

Minutes of Gold Hill Lutheran Church

Council Meeting

September 8, 2020

Called to order at 6 pm by Mike Lawson

Roll call: In attendance: Mike Lawson, Curt Quist, Revonda Stordahl, Julie Corbin, Lynn Ankisdal, Chris Ketchum, Dale Schultz, Pastor Marlow Carrels. Excused: Peggy Graving

Devotions: Pastor Carrels from a poetry book. Reading from Ezekiel. Discussion about a rebellious house and packing the bags for exiles. Moving forward is the key. Rivers don't stop. Things happen eventually. Drifting down the river isn't so bad, like floating the Madison. We will get to see it eventually. People will hear the word of God eventually. Much like the time of corona. What do we do now?

Approval of Minutes: Dale moved and Revonda seconded that we approve the minutes as emailed. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Revonda - \$13,200 negative income for August due to the repairs to the roof.

January to August – net income \$14,000 again because of the roof. August envelope offering was closer to budget than it has been in months. Under budget in every category except property. We would be breaking even if not for the roof. \$544 for the bill on the dumpster for McGree's. Roll-off dumpster \$204 and disposal fee \$304 for landfill. The contractor called for the dumpster but McGree billed Gold Hill. Only dumped once. This is not included in the roof spreadsheet. We will get credit for materials not used at about \$1100. May need to ask trust for money when we know exactly how much is needed. Should be less than what we originally thought though as a loan to the church. No known ETA on when we will know more on the insurance and if they will pay more as the roof was replaced, not repaired.

End of August: \$16,000 in checking and \$40,000 in savings after payments. Pastor – do we have to ask for money from the trust? Yes, savings are dedicated funds.

Discussion on stewardship drive to pay back trust. Can go to the congregation with numbers needed to pay back trust. Replaced roof instead of just repairing it. Will talk to the Insurance company on whether or not this is worth more money for them. Curt wrote them a letter but they have not responded yet.

October – we will plan the budget for 2021. Get numbers for your committee to Revonda by the October council meeting.

Pastor: would like to marry the trust in the budget – is this possible? Not disband or change what people meant when they give to the trust. Wants the trust to have a seat at

the table for budget meetings. The goal to be transparent for the congregation to make sure everyone knows where the money goes. Looking at the spirit of the Trust to coincide with our trust charters. Council semi-audits trust fund – ie: Trust has verbiage still written as ALC? Or has it been updated to ELCA? Make sure everything is legal. We expect it to be fine but want to verify. Not an urgent issue at this time.

Curt moved and Lynn seconded to accept Treasurer's report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Freedom in Christ ministry – asked Pastor Carrels to be on the board. One time every two months to do worship services will be looking for volunteers. There are rules about not being able to volunteer if we know people there. He is looking for 2-3 people every other month. Curt moved and Chris seconded that Pastor looks into volunteers and report back to the council. Motion carried.

Streaming grant from Synod for \$500. No date and/or time to use but in our case would pay off now if we get a personal laptop, otherwise close to \$3000 for closed-circuit TVs in the balcony of the fellowship hall, youtube license is \$68 per year for streaming. The pastor needs help starting a non-profit youtube channel, recommends a 12-year-old with the knowledge that can help him.

The funeral for Carl and Maxine Anderson held for close family members only, but that is still 50 people with just family.

The wedding of Ashley Engle set for Saturday 9/28 in Twin Bridges in a round, open-air barn so it is similar to being outside. Possible that 200 people will attend. The pastor will semi-quarantine and work from home after Sunday service until he gets the all-clear. That large gathering number is ok in Twin Bridges as there are no COVID cases there. Dale says he is fine with doing the service as long as the congregation there stays apart. Pastor can work from home or ask Mary to do so.

Homeless outreach – Pastor visits, just being human with them in line with social distancing.

Current tasks: nominating committee – meeting on Zoom

Gloria Day – looking at joint advent services with up to 50 people, last year they only had 25 people. Should we join or do our own?

Saturday meet and greets are going well.

Changing insurance.

Covering for Pastor Sarah at Gloria Dei in February to cover her vacation and he will be teaching some confirmation classes over there as well.

Trying to reach homebound but difficult during COVID. Seems that priests can go anywhere but Lutheran and Methodist pastors are struggling.

A new sound system was donated anonymously. Donated everything they wanted! Will transfer inside when the weather turns and will work for streaming. Greatly appreciated!

Invited Episcopal church to parking lot service. More vehicles than previous Sundays. The normal time of year for more people wanting to come back to church.

Worship Committee: They are contacting KXLF about the parking lot church. The pastor will call to see if they want to film for tv. We are now the only church doing this in Butte.

Saturday evening worship in sanctuary for 20 people only. We cap out at 28 bodies, so would be an invitation only. Sounds like a horrible way to run a welcoming church. We can hold 48 people plus Pastor and accompanist if we also use the Fellowship hall. The entire unit is one building, no matter how far apart the seating is. We can't have more than 50 people. We are not there yet, no big screen to show the service in the Fellowship Hall. Discussion – Dale: Run Facebook on tv in the sanctuary for live stream for first come/first served inside. This was not voted on by the council.

Pastor is not worried about the cold outside for Sunday service. He can stand in the window as well. Mike would like to see the services in our church now. Should Pastor send a survey to the congregation for who would “need” (not would like) or be interested in coming on Saturday? Pastor can come up with words for the survey by talking to other clergies about what they have done. Are we as a congregation willing to have one person infect 100 people? Such as at the high school.

Dale: in the building, science says that indoors is worse for spreading the virus than outdoors. While the high ceilings help, TWA or Time Weighted Average is the time it takes for a virus to dissipate, so it says that outside the virus goes away with the next wind. TWA is a standard used at Northwestern Energy. We would all love to be back but we want everyone to be safe.

So, should we send the survey? By hand vote – no survey as no one willing to make the motion. Only Mike votes for the survey and he can't make a motion as president.

Reports of Council Members:

Curt: submitted letter for more money from insurance company. Roof is done.

Lynn: Called Zack Johnson to blow out the sprinklers. Chad Anderson was here last Friday about the abatement program and took a soil sample.

Lynn, Alan, and Curt took the door out of the basement. It opens and closes. Took the locking handle out, the new one is much smaller than the old one. Lynn doesn't think that should be used as an exit. The cement foundation would need to be dug through to replace the door. The door was a possibility but Sheila can enter through the sanctuary and there is another exit into the hallway. This door is not at code because it opens in and not out. Alan can't replace this door as he couldn't walk for 3 days after the work he

already did on it. The railing is not safe outside either. It should not be used for preschool kids. If it was replaced with a steel door may have water problems because the wooden door swelled and may have stopped some leaking. Mike was wondering about putting a roof over the stairs to keep water out, but then a light would be needed. Pastor will use silicone to seal the door shut. It is cost-prohibitive if one of the preschool kids gets sick and then the preschool has to shut down, so we would lose the income.

Chris: CCLI is up for renewal. It is already in the budget and Chris was encouraged to go ahead and renew. This is the license for music. We thought there was a streaming license but Pastor has looked into that and it is an additional \$68 per year.

The signboard will have a small message changed monthly.

Chris is looking for song leaders during worship. She would like them to try this coming Sunday and is hoping they can project over the system.

October 26th is Reformation Sunday.

All Saints Sunday is November 1st. They will light candles outside and extinguish in the baptismal font.

Worship and Music committee has been having their meetings on Zoom.

Masks are already being made for when we can return to worship in the sanctuary. Miriam is making masks. Starting with 50 as most people already have them. They are being donated for use at the church.

Julie: Didn't do the LOGOS online training. Too much uncertainty currently on how to hold it for kids. Reminded everyone of the photos for Special Olympics this coming Thursday.

Dale: Suggests we go back to 2nd offering on the first Sunday of the month, starting in October.

Discussion on the church website. Internet Explorer browser is going away. Managing the website goes through Qwest which is now Century Link. Dale and Dorothy will continue to update it while they are down south for the winter.

Quilters are trying to do things properly. Will need to meet at the church soon to box up quilts. They are meeting at parks around town on Wednesdays while the weather permits.

Dale and Dorothy are leaving for Arizona in mid-October and won't be back until March. We can include him in council meetings via Zoom or Google hangouts. Zoom has 40 minutes for meeting times, but Microsoft Teams could be used with no time restrictions. Microsoft Teams does take over the computer though. Dale could also call in and we could have him by phone. The consensus is to not let Dale off the council, no matter how hard he tries to leave. We will find someone to count offerings while Dale is absent. Several people can rotate the duties.

New Business:

Pastor would like a platform to stand on for Sunday services. There is currently one that is 8" lower than the truck bed. He is also looking for a tent and wonders if we can recruit quilters to make sides for the tent for wind protection.

Nominating committee – the council needs to appoint someone. Does anyone come to mind? There was complete silence at this point. **Currently on the nominating committee:**

Peggy Probasco

Nancy Rowe

Mark Bond

Ann Drew

Ken Stamp

Ideas for people to ask:

John Williamson

Paul or Kay Vang

Cheryl Newhart

Old Business:

We talked about opening the church. Dale would volunteer to send a letter to the congregation. Mike will write it.

Reminder: Service at Clark's Park on Sunday 9/20 at 10:30 with 4 local churches.

Curt moved and Dale seconded to adjourn the meeting. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Corbin