

**Church Council Meeting Minutes**  
**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**July 23rd, 2020**

1. Council members in attendance: Garry Haase, President; Ann Lienemann, Vice President; Marion Russell, Treasurer; Jean Grieve, Human Care Board Chairman; Nathan Lepper, Elder Board Chairman; Darrell Bittle, Properties Board Chairman; Curtis Wiese, Family Life Minister; and Pastor Ray Angerman.

2. Proceedings.

A. Call to Order. The church council held a virtual meeting via Zoom. President Garry Haase called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

B. Opening Devotion. Isaiah Chapter 43, verses 18 and 19. "Remember not the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." People are longing for life to return to normal. In light of what we are going through with COVID-19, maybe we should ask about God's plan and be open to the change he is making. As a church, it's important we get on-board with what God is doing.

C. Approval of Minutes (May, draft). Ms Jean Grieve made a motion to approve the minutes as written. VP Ann Lienemann seconded the motion, and the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.

3. Financial Reports.

A. Treasurer. Ms Marion Russell reported the church is over \$13K in the black. The church has been very blessed with steady donations throughout the pandemic. FLM Curtis cautioned that giving has dropped during the month of July, according to Ms Kathy Shaw.

B. Business Manager. President Haase read the business manager's report and noted the benevolence fund has a balance of \$1,185.49. One member received rent assistance during June, and the HH Brown scholarship application is still pending. Pastor Ray recommended Ms Shaw contact Hope Lutheran.

4. Present Member. Ms Connie Haney attended the council meeting.

## 5. Board Reports.

A. Elders. Mr Nathan Lepper reported the Elders did not meet this month. He anticipates the Board will remain “as is” for the foreseeable future due to the pandemic.

B. Christian Education. FLM Curtis reported Rally Day will not be held this year. The Pastor’s virtual bible study class began last Sunday. President Haase thanked Pastor Ray for streaming the bible study.

C. Fellowship. FLM Curtis reported it is too early to determine whether or not the Reformation picnic can go forward.

D. Human Care. Ms Grieve reported the American Cancer Society suspended all in-person events through the end of this year. Ms Grieve recommended the congregation hold a “celebration of life” to honor all those members we’ve lost during the year.

E. Properties. Mr Darrell Bittle reported the Okaloosa County inspector signed final acceptance for the church office remodel, and the final bill was paid on July 17th. Additional funds were received to award the environmental remediation project to Servpro. The first air conditioner coil was removed for cleaning on July 22nd, and the second coil was removed on July 23<sup>rd</sup>. All work is scheduled to be complete next week. On July 16<sup>th</sup>, Okaloosa County notified the church the water backflow preventer failed its annual test, and it must be repaired or replaced by August 20<sup>th</sup>. The work order is out to price replacement materials and installation.

F. Stewardship. There was no board report available.

G. Outreach. FLM Curtis reported the Billy Bowlegs parade is cancelled. The Life Tree Café is active once again, and its core members are attending the meetings.

H. Youth. FLM Curtis reported the youth group is meeting in-person but the group has limited attendance. The American Heritage Girls plan to meet starting in August.

## 6. Old Business.

A. Ms Russell asked whether any further work on the Fellowship Hall is needed or contemplated. FLM Curtis explained the current remediation is for the air conditioning system only. President Haase mentioned the original company who performed testing is supposed to meet with the council to explain the results of the original test. Ms Russell commented now is the best time to address the mold because the Fellowship Hall is not being used. President Haase requested Mr Bittle follow-up with the environmental testing company to arrange a virtual meeting with the council.

B. FLM Curtis reported the organ cable arrived.

## 7. New Business. None.

8. Family Life Minister's report. See paragraphs B, G, and H above. FLM Curtis mentioned there is a 20-second delay between the church service and the live stream broadcast. It's difficult to find volunteers to operate the live stream equipment. Ms Grieve offered to attend the training and support the live stream for early service.
9. Pastor's report.
  - a. Kathy Holbrook's service will be on August 25<sup>th</sup> or 26<sup>th</sup>. Funerals are considered a "super spreader" event, so that's the reason Carol Burkhard's memorial service was conducted via live stream.
  - b. Restarting the Church. Most churches are coming to the realization the pandemic has changed our reality. What are our expectations for the future? Pastor Ray and FLM Curtis described three different types of members: 1) green = those who want a quick restart and a return to pre-pandemic status as soon as possible, 2) yellow = those who believe we only need a fresh coat of paint and introspective thought, and 3) red = those who may stay home permanently because it's easier to watch church services via a computer than attend in-person. Pastor Steve Simon believes the church will change because God is doing some pruning. Small groups may be the center of the church after the pandemic. Pastor Ray praised FLM Curtis for his technical skills, and for rapidly "retooling" our services in response to the pandemic. A huge thank-you to FLM Curtis for all the work he put forth.
  - c. Red Letter Challenge. Sunday school this Fall will be a 40-day challenge for each individual to study the "red letter" words of Jesus and to put Jesus' words into action. The class begins on the second Sunday in September (September 13<sup>th</sup>). Pastor Ray requested authorization to purchase 175 adult books and 125 children's books in advance of the class. The cost is approximately \$20 per book. To date, the church received \$2,020 in donations from 3 families but needs a total of \$3K. Ms Russell asked for an estimate of postage needed to mail books to members who may not come to the church to pick-up a book. At the moment, there's no reliable way to estimate how many books will need to be mailed. President Haase made a motion to use \$900 from Thrivent, if needed, to purchase Red Letter Challenge books. Ms Russell seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote.
  - d. Face masks. Ms Russell asked what the church's policy is regarding face masks. It is not mandatory to wear a mask; however, the church requests members respect each other's personal space for social distancing. Masks are available for anyone who does not have one. FLM Curtis estimated 80 percent of members are wearing masks. Both President Haase and Mr Lepper spoke out saying military members are expected to be role models in the community by wearing masks. President Haase believes our church has reached a good balance between the needs of both "green" and "red" members.
10. Next Council Meeting. The next council meeting is scheduled for August 20th via

Zoom.

11. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:47 pm.

Garry Haase  
Council President

Attachments:

1. Agenda
2. Meeting Minutes for June (None) (No council meeting in June)
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Board of Elders Report (included in FLM's Report)
5. Board of Education Report (included in FLM's Report)
6. Board of Youth Report (included in FLM's Report)
7. Board of Fellowship Report (included in FLM's Report)
8. Board of Human Care Report (none)
9. Board of Stewardship Report (none)
10. Board of Outreach (included in FLM's Report)
11. Board of Properties Report
12. A Look at Membership 2020
13. Business Manager's Report

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