**Shepherd of the Sierra Lutheran Church**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**Date**: January 16, 2024

**Called to Order:** 6:00 PM by Vice President Lennie L

**Present**: Jim Blatchford (via speaker phone), Pastor H, Lennie L, Debbie H, Kristin T, Doris Blatchford (via speaker phone), Cathie C, Rex R, Cherie H, Jack C, Karen S

Excused: Jane L

**Opening Prayer**: Pastor H

**Public Comments:**  None.

**President’s Comments:** None.

**Minutes: M/S/C** to approve the minutes from the November 14, 2023, council meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report**:

See Report. Cherie H reported that membership and income are increasing. Pursuant to a request she circulated a Transaction List by Vendor on which each board chairman signed off on the transactions for their particular board. This executed copy will be scanned and included in the minutes from this meeting. This procedure will be done on a monthly basis. **M/S/C** to accept Treasurer’s Report as presented.

**Financial Secretary Report**: See Report. Kristin will continue to reach out to members about donating online (currently approximately 15 members). Year-end tax statements are being distributed.

**Pastor’s Report:** See Report. Highlights included new Bible Study beginning January 18th; confirmation classes being held on Sundays (instead of Saturdays) starting January 7th with Confirmation Sunday on May 19th; Jim Blatchford was appointed to serve on the District’s Disability Ministry Committee (DMC).

**Elders Report:** See Report. Jack C reported that the Elders are working on purchasing ribbons for hymnals and looking for a new eternity candle (current one requires frequent replacement of the batteries).

**Call Committee:** Jack C reported that a zoom call is scheduled for next week for a first time discussion with a prospective candidate. The District will be providing a couple more prospective candidates in the near future.

**Trustees Report**: See Report. Rex R asked about labels for the new hymnals. Karen Simpson will assist with this matter. Jim Blatchford asked Rex to look into getting the unlevel sidewalks fixed (grinded down).

**Facilities Manager:** Rex R reported on behalf of Jane L that Bella Voce has indicated their interest in utilizing the church again this year for their concert to be held on May 11th. Jane is awaiting receipt of the application and insurance rider. **M/S/C** as follows:

Upon receipt of the proper paperwork, approve Bella Voce to utilize the church for their May 11, 2024 concert.

**Evangelism Report**: See Report. Cathie C raised questions regarding which missions can be supported with our church’s mission outreach dollars. She was given contact information for the District to assist with this matter.

**Fellowship Report:** See Report. Doris reported that most of the needed supplies have been ordered. She will be off for approximately three months due to vacation and an upcoming surgery. She thanked everyone who volunteered to step up and assist in her absence.

**eCommunications Report:** See Report. Jim Blatchford has picked up the new (gently used) sound system and is learning how to operate it before replacing the current board at the church. The monthly hits for the church website continue to increase and he asked everyone to please go to Google and give a review for SOS.

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:**

**Recent Gift Priorities:** After discussing the suggested ideas for this donation, the following suggestions were considered as priorities:

Christmas Tree (Pat Neales to coordinate)

Choir Chairs (need 24) (Doris Blatchford is looking into the cost)

Window Coverings for Youth Room

Locking Mailbox

Lighting for Sidewalk

The new hot water heater for the restrooms was one of the priority projects and has already been completed.

**Piano Moving:** Volunteers are needed to pick up and move the recently donated (used) piano from Gardnerville to the church. This project will be coordinated with Bev C and several members volunteered to assist.

**Annual Events** (tentatively scheduled)**:**

February 10 – Valentine Cookie Decorating

February 14 – Ash Wednesday Service

February 14 - SOSOS

February 21/28 – Soup Suppers/Lenten Services

March 6/13/20/27 – Soup Suppers/Lenten Services

March 13 – SOSOS

March 15 – Irish Lutheran Day (Jim Blatchford)

March 29 – Good Friday

March 31 – Easter Sunday (Brunch)

May 12 – Mother’s Day (flowers)

May 19 – Confirmation Sunday (Doris Blatchford/L’s)

June 16 – Father’s Day (Debbie/Karen)

June 22 (June 29th if necessary) at Kim and Nate’s (Doris)

July 4 – Parking Lot Picnic (Jim Blatchford)

August 3 – Parking Lot Show and Shine (Hot August Nights) (sell ice cream)

October 6 – Oktoberfest (Ls)

November 10 or 17 – Chili Cookoff (Matt S)

November 24 – Thanksgiving Feast (Doris)

November 30 – Cookie Exchange and Sanctuary Decorating

December 4/11/18 – Soup Suppers and Advent Services

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service

**Next Meeting:** February 13, 2024

**Discussion Items:**

Rex R reported that he and his wife visited with Pastor M and he is doing well. Rex reported that he and Sam B are getting together to plan some music for the church picnic and anyone is welcome to join them.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Closing Prayer**: Rex R

**Adjournment**: Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie H