Shepherd of The Sierra Lutheran Church

Congregational Meeting

October 13, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President Jim Blatchford at 10:35 AM.

Quorum: 45 voting members signed in.

**Opening Prayer**: Pastor James

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

**Approval of Minutes (posted online and not read in this meeting): M/S/C** to approve the minutes of the April 14, 2024 meeting.

**Vote for Council Positions:** There were no new nominations, therefore there was a **M/S/C** to approve the ballot positions by acclimation as follows:

President: Jim Blatchford (one year term)

Vice President: Lennie L (one year term)

Trustee: Doris Blatchford (two year term)

Board of Evangelism: Carol D (two year term)

Board of Education: Ryann C (two year term)

Board of Stewardship remains vacant.

**Pastor’s Report:** Highlights of Pastor James’s report: Thank you to everyone who assisted with the move to Nevada for his family; New member class to begin in January as well as a “Re-member Class;” teaching part-time at SLHS has brought students to our church (community outreach last week); Sunday School will be starting soon; Changes to décor inside and outside the church; Focus on gospel and fellowship; Discipleship Pathway; Changes to style guide and presentation of a proposed new logo for SOS.

**Announcement of New Members:** Murl W (present), Ardell S (present), Darlynn S (present/rejoin), Ryann C, Maggie C, Andy C, Micah G, Dorothy G, Jonny G, Tali G, David G, Donna P, Alan & Kathy H.

**Treasurer’s** **Report**: A link to the Treasurer’s Report was sent to members of the congregation by email. Cheryl H answered questions and thanked her predecessor James M. The 2025 proposed budget will be presented December 1st to the congregation.

**Financial Secretary Report:** Kristin T advised of changes to Planning Center to allow properly tracked (Qualified Charitable Distributions” (from IRAs) and “Doner-Advised Funds. An In-Kind Donation Form is available in the church office.

**Elder’s Report:** Jack C reported that the Elders have been working closely with Pastor James in all the duties of the Elders.

**Trustee’s Report:** Rex R reported on the newly created Safety Committee. He thanked everyone who has helped with the various cleanups and projects around the church this year. Thank you to Jim M for his continued guidance. Thank you to Doris Blatchford for stepping up to chair this team in the future and for managing the activities (Facilities Manager) held in the church.

**Fellowship Report:** Chair Marcia C discussed scheduling 5th Sunday Multi- Generational activities, such as bunco, trivia, Lighten Up Lutherans variety/talent show.

**Evangelism Report:** Carol D reported that the Evangelism Team (with generous donations from SOS members) was able to assist Northern Nevada Dream Center, Life Choices, FISH, Family Resource Center, the Veterans’ Center, Lions Club (over 130 pairs of eyeglasses), SLHS scholarship fund (jam sales), Operation Christmas Child and Austin House. The SOS Angel Tree will be ready soon.

No Stewardship, Christian Education or Circuit Forum Representation Reports.

**Old Business:**

Rex R informed the congregation that the next Safety Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 17, 2024, at 6:30PM at the church. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend.

Heidi De reported that she will be relocating in the future. Arrangements will need to be made to dispose of the furniture that has been collected for the Veterans’ Center. These items are currently being stored in a storage shed on her property.

**New Business:**

Pastor James recently met with leaders from SLHS, Trinity, Bethlehem and St. Luke’s (Reno) to begin planning for the National Youth Gathering (NYG) in New Orleans next July. There are approximately 25,000 participants who fill a professional baseball stadium. The plan is to send five (5) youths from SOS to this event with a fundraising goal of $12,000 to $14,000. This is a great way to restart the youth program at SOS. Pastor James requested that the congregation focus all extra fundraising efforts on the NYG. A generous donation was recently received for this project in the amount of $5,000 from the Friend family on behalf of Nancy’s father, Hal Johnson. The Council approved the advancement of funds for the registration fees which are due in October.

The Choir will begin practicing on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 7PM, in preparation for Reformation Sunday (last Sunday in October).

**Closing Prayer**: Jim Blatchford

Meeting adjourned at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Debbie H