**Shepherd of the Sierra Lutheran Church**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**Date**: October 8, 2024

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

**Present**: Pastor James, Jim Blatchford, Lennie L, Debbie H, Kristin T, Cherie H, Jack C, Marcia C, Doris Blatchford

**Opening Prayer**: Pastor James

**President’s Comments:** None.

**Minutes: M/S/C** to approve the minutes from the September 10, 2024, Council Meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report**: See Report. Discussions were held regarding the various reports prepared by Cherie Hong and the reporting of General Funds and Discretionary Funds.

**M/S/C** to accept Treasurer’s Report and the Transaction List by Vendor with the following modifications: Return to Budget/Actual Report; Update reported housing loan amount and list this loan as an asset on the balance sheet; All future giving goes to the General Fund unless an active Council approved project.

**Financial Secretary Report**: See Report. Kristin Timpone reported the new functionality in Planning Center to allow the church to properly track “Qualified Charitable Distributions” (from IRA’s) and “Doner-Advised Funds.” The 2024 donations received that fall under these categories have been updated and will appear as such on the year end statements.

**Pastor’s Report:** See Report. Highlights include: Hospital visits, coordinating with Pastor Hilton who has offered to continue his ministry to the shut-ins, meeting with fellow Lutheran pastors on ways to collaborate on ministry opportunities along the 395 corridor, outreach at SLHS, new members classes, Men’s Bible Study class, Communal Spaces Committee, a new logo development (will work on options to present to the congregation), meeting with parishioners for coffee and fellowship.

Discussion was held on the National Youth Gathering to be held in New Orleans next summer. Joint meeting held recently with SLHS, Trinity, Bethlehem and St. Luke’s. Goal is to send 5 youths from SOS to participate and to ensure that these youth can attend without any out-of-pocket expenses ($10,000 - $12,000). Pastor requested that SOS focus all extra fundraising efforts for this event until this goal is met.

**M/S/C** to set up Discretionary Fund to raise money for the National Youth Gathering.

**M/S/C** to advance funds for the registration fees ($395 each) for five (5) youths to attend the National Youth Gathering.

**Elders Report:** See Report. Jack C reported that Advent services will be held on December 4th, 11th and 18th. Proposed Christmas Eve candlelight service on December 24th at 8PM and no service on December 25th.

**Trustees Report**: See Report.

**Facilities Manager:** See Report. Doris Blatchford reported that the Anglican Church will no longer be utilizing our facility for meetings and Mark Sanders will return the key. A request was received for use of the sanctuary for a Messiah concert during December and another Baroque concert by James R. After discussion, **M/S/C**

Motion to allow the use of the sanctuary in December for a Messian concert and a Baroque concert.

**Evangelism Report**: See Report. “Come and See Sunday” on October 20th.

**Fellowship Report:** See Report. Dates and times were discussed and confirmed for the church decorating for Christmas and cookie exchange, advent soup suppers and services. Marcia discussed 5th Sunday church activities including bunco, trivia, Empty Bowls, Lighten Up Lutheran variety/talent show. Food packets have been prepared for Pastor James to distribute when needed.

**eCommunications Report:** See Report. Jim Blatchford reported that Pastor James updated the website.

**Safety Committee:** No update.

**Public Comment:** None.

**New Business:** Discussion was held regarding recent issues with Bank of America. **M/S/C**

Motion to move the Shepherd of Sierra Bank of America accounts to Greater Nevada Credit Union.

It was determined that there is no need for a separate Capital Maintenance account.

**October 13th Voters’ Meeting:** The agenda and ballot were discussed: **M/S/C**

Motion to approve the proposed agenda and ballot for the October 13, 2024 Voters’ Meeting.

**Old Business:**

**Carpet Replacement in Office and Multipurpose Room:** No update.

**Printer Savings:** Lennie L reported that the church entered into a five-year lease on the copier in March of 2021 with no early buyout. Notification will need to be made ninety (90) days before the expiration of the lease in order to avoid automatic renewal of the next lease. There is a right to purchase at fair market value.

**Annual Events:**

October 13 – Oktoberfest (Lergs/Timpones/Schobers)

October 13 – Voters’ Meeting

November 10 – Chili Cookoff (Matt Schober)

November 24 – Thanksgiving Feast (Marcia)

November 30 – Cookie Exchange (Marcia/Heidi Lerg)

Sanctuary Decorating (Neales/Ediss)

December 4/11/18 – Soup Suppers and Advent Services (Fellowship/Doris)

December 24 – Christmas Eve Service

**Recent Gift Priorities:**

1. Large TV (75”+) (eCommunications)
2. Stand for Large TV (eCommunications)
3. New SOTSL Sign (eCommunications) (Logo)
4. Lighting Sidewalks (Facilities)
5. Outside BBQ (new committee)
6. Hi Top Table and Chairs (new committee)
7. Locking Mailbox (low priority)
8. New Safe (installed)

**Next Meeting:** November 12, 2024

**Closing Prayer**: Jim Blatchford

**Adjournment**: Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie H