**Grace Lutheran Church Council Meeting**

**December 10, 2023**

Members Present: Pastor Jami, Jeff Ashland, David Krumwiede, Deb Heidebrink, Brett Salzwedel, Randy Masad, Russ Eckard (via phone), and Mary Christianson.

Pastor Jami opened with a prayer.

President Jeff Ashland called the meeting to order.

Russ made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, Brett seconded, motion carried.

David made a motion to approve the financial reports, Randy seconded, motion carried.

**New Business**

We discussed the church’s upcoming 75th Anniversary, possibly holding a celebration in June. We will need to form a committee, and Pat Palmberg agreed to work with that committee; other council members will also be involved. No formal action was taken.

Pastor Jami requested we lower his annual salary by $3000, and move that compensation to his housing stipend; he has spoken with a tax person regarding this. Brett moved, and Dave seconded that we make this line-item adjustment; motion carried.

We have received an anonymous donation to cover the cost of a new LED sign out front. We discussed the various options for type of sign and will need to get approval from the city. Russ made a motion, Randy seconded to accept the donation for the sign. Motion carried. Deb will talk with a city representative regarding the sign. More discussion will follow later regarding the design.

A janitorial/custodial service was discussed. Our current custodian works 2 hours every other week, and helpers from Hope Haven come in once/week. Our custodian is considering working 2 hours each week. We will follow up at our next meeting.

Pastor Jami shared information on Right Now Media. This is a streaming application similar to Netflix (without commercials) and is Christian based. It provides multiple services such as bible study, family and youth content, and various series. Jami will talk with Aaron, a representative in Texas, in January. The cost is $80/month. After discussion, no action was taken.

**Old Business**

Pastor Jami gave an update on the online directory; a few members have completed the form online, and a few have filled out the paper forms. We will give this more focus after Christmas.

We discussed the Committee update, with Pastor Jami suggesting we condense the committees into three pools – Outreach & Service, Worship & Stewardship, and Youth & Events. Jami proposes we reinstate the committees, basically renaming and reviving what we have done in the past, and what we have on our Stewardship forms.

Pastor Jami shared a membership definition he wrote, which “invites” rather than “demands” suggested expectations of church members. After discussion, Russ made a motion and Randy seconded we approve this definition; motion carried. The proposal included a new member orientation followed by new member Sunday twice/year. This will begin in 2024.

We again discussed our Constitution update, with a target of completion by our annual meeting.

**Other Business**

We will have the Oaxaca garage sale July 11-13, 2024. Denny Lippon will head this project. The hours will be Thursday 5-7; Friday & Saturday 7:00-Noon. More details to follow.

Youth gathering – we have eight students planning to attend the ELCA Youth Conference in New Orleans next summer. They will be joining youth from First Lutheran in Milford. They plan to fly Delta, at an approximate cost of $500/ticket.

The meeting was adjourned with The Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Christianson, Council Secretary