Shepherd of The Sierra Lutheran Church

Congregational Meeting

April 14, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Blatchford at 10:30 AM.

Quorum: 54 voting members signed in.

**Opening Devotions**: Pastor B

**Call Committee:** Matt S, Chairman of the Call Committee, advised the congregation that the committee is working diligently on this matter. There is a shortage of pastors throughout the country.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda**: **M/S/C** to approve the proposed agenda for this meeting.

**Announcement of New Members:** None.

**Reading of Minutes:** The minutes were distributed after the December 3, 2023 meeting and were recently included in an email to all members regarding this meeting. MS/C to waive the reading of the minutes from the December 3, 2023 meeting.

**Approval of Minutes: M/S/C** to approve the minutes.

**Pastor’s Report:** Jack C reported on behalf of Pastor Hilton. Pastor Hilton has been fulfilling his duties as the vacancy pastor since January 2023, including but not limited to, leading worship, visiting the sick and shut-ins, coordinating pulpit supply, leading services and building the bridge for our next called pastor, conducting a weekly Bible Study, and leading a Confirmation Class. Doing a fantastic job.

**Treasurer’s** **Report**: Cherie H reported that the reserves are holding steady, attendance and revenue are slowly climbing and the Council is attempting to reduce monthly expenditures.  **M/S/C** to approve the 2024 Budget to date as presented.

**Financial Secretary Report:** Kristin T thanked the count committee and advised members to contact her if they would be interested in signing up for automated payments (app and link for Planning Center available on the church website). This is a secure and consistent way to donate. Currently 18 members are signed up for this tithing method.

**Elder’s Report:** Jack C reported that the three members have volunteered to join the Elders: Jim G, Mike H and Tony M.

**Trustee’s Report:** Rex R presented his report in three sections: past, present and future. Past: HVAC work on old system, installation of new telephone lines, hot water heater installed in bathrooms, primer on sheds, choir chairs replace, and reduced insurance premiums. Present/future: cleanup (inside and outside) scheduled for May 11th, sound board replacement, and looking for chairman for the Incident Committee.

**Facility Use:** Many organizations are utilizing the church, including but not limited to a home school program, Carson City Symphony (and their subgroups), and Sierra Lutheran High School.

**Fellowship Report:** Doris Blatchford (stepping down as Chairman) reported that the Fellowship team has had a very busy year, including many potlucks and events. Lucy O will chair the SOSOS. Many more events to look forward to including the church picnic in June.

**Evangelism Report:** Carol D represented the Evangelism team and thanked the congregation for their generous donations for the Veterans, Northern Nevada Dream Center, Life Choices, FISH, and Family Resource Center (Gardnerville). The April charity is FISH and the May charity will be Family Resource Center. Plans are being finalized for the use of Heidi De’s storage shed for the many donations that need to be stored (mostly items for the Veterans).

**Stewardship:** Currently no Stewardship Board, however, John E (SLHS Board Member) reported on the many activities at SLHS. There will be a meet and greet with Pastor Glenn (prospective new head of SLHS) at our church on April 19th. The SLHS Home Economics class (which utilizes our facilities) will be serving breakfast. A groundbreaking for the new addition to SLHS will be held on May 15, 2024.

Christian Education or Circuit Forum Representation Reports.

**Old Business:** Jim Blatchford reported that the new choir chairs were purchased from the recent anonymous donation and have been installed in the loft. The recently donated sound system should be operational in the near future.

Voters’ Meetings will be held in April and October. This will give newly elected officers time to transition into their positions.

**New Business:**

Discussion was held on the inclusion of the songs in the bulletins since hymnals were recently purchased. The bulletin is posted on the website and persons watching the service online may not have access to a hymnal. Some hymns included are “tune only.” Many members enjoy the bigger print in the bulletins.

Discussion followed on the cost of printing. Currently the church is leasing a copy machine and paying for each copy made, as well as the cost of copy paper and toner cartridges. Lennie L is looking into this matter.

**Board Changes:**

**Vote for Elders and Fellowship Chair Positions: M/S/C** to approve the ballot positions by acclimation as follows:

Elder: Jack C (two year term)

Jim G (one year term)

Mike H (one year term)

Tony M (one year term)

Joe T (two year term)

Dave W (two year term)

Fellowship: Marcia Coyne (two year term)

**Closing Prayer**: Jim Blatchford

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie H