

Faith Lutheran Church
Board of Directors Minutes
April 19, 2021

Present: (Zoom) Pastor Biermann, Bruce Trevithick, Sam Siegel, Chris Vanlandeghem, Matt Guinn, Ken Duetsch, Heather Vance, Krissa Zander, Marcy Montez, Laurie Crawford, Phillip Whitmer

Absent: Jenny Mervyn, Sarah Palmer

Guests: Sara Slangor

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm with devotion and prayer led by Pastor Biermann. Pastor's message focused on his sermon from Sunday which centered on Martin Luther's "Here I Stand" position in defense of the Gospel that took place 500 years ago. Talked about how Luther boldly stood his ground but did it respectfully, which as the Pastor stated, is very unusual for this day and age where people now seem to fight, bicker and belittle each other and/or their beliefs and that we see it all over the place. That Luther just spoke frankly and straight forward much as the apostles did before him which can be seen in Acts Chapter 4. And the key here is that the many that heard, believed. The word was spoken, the power of the gospel did its work, by the power of the word of God more believers every day were being seen. At Faith we stand by the power of the gospel and in that power we are going to continue to prosper and grow as a congregation and continue to lead people to salvation. Don't let what is going on in this world to get us down. The world has always been sinful, it always will be. Keep your trust in Jesus, not men. Pastor then offered prayer.

Guest Presentation: Sarah Slangor (4 year old Pre-School teacher)

- Shared with us who she is
 - Attends church at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Burton
 - Her children attended the Pre-School at Faith
- Talked about how special it is to see the children's faith grow as they attend the school
- Talked about current activities going on in the pre-school
 - Cathy Cronkright resigned. Cindy LaFontaine has taken over for her teaching Monday, Wednesday and Friday with Sarah Slangor assisting. On Tuesday and Thursday, Sarah Slangor teaches with Emily Tippen assisting.
 - Celebrated Easter doing the resurrection egg. This lesson was explained in more detail by Sarah
 - Had their Easter egg hunt following the spring break
 - Getting ready to move on to Mother's day where the children will make a gift for mom.
 - 4 year olds are working with the anatomy apron where they learn all the different parts of the body. As part of this they do different scientific experiments.
 - Graduation for the 4 year olds will be Thursday May 27th
 - 3 year olds have been working on their 5 senses
- Have picked up 8 new students over the past two months

- Parent conferences have been taking place as well as tours of the pre-school. This is by appointment only
- School has been blessed in that no covid quarantine has been required since the fall.

Sarah was thanked by Bruce and the Pastor for the excellent update

Secretary's Report: Phillip Whitmer

- Minutes from the March 15, 2021 were presented. Motion was made by Ken to accept the minutes as presented. Motion was supported by Pastor Biermann. All voted in favor and minutes were approved.

Pastoral Report/Notes: Pastor Biermann

- Requested any feedback on the parochial report that was shared prior to the meeting. Said that the office staff is doing what they can to make current numbers when compared to prior numbers make sense but it is really like comparing apples to oranges,
 - That since the beginning of the pandemic we have been able to cope and deal with the situation. We have been able to hold live worship, and have been able to add more live aspects along the way and have done this effectively since May of last year so we have gone almost a year now. We thank God for the safety and health that he has provided during this time for the Faith family.
- Kelly Cradit's father passed away due to covid
- Ministry outside of the church continues with both Pastor Biermann and Scott meeting with members both in and out of the church.
- Christie Hansard has been very active in ministering to those with special needs and questions with how to deal with this pandemic. She has been taking calls 24/7.
- Joel Zander has been working with the initial plans for vacation bible school as well as some summer events
- There is a staff planning day scheduled for April 29th
- Pastor Scott recently turned 64. He plans to retire in 4 years. Board and congregation will need to start thinking of how we will staff for that eventuality
- Christie Hansard will be finishing her Deaconess program this summer and at that time could be officially called to serve in any congregation of the LCMS as a Deaconess. To help the congregation better understand what a "deaconess" is, Reverend Doctor Bushur, head of the Deaconess program at Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, IN, will be preaching in both services and presenting to the congregation @ 9:30 am between services on August 15th, where he will talk about the deaconess program and the ministry and services that deaconesses bring to a congregation. The question arises as to where do we go concerning the status of Christie? Current areas of service by Christie that could be expanded upon include:
 - Health Ministry
 - Emergency Contacts for anyone in their time of need
 - Social Ministry
 - Keeping track of the visits made to the home bound and hospitalized
 - Working with MOPS and other women's groups
 - Faith Legacy and the confirmation process

- Not for action tonight, but Pastor proposed that we consider extending a call to Christie, especially in light of the fact that Pastor Scott plans to retire in the not so distant future. That we possibly time this so that the congregation can act upon it in the January voters meeting. Budget would need to be considered as it is most likely that with the part time position that her hours would increase. More thought, prayers and discussion over the next couple of months to take place. Marcy indicates that Christie has been extremely helpful to her with respect to Social Ministry.
- Laurie asked if there would be consideration in calling a new pastor. Pastor replied that as the church continues to grow that the need would be there and he certainly hopes that the church would seek and call another pastor to serve at Faith Lutheran.

