to sign the resolution and give to Pastor Sami for tax purposes.

--2022 Budget: Cyndee S. and Jim P. presented the proposed 2022 Budget. Cyndee has been speaking to Bright Trash Service and this service will change on February 1. The additional moving expenses will be a line item for the budget. Discussion about the discrepancies between the salaries of the Music Director and Associate Music Director. Discussion about options of addressing these discrepancies. Pastor Sami would eventually like to have a worship team to assist with the planning of worship. At this time it was decided to not make any budgetary changes. Jim P. and Pastor Sami will meet with Sharon and Sharmyn to talk about this decision. Cyndee presents how we stand financially is with \$15,247.00 in the bank at the end of 2021.

*Debbie T. made the motion to accept the 2022 Budget proposal with changes made. Carol B. seconded. Motion carried.*

--Carpet Cleaning: Jim P. presented the estimate from The Cleaning Connection as obtained from Dave Newman. *Sylvester H. made the motion to accept the estimate for carpet cleaning from The Cleaning Connection. Debbie T. seconded. Motion carried.* Dave N. to be notified to move forward in getting this service scheduled.

--Imagine Eleven: Jim P. presented some background information on this summer series started in 2013. It has been held nearly every summer under the auspices of First Lutheran as an outreach event which then makes it possible to be a non-profit and be carried under church's insurance coverage. *Motion made: First Lutheran authorizes Imagine Eleven to a non-profit status which then provides insurance coverage for this event. Motion seconded. Motion carried. (For some reason I did not write down who made and seconded this motion.)*

--Guidance for choir rehearsals: Pastor Sami presented that there have been some concerns raised regarding resuming choir rehearsals during this time of increased positivity of COVID numbers. Discussion about COVID and Omicron variant. After much discussion *Sarah S. made the motion to postpone choir at this time due to current positivity rate in community and address the situation at next council meeting. Debbie T. seconded. Motion carried.*

There will be a letter going out to the congregation in regard to educating about importance of masks and social distancing.

Additional items:

--Jim P. informed council that Progressive Telecom has been bought out by RS Technologies. This is the church's current phone service provider.

--Jim P. shared a thank you note from Sharmyn Thompson for the Christmas gift card she was given.

--Jim F. shared a thank you note from Sharon Gray for the Christmas gift card she was given.

--Jim F. expressed his thanks for the past six years he has served on Council as this is his last meeting. Council expressed their thanks for his dedicated service.

--Step safety: Jim F. states that there will be something put on the steps leading up to the altar and around the altar for safety reasons as there have been several people who have recently fallen.

Pastor Sami closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Next meeting will be February 10, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Bass, secretary