

Faith Lutheran Church  
Board of Directors Minutes  
August 17, 2020

**Present: (Zoom)** Pastor Biermann, Bruce Trevithick, Sam Siegel, Scott Hans, Matt Guinn, Ken Duetsch, Heather Vance, Sarah Palmer, Krissa Zander, Marcy Montez, Jenny Mervyn, Laurie Crawford, Phillip Whitmer

**Guests:** Cindy LaFontaine, Joel Zander

Meeting was called to order at 7:02pm with devotion and prayer led by Pastor Biermann. Commented on current conditions and briefly mentioned the staff retreat from the week prior to this. That at this meeting they came up with a theme for the upcoming year based on Esther Chapter 4, Verse 14: *For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?* Specifically the second half of the verse, where Esther is being called upon by the Lord to stand up for her people who are being threatened with destruction and in danger of being totally eliminated. That she had been chosen by the Lord to stand up to the King at great peril to herself. And the staff took that theme and are applying it to our situation at Faith where we are currently in a world of strife and stress. Brought on by the root cause of sin and the evil in the world and the absence of God within this world. Greatest thing we can do is bring the hope of Christ to others. That we as a Faith family need to bring this hope to a hurting world.

**Secretary's Report:** Phillip Whitmer

- Minutes from the July 20<sup>th</sup> meeting were presented and reviewed. Ken Duetsch made the motion to accept as presented. Marcy Montez supported and the motion was passed.

**Pastoral Report/Notes:** Pastor Biermann

- Parochial Report had been distributed in advance. Pastor stated that he didn't want to rehash what we could read on our own. Stated that overall things have been going pretty well. Attendance hard to compare to last year but that we continue to have a strong faithful attendance at the three services. Average attendance at each of the three services is between 60-70 attendees. Mentioned that staff are remaining active and connecting with people when they can. There were no questions presented.
- Rally day on September 13<sup>th</sup> following the selected theme. Handout to be distributed that is a clock with the 12 numbers. Hands of the clock will be replaced with a cross. Families will be able to take home and decorate as they please. Button will also be passed out that is similar to the clock that the members can carry in their purse or pocket. Will be distributed at the services or may be picked up in the office.
- On November 8<sup>th</sup>, special veterans service. Will be officiated by Pastor Cottam working with Steve Bohanna (??) who is a military pastor with the Missouri Synod. To be live and/or virtual as time and situation allows.

- Pastor will be leading a sermon/bible study series focusing on how we as Christians in America can help fight racism
- Morning devotions to continue Monday through Thursday by staff members primarily but will open it up to any lay person that would like to lead that days devotions. 8:15am starting September 8<sup>th</sup>.
- Looking to possibly do a virtual “Journey to Bethlehem” for the Christmas season. Pastor elaborated upon how this might be put together

#### **Covid 19 Update:**

- Pastor informed us that the services going into the fall will continue to be using the same format, attendance maximums etc. at least through the end of October.
- Activities within the building will be limited to “essential only” with a maximum of 10 attendees or less. Preschool falls under this umbrella
- Bruce brought up the blood drive and flu shot clinic planned for October as exceptions to what the Pastor just discussed. Pastor pointed out that both events will be closely monitored and that a minimal number of people at any given point of time would be in the building. Sarah mentioned that the August blood drive went very well.

#### **President’s Report: Bruce Trevithick**

- Nothing in addition to report at this time

#### **V.P. Property & Maintenance: Sam Siegel**

- Mentioned the blood drive and that they were limited to just the Family Life Center
- Preschool roof thrown away due to excessive damage
- Leaks in the building are ongoing. At this point Sam has not called anybody to repair. Put in new ceiling tile where needed Preschool leaks repaired by Sam
- There were no questions for Sam at this time

#### **V.P. Salary & Personnel: Scott Hans**

- Cindy was called upon to elaborate more on the opening plans for the preschool. She said waiting list has been instituted due to Grand Blanc schools going virtual. Family Life Center will be used with only one class at a time using the space and each class will have their own equipment.
- Scott stated that Cindy will primarily be “director” only, with teaching responsibilities being secondary.
- Cindy confirmed that there are plans/processes in place should an outbreak of Covid 19 occur
- Scott let us know that all documentation and forms have been handled by Cindy and are ready for use as needed. That Cindy and her staff are going to have their hands full meeting all the requirements and he asked us to keep them in our prayers.
- Transition from Marge to Alicen continues. Scott has been working with Alicen and Marge through the process. More work to be done.

