**Shepherd of the Sierra Lutheran Church**

**Council Meeting Minutes**

**Date**: November 12, 2024

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

**Present**: Pastor James, Jim Blatchford, Lennie Lerg, Debbie Hochsprung, Kristin Timpone, Cherie Hong, Jack Coyne, Marcia Coyne, Doris Blatchford, Cathie Collier, Joe Timpone

**Guests:** Ryann Cleland, Matt Schober

**Opening Prayer**: Pastor James

**President’s Comments:** None.

**Public Comments:** Matt Schober presented a concern of the Safety Committee regarding one main entry/exit to the sanctuary. Currently the exit near the western front side of the sanctuary is a slab of concrete leading nowhere. Discussions were held on installing ADA compliant ramps from the concrete slab to the patio. The addition of a new exit door on the eastern side of the sanctuary would involve permitting from Douglas County. Rex is checking with the insurance company on this matter. Doris Blatchford will check on the costs of ramps. A suggestion was made that this could be an Eagle Scout project.

**Minutes: M/S/C** to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2024, Council Meeting.

**Treasurer’s Report**: See Report. Cherie Hong went over the Balance Sheet and Budget vs. Actuals Report. At this time the financial health of the church is good. **M/S/C** to approve the Treasurer’s Report.

**Financial Secretary Report**: See Report. Kristin Timpone reported on the current donations with breakdowns for special funds.

**Pastor’s Report:** See Report. Highlights include: signage for each entryway with new font (including what each room should be named), new business cards for Pastor and the church with new logo; outdoor solar/LED lights along sidewalk and for the wooden sign; increasing giving for community assistance (will work with Evangelism team); dispose of lobby couches; create a men’s ministry (may be able to build items for the church); hospital shut in visits and purchase of communion kits; no personal information on the church website due to a recent scam; an elder has expressed an interest in the SNP Program (resource for hospital visits, pulpit supply); church secretary resignation (Trinity is hiring and perhaps this position can be job shared); shared his upcoming Sermon Series (Advent through Easter); one traditional Easter service; Christmas service at 4:30PM with no communion; please keep him apprised of church traditions. Our church is sponsoring 5 and possibly 6 youth at the National Youth Gathering in July 2025. Pastor may be a speaker at the event which would free up funds for possibly one more chaperone.

**Elders Report:** See Report. Joe Timpone advised that Pastor had covered the items in his report.

**Trustees Report**: In Rex’s absence there was no report.

**Facilities Manager:** See Report. Doris Blatchford discussed the purchase of a trauma first aid kit. It was determined that this kit should be on the wall under the AED in the fellowship hall. Discussion was held on the purchase of one or two new wheelchairs due to the fact that the current wheelchairs are broken. It was suggested that Doris talk with Joyce McCormack as she and Jack utilize a wheelchair when at the church. Doris reported that leaf removal will take place next week.

Discussion was held on the cost of tuning the grand piano ($150) each time it is moved for an event in our sanctuary. It was determined that a clause will be added to the Rental Contract that there will be a $150 charge if the piano is utilized for the event. A clause will also be added to the contract that there is to be no food or drinks in the sanctuary for events.

Doris Blatchford met with the HVAC technician and new thermostats will be installed in the narthex and sanctuary.

**Evangelism Report**: See Report. Operation Christmas Child was a huge success. Collecting food for Shine and Pastor will look over donated food items and determine which ones go to Shine. With many homeless people walking past our church, a tiny food closet (like the tiny libraries) may be built. Cathie Collier will coordinate with Heidi DePuy on the items for the veterans currently in Heidi’s storage shed.

**Fellowship Report:** See Report. Next large event is Thanksgiving Feast. Marcia Coyne has scheduled the 5th Sunday church activities for 2025. The chili cookoff was a huge success with Pastor James winning in two categories. A St. Patrick’s Day event may be scheduled after coordinating dates with SLHS.

**Board of Education:** Chairman Elect Ryann Cleland reported that The Jesus Storybook Bible is being utilized for Sunday School with the younger children.

**eCommunications Report:** See Report. Jim Blatchford reported that he and Pastor continue to search for a large screen TV before purchasing the stand. All previously used equipment has been sold/donated.

**Safety Committee:** No update. See Public Comments above.

**New Business:**

**2025 Spending Plan**: After coordinating with Cherie Hong and the board chairmen, Jim Blatchford presented a proposed 2025 budget/spending plan. After discussing several line items, proposed changes will be made by Jim and sent out to Council members. When the amended proposed budget is approved by Council members, it will be presented to the congregation on December 8th for final approval. Discussions were held on having a line item for Events under Fellowship. This will cover the cost for any church events held where main items will need to be purchased. It was suggested to include a Challenge to increase the church income. Pastor James stated Legacy Deo will be coming to SOS for an estate giving seminar in the near future.

**Old Business:**

**Carpet Replacement in Office and Multipurpose Room:** Jack Coyne reported that a quote from Home Depot was less than the quote from Lowe’s. Joe Timpone offered to coordinate with Jack on this project.

**Bank Transfer:** The transfer from Bank of America to GNCU will be coordinated with the signatories (Jim, Lennie, Debbie). Cherie Hong would like to attend this meeting to determine how the online banking works.

**Annual Events:**

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) (see comment above)
2. Stand for Large TV (eCommunications) (see comment above)
3. New SOTSL Sign (eCommunications) (Logo)
4. Lighting Sidewalks (Facilities) (LED/Solar)
5. Outside BBQ (new committee) (Black Friday sales)
6. Hi Top Table and Chairs (new committee) (Black Friday sales)
7. Locking Mailbox (low priority) (Jim Blatchford)

**Next Meeting:** December 10, 2024

**Closing Prayer**: Joe Timpone

**Adjournment**: Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbie Hochsprung