Presidents Report: Bruce Trevithick

Had nothing specific to report.

V.P. Property & Maintenance: Sam Siegel

- Didn't really have anything specific to report on. Performing regular maintenance and upkeep of the facilities and grounds. Getting estimates for a couple of improvements and will share with the board at the next meeting.
 - A-Team currently not active. Louie Barger has been maintaining the outside.
 - Sam is staying in place for the future

V.P. Salary & Personnel: Chris Vanlandeghem

- A lot going on but most of it was already brought up and discussed by the board earlier in the meeting
 - Some personnel changes have happened in the pre-school
 - Christies role in the future as deaconess

V.P. Finance & Stewardship: Ken Duetsch

- Reviewed the financial statements which are setup using QuickBooks. Ken stated that Alicen is doing a great job with the program and maintaining the financials. Statements were for the second month of the new budget year. (All statements on file in the Church office)
 - Income remains positive to budgeted number.
 - Expenses were negative to budgeted number (lower than what was budgeted)
 - Fund balance sheet was presented and reviewed
- Bruce asked if there had been any unusual giving amount which caused income to be so far above what is budgeted. Reply from Ken was nothing that would be considered an outlier. Phil stated that there had been several RMD's over the first couple of months.
- Credit card policy was presented as well as a usage contract that will be signed by those authorized to use a Faith Lutheran credit card. (Hard copy on file with office)
 - Use of Debit Card will be added to the contract to cover both. Same rules will apply to both.

- Motion made by Ken to adopt this policy and contract with changes, as noted. Matt supported the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.
- Ballots come out this week for the congregations vote.
 - Laurie asked if we would be privy to seeing who is on the ballot prior to receiving the actual ballot. Pastor responded that it had been published through the faith happenings via a link and that paper copies with Bio's and Pictures were available by the Baptismal Font.

Board Reports & Requests:

Youth Board: Jenny Mervyn

Bruce reported for Jenny

- Senior High bonfire went very well
- Last Sunday they had a middle school event that went well
- Involved all age groups in a virtual "escape" room.
- Continue to meet three times a month on zoom
 - Starting to add in in-person meetings as well

Elders: Matt Guinn

Met last Monday

- Elders are in support of placing a Call for Christie Hansard when appropriate
- Acolyte program is currently only serving the late service. Will work on providing for both service in the future
- Two transfers in – Thomas and Susan Charter.
 - Motion made by Matt that these transfers be approved. Supported by Marcy. Motion was passed
- Has two Elders whose terms are up and he (Matt) is working with them to keep them on board temporarily until their position can be filled.
- Ongoing discussion concerning Covid and Church Services. We will continue to monitor the situation and act appropriately.

Outreach & Evangelism: Sarah Palmer

Reported on by Bruce

- Worked with Christie Hansard and dropped off frond packets to homebound members for Palm Sunday and Easter.
- Currently pricing out something to give to visitors when they come to church such as a info packet, mints
- Will be reaching out to Krissa Zander in the near future for her assistance

Worship: Laurie Crawford

- Good Friday Service went well
- Lilies were individually purchased and then taken home by those who had provided them

Communication & Publicity: Krissa Zander

- Boosted the Easter service twice on Facebook. Able to select who receives so sent one to those who have friended the Facebook site and then another to the Grand Blanc Community in general.
- Participated in the Grand Blanc Township Easter Egg hunt. Passed out 300 small lights.
- Reminded us that Professional Administrative Assistant day is this coming Wednesday. Words of praise and appreciation towards the church office staff would be welcome

Congregational Ministry: Heather Vance

- Reviewed upcoming events
 - Dad and kid mountain bike outing
 - Feed the birds at Kensington park
 - Ice Crème social for end of the year, probably in June
 - VBS planning is underway
 - Combination option most likely – both in person and virtually
 - Additionally a neighborhood VBS as well
- Working on developing some inter-generational activities. Some thoughts currently are:
 - Crocheting
 - Tech Class
 - Gardening
 - Auto repair

Social Ministry: Marcy Montez

- 7 gift cards were handed out @ Easter (instead of the traditional basket)
- Has been in touch with Becky Belill concerning the providing of meals to those members/families that have had a life event where a helping hand would be appreciated. Program is going well
- Asked Pastor how Grand Blanc Outreach (GBO) is going. Pastor responded –
 - Going ok – Looking for an appropriate site
 - A member of Faith Lutheran donated \$1,250 to GBO
 - Logo was updated
 - Pastor will probably be stepping down as the Chair in September. Will still be active.

Roundtable & Announcements:

- Pastor is still active with the Grand Blanc Chamber of Commerce and staying connected with the community

Bruce closed the meeting with prayer. Meeting adjourned at 8:22pm

Next meeting is May 17, 2021 @ 7:00pm via ZOOM

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip W. Whitmer