- Will update the Board next month with changes that have taken place within the benefit arena

#### **V.P. Finance & Stewardship: Ken Duetsch**

- Has been working his way through his list of those impacted in some way by the budget. Has talked to most, still has a few more to go.
- Still working on becoming familiar with the financial reports. Goal is to have a one page summary that addresses just the key components for the board.
- Highlights for the month – giving is up, ahead of budget by almost \$13,000. Preschool income is down, expenses are also down. Currently ahead of plan by \$28,800.
- Will be working on aligning the line items with what is happening and will have more for the next meeting
- Discussion concerning “Cash on Hand” and the components that drive that number ensued. Ken in process of reviewing that. Stated that part of the number includes the endowment fund which he wants to remove from that line. Ken stated that for him, cash on hand are the deposit accounts.

#### **Board Reports & Requests:**

##### **Elders: Matt Guinn**

- Met with the Elders in August
  - No major changes concerning worship services
  - Election of Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary were held. Those in current position remained so.
  - Nothing else really to discuss. Small tweaks to communion and sanitizing sanctuary
  - Marcy asked if the elders were doing any outreach to stay in touch with the members of Faith. Matt stated that this was actually discussed at their April meeting and then reinforced with the August meeting and that the Elders are reaching out to those in their district and inviting them or informing them of how to participate at their discretion. Pastor mentioned that maybe it is time to have the congregation reach out again to the name prior to and the name following theirs in the directory and call them. Heather let us know that they have been reaching out to members/families that might be interested in various events. She also reminded us that Becky Belill had organized some of the youth to put together care packages for some of our members that are home bound and had those delivered. Contacted those members by phone and then delivered the packages.

### **Outreach & Evangelism: Sarah Palmer**

- Homecoming event not going to happen because the Grand Blanc schools are going virtual
- Lannie Williams is putting together a car wash event. Also looking at doing the Gas Cards again, maybe a pumpkin patch, thank you luncheon for first responders.
- MOPS is going virtual
- Discussion among the board concerning reaching out to the congregation was held. Tying it in with ideas that Joel is putting together for families that are now home schooling. Mass mailing inviting members to particular events was suggested by Pastor Biermann just to kind of break up the monotony of the use of social media. Cindy talked about reaching out to those who are home alone.

### **Worship: Laurie Crawford**

- Gave no report but did discuss her concerns about hanging onto the congregation and the current way that worship services are being handled

### **Communication & Publicity: Krissa Zander**

- Assisted in the editing of VBS videos and uploaded to where they needed to be
- Assisted others in working through problems with facebook

### **Congregational Ministry: Heather Vance**

- Joel Zander moderated the last meeting held last week, due to election of chair and co-chair taking place
- Discussed VBS and all of the great things that came out of that endeavor
- Wants to focus on putting together a tighter budget for the year focusing on specific events
- At the meeting Joel also brought up the subject of possibly doing some virtual table talks. Heather told us that Joel plans to host a table talk at the end of August with parents that will be home schooling to get their thoughts and concerns and they can be better supported given current situations.
- Fall events were discussed –
  - Trunk'r Treat – maybe taking it to neighborhoods
  - Wednesday Night Alive – September front lawn, bring own picnic lunch, space appropriately
- Joel expanded upon the conversation about the table talks. Wants to bring people together to worship and talk about what is going on

**Social Ministry:** Marcy Montez

- Sent emails to her board – minimal response. Will pick up phone and call to insure that former members have the opportunity to continue
- Currently not a lot going on
- Offered her help to other boards
- Pastor suggested a type of clearing house where one member needs something and another member has stepped forward volunteering to meet that need

**Youth Board:** Jenny Mervyn

- Bottle drive coming to an end soon. Current total is around \$1600
- Zoom meetings continue with all age brackets. Once school starts she and Joel are discussing best times for the Middle School and High School students to be engaged.
- Working on ways to safely bring the “kids” together. Some thoughts are swim party for the girls, Middle Schoolers meet at Ziggys, Tony Crow meeting with the boys at the end of the month.

**Roundtable & Announcements:**

- Cindy mentioned that Sunday School will be virtual. Joel stated that the selected curriculum can be used either in person or virtually.

Closed with prayer from Pastor Biermann. Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm

Next meeting is September 21, 2020 @ 7:00pm via ZOOM

Respectfully submitted,

Phillip W Whitmer

