

Salem Lutheran Church 2702 1st Street, Mahtowa, MN 55707

Annual Meeting Minutes, January 24th 2016

Attendance:

Donita Korpela, Lance Korpela, Brent Speldrich, Dave Eller, Chuck Porter, Sue Zmyslony, Donna Lekander, Marie Nyblom, Jeff Nyblom, Lucas Lekander, Jeff Gilbertson, Erin Langhorst, Zach Langhorst, Sue Gustafson, Roger Gustafson, Pat Butcher, Barry LeBlanc, Earl Erickson, Burton Peterson, Glendora Peterson, Rodney Peterson, Esther Peterson, Gail Peterson, Gloria Soukkala, Doug Soukkala, Donna Myhre, Ed Myhre, Lori Carlson, Ailie Calverly, Jody Eller, Betty Carlson, Gloria Olesiak, Rachel Nelson, Marilyn Estrem, John Estrem, Mindy Malenke, Brooke Anderson, Caleb Anderson, Jason Marsh, Natalie Nynas, Angie Korpela, Jean Hendrickson,

Blessings and opening devotions by Pastor John Estrem

Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting: Motion to approve the 2015 annual meeting minutes by Caleb, 2nd by Jeff

Annual Reports and Reviews:

- Council Report: Presented by Jason Marsh. The focus of the council has been primarily the transition process and keeping the needs of the church in their focus. Thank you extended to Pastor John and Luke to fill in and all who have helped. Call committee will now start their process as our profile has been submitted.
- Building Committee Report: Presented by Brent Speldrich. There have been several improvements to the buildings and grounds. The south side of the church roof, insulation, and many renovations to the Salem Mahtowa Hall. Upcoming projects presented for 2016.
- Holy Hootenanners: Presented by Brooke Anderson. The Holy Hoots have had a busy year again. Recording a second CD with many new avenues to promote our CD. They have reached out further to the Cities and Duluth areas this year as well. Proceeds continue to be primarily for Salem Mahtowa Hall renovations.
- Salem Soul Sisters: Presented by Sue Gustafson. The Soul Sisters and Salem Sