

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Congregational Council Minutes
November 10, 2020

Present: Pastor Liz, Ginger McCabe, Ginny Grabow, Kevin Hewitt, Kay Wendelschafer, Deb Gehrke

Absent: Sharyn Gregor, Ben Olsen

Secretary's Report: October council meeting minutes reviewed and approved.

Financial Report: Approved by council.

- The general fund received gifts of \$7,255.00 in November, versus last year of \$8,728.75, giving us a difference of (\$1,473.75).
- Year to Date: The general fund received gifts of \$105,312.13 versus last year of \$107,066.03, giving us a difference of (\$1,753.90).
- Our expenses have been lower than budgeted for the year.

Old Business:

- Dave Voss cleaned the parsonage gutters and looked at the shingles. He thinks we need to consider a new roof in Spring 2021.
- Deb continues to make reservations for people who want to attend church in person. The average in-person attendance has been around 25.

New Business:

- Cleveland School's secondary students started distance learning this week, so they have not needed to use our church building for classes.
- Last Sunday a recorded video of the worship service was posted on Facebook afterward, but there were not as many views.
- Pastor Liz reported that 100 kids came to the Trunk or Treat event held in our church parking lot on Saturday, October 31st. The Church of Christ joined and there were 4 groups handing out candy.
- Governor Walz put out new state guidelines today regarding reducing the size of group gatherings. The Council discussed what this means for church attendance and decided to go back to online-only worship services starting December 13th.
- What will God Squad look like if the entire school goes to distance learning? Ginger discouraged online classes for faith formation if the kids are already doing school online. Pastor Liz suggested possibly providing hands-on activities the kids can do at home.
- Pastor Liz told the Council that the Minnesota Department of Health requires us to have a COVID Preparedness Plan written and posted on our website and in the church building. Ginny will get in touch with Cindy McCabe to work on this.
- Pastor Liz received a Thrivent Action Team Grant. She is planning to use the money to make take-home worship kits for Advent.
- Kay will contact the Le Sueur County Adopt-a-Family program to ask how we can participate this year.

Next meeting will take place online via Zoom on December 8th, 7:00 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Ginger McCabe

Addendum to the November 10, 2020
Congregational Council Minutes

The Council met, via Zoom, on 11/18/20 to discuss the following new business:

- Governor Walz is putting new restrictions in place for the next 3 weeks but is allowing church services to continue. However, Bishop Hassanally is recommending all churches in our synod go “all virtual” at least until the Governor’s new orders expire on December 18th. The Council agrees with this recommendation and it was decided we should move to online-only worship services starting this Sunday, November 22nd and continue through the rest of 2020. Deb will call the congregation members who do not have access to technology and let them know that they can join via Zoom by phone. The Council will consider resuming in-person worship services on Sunday, January 3rd.
- Mediacom is installing internet at the church building on Tuesday, November 24th. Pastor Liz will contact Video Services, Inc. to schedule a time for them to come and install their equipment. They have a 1-year guarantee on their equipment and they will come and fix any glitches we experience as long as it’s not due to “user error.”
- Ballman roofing gave Kevin an estimate to repair the church roof. Cost \$2,660. The Council approved this and hopes the work can be done before the snow flies.
- Kay found out we can mail monetary donations to the Adopt-a-Family program by December 5th and they will use the money to shop for gifts. They told her “the need is great.” She will create an email to share this information with the congregation.