**Shepherd of the Sierra Lutheran Church**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**Date**: March 9, 2024

**Called to Order:** 6:00 PM by President Jim Blatchford

**Present**: Jim Blatchford, Debbie H, Kristin T, Cathie C, Cherie H, Jack C, Rex R, Doris Blatchford, Karen S Pastor Hilton (via Zoom), Marcia C

**Opening Prayer**: Rex R

**Public Comments:**  None.

**President’s Comments:** Jim Blatchford reported that Doris Blatchford will be assuming the duties of Facilities Manager. Jane L is stepping down. Discussion was held regarding Lucy O chairing the SOSOS functions and the recommendation for Marcia C to be appointed/elected to chair the Fellowship Team.

Appoint Marcia C as chairman of the Fellowship Team with election to this position at the next Voters’ Meeting. **M/S/C**

**Minutes: M/S/C** to approve the minutes from the March 12, 2024, Council Meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report**:

See Report. Cherie circulated a Transaction List by Vendor on which each board chairman signed off on the transactions for their particular board for expenditures for March. This executed copy will be scanned and included in the minutes from this meeting. **M/S/C** to accept Treasurer’s Report as presented and the Transaction List by Vendor.

**Financial Secretary Report**: No report.

**Pastor’s Report:** See Report.

**Elders Report:** Jack C reported that three members have volunteered to join the Elders Team. Jim G, Mike H and Anthony M will be on the ballot at the Voters’ Meeting on April 14th. With these additional Elders, the member contact distribution list will be realigned. Jack C requested a copy of the recent attendance list from Jim Blatchford.

**Call Committee:** Jack C reported that the Call documents were mailed to Pastor W and Pastor W has two more weeks in which to respond.

**Trustees Report**: See Report. Rex R reported that a Spring Cleanup (inside and outside the church) will be held on May 11th. (NOTE: At the meeting there was discussion regarding a conflict on this date and moving the cleanup to May 4th. After the meeting it was determined that there is no conflict with May 11th).

Rex will make an announcement after church on Sunday requesting a volunteer to chair the Incident Committee.

The Liability Insurance is up for renewal in June. Rex will look into this and determine if there are other insurance companies that may have competitive pricing. Rex will make an announcement on Sunday for a volunteer with insurance background to assist with this matter.

**Facilities Manager:** The following requests have been received for the use of our church. **M/S/C** as follows:

Approve LTI’s request for use of three rooms of the church all day on May 4th for their convention (already use the church facilities and paperwork is in order);

Approve SLHS request for use of the youth room on April 19th at 8AM (already use the church facilities and paperwork is in order); and

Deny Priscilla Hs’ request for use of the church facilities.

**Evangelism Report**: See Report. Cathie C reported that Heidi De’s is still interested in allowing the use of her 12’ x 24’ storage shed for donated items for the veterans. Jim Blatchford is checking with the church insurance carrier regarding liability insurance.

**Fellowship Report:** See Report. Doris expressed her thanks for everyone who stepped up to assist with Fellowship during her recent surgery and absence. The St. Patrick’s Day celebration was a success even though it was held the same day as the SLHS fundraiser event. In the future a calendar of events at SLHS will be looked into before scheduling our church events. Easter brunch was a success. The Fellowship Team is still attempting to get more members to volunteer to bring the Sunday snacks.

**eCommunications Report:** See Report. Jim Blatchford reported that the wireless microphones have been replaced and he continues to work on swapping out the sound system with the recently donated system. When the SLHS students visited our church for their Community Outreach project, several IT students showed an interest in assisting with the sound board.

**Old Business:**

**Moving Piano:** Jim Blatchford reported that this project will hopefully be concluded this week.

**Recent Gift Priorities:**

The following items on the priority list have been completed:

Hot Water Heater

A/V Consultant – Jim Blatchford is working with Wade Kierstead from New Brunswick, Canada at no charge

 New Wireless Microphones (approximately $2396)

 New Soundboard – Ipad (approximately $350)

Items remaining on the list:

Choir Chairs (Doris Blatchford, should be delivered this week, approximately $1500)

 Christmas Tree (Pat N)

 Window coverings for youth room (Marcia C approximately $450)

Locking Mailbox (Jim Blatchford)

 New safe (possibly digital) (Jim Blatchford will coordinate with Rex R)

 Lighting for sidewalks

 Janitor Cabinet

 Piano Tuning

 New loft vacuum

New items added to the list:

Mounting rack for security monitor

 New ceiling tiles (Rex will check in sheds)

 New lighter folding tables

 New parking stop

**Printer Savings:** This matter was tabled as Lennie L was not present to make a report.

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

April 14 – Voters’ Meeting

May 12 – Mother’s Day (flowers/Debbie will coordinate with Joann M)

May 19 – Confirmation Sunday Marcia/Lennie)

June – Graduation Cake

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)

 (Jim Blatchford coordinating with Ken F)

October 6 – Oktoberfest (Lennie)

October – Voters’ Meeting

November 10 or 17 – Chili Cookoff (Matt S)

November 24 – Thanksgiving Feast (Marcia)

November 30 – Cookie Exchange and Sanctuary Decorating

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

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service

**New Business:**

**Voters’ Meeting:** The proposed agenda prepared by Jim Blatchford for the Voters’ Meeting to be held on April 14, 2024, was approved with the addition of Election of Elders and Fellowship Chairman.

**Electric Sign Near Electric Cross:** Discussion was held on purchasing and installing an electric reader board sign near the existing cross. This would be a great investment. Jim Blatchford and Rex R will get input from Jim M on this matter. NDOT currently has an easement for the right of way in that area.

**Discussion Items:**

**Sunday School:** There has been an interest in offering Sunday school to the young children in our church. After a lengthy discussion it was determined that this matter will be tabled until such time as a pastor accepts a call for our church.

**Worship Participants Added to Bulletin:** Jim Blatchford stated he would like to see the names of weekly worship participants added to the service bulletins. The Council agreed.

**Next Meeting:** May 14, 2024

**Public Comments:** None.

**Closing Prayer**: Jim Blatchford

**Adjournment**: Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie H