**Shepherd of the Sierra Lutheran Church**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**Date**: June 11, 2024

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

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

**Opening Prayer**: Pastor Hilton

**Public Comments:**  None.

**President’s Comments:** None.

**Minutes: M/S/C** to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2024, Council Meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report**:

See Report. Cherie H discussed outsourcing to a payroll service when a pastor is hired (one employee only). This was tabled until discussion by Rex R below. The designated donation account does not show up separately on the financial sheets. Cherie will provide a list to the Council showing the amount donated and the amount spent to date on each expenditure. **M/S/C** to accept Treasurer’s Report as presented and the Transaction List by Vendor.

**Financial Secretary Report**: See Report. Kristine T is preparing a form for members to complete when making an “In-Kind” donations to the church which will ensure that all required information is included in the receipt.

**Pastor’s Report:** See Report. Highlights: prepared Third Amendment to the Vacancy Pastor Agreement (discussion below); Thursday Bible Study class continuing through June 27th; writing the orders of service weekly and providing lectors and pastor with introductions for the Bible readings; pulpit supply scheduled through July. Pastor H was contacted by John B, Music Director at Trinity Lutheran, regarding use of our facilities on July 20th and July 21st as Trinity will be installing new carpet in their sanctuary during that time. **M/S/C:**

Motion to invite Trinity Lutheran to use our facilities for a combined temporary worship service on July 20th (Saturday) and a combined traditional service on July 21st (Sunday).

Pastor H will coordinate these orders of service with Trinity.

Pastor H reported that President L will be here on June 23rd. An installation of a new pastor will be held in Winnemucca on June 22nd. Pastor Hilton will be attending the installation and will not be able to attend our church picnic on that date.

**Elders Report:** Jack C reported that the Elders reinstated the membership of Darlynn Stoa; Usher/Elder/Pastor schedule completed through July; Reviewed Pastor H’s proposed extension to the Vacancy Pastor Agreement through December 31, 2024. The vacancy pastor services will be terminated if a new pastor is hired before that date. **M/S/C:**

Motion to accept Third Amendment to Vacancy Agreement for Pastor H extending the date to December 31, 2024. This Agreement will be terminated if a permanent pastor accepts a call to SOS.

Discussion was held regarding Operation Shoebox, a program from Samaritan’s Purse (international organization). Cathie C offered assistance with this project. The Council agreed that this project should not take the place of the Angel Tree which assists persons in our community.

**Call Committee:** Jack C reported that pursuant to the Voters’ Meeting held on Sunday, June 9th a Call was emailed to President Lange as well as Pastor C. The paperwork was also mailed to Pastor Cleland. Pastor C acknowledged receipt of the emailed paperwork and reported that he will be providing his answer in less than the three weeks allowed. After discussion it was determined that the Call Committee will continue assisting with the moving process if the call is accepted by Pastor C.

**Trustees Report**: See Report. Rex R reported that the outside doors are being problematic and he is looking into this matter. A lengthy discussion was held on the renewal of the church’s insurance policies. **M/S/C:**

Motion to move insurance policy to Brotherhood Mutual which will include payroll (Ministry Works) for one employee.

The yearly cost is $6,786.00 for the policy and $271.12 for the payroll.

**Facilities Manager:** No report. Doris Blatchford received a request from Carson Chamber Singers for use of the sanctuary for a performance on October 18, 2024. Updated insurance papers will be provided. **M/S/C** as follows:

Motion to approve request from Carson Chamber Singers for use of our facilities on October 15th for an evening rehearsal and a performance on October 18, 2024.

Discussion was held on the date for Oktoberfest which has not been set at this time.

**Evangelism Report**: See Report. Cathie C reported ongoing assistance to Veteran’s Center, Family Resource Center and Austin House.

**Fellowship Report:** See Report. Marcia C reported the activities of the Fellowship Committee. This Sunday will the celebration for graduation, birthdays and Father’s Day. July Kuhlmann and her son, Greg, are moving to Reno.

**eCommunications Report:** See Report. Jim Blatchford reported there was an increase on the hits for the church website that may be due to external events; no phone and internet issues reported, still in the process of fine tuning the new sound system; new internet line to the sanctuary computer will be installed; two additional security cameras will be installed.

**Housing Financing Committee:** The Committee (Jack C, Cathie C, Cheryl H, John E) met and recommended that the call to a future pastor include the offer of a loan of up to $100,000 from church funds/donations for a down payment on the purchase of a house. Tithing will need to increase. A contract will be executed for this loan. After discussion, **M/S/C** as follows:

Motion allowing the Housing Financing Committee to execute a contract with any called pastor that accepts to assist the pastor with a down payment up to $100,000 for the purchase of a house.

**Old Business:**

**Recent Gift Priorities:**

Window coverings for youth room have been purchased and are ready to be installed. The window coverings will not be installed until after the youth room is painted.

Christmas Tree – Pat N is still researching (Jim/Doris have information)

Electric Sign – Jim Blatchford is still researching

New suggestions include: another storage shed, outdoor BBQ in the courtyard, instant hot water in the kitchen, replace water fountain with one with a water bottle feature.

**Printer Savings:** Lennie L continues to research.

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

June 16– Graduation Recognition

June 16 – Father’s Day (Debbie/Karen)

June 22 - Church Picnic at Kim and Nate’s

July 4 – Parking Lot Picnic (Jim Blatchford)

August 3 – Car Show

October – Oktoberfest ()

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

**Installation of New Pastor – date set by President L**

**New Business:**

**Voters’ Meeting:** Date in October will be set at a future meeting.

**Electric Sign Near Electric Cross:** Jim Blatchford continues to look into this matter. It was brought to the attention of the Council that the cross is not lit at night. Discussion regarding LED lighting was held.

**Add Security Procedure for Change Request in Planning Center:** Recently a church member was spoofed and an email was sent to the church requesting this member’s email address be changed. Discussion was held regarding setting up a two step process for a change to information in Planning Center.

**Discussion Items:** Karen S reported a voicemail requesting a wedding ceremony at SOS. No wedding policy in place at this time and Pastor H will handle this matter.

**Next Meeting:** July 9, 2024

**Public Comments:** None.

**Closing Prayer**: Jim Blatchford

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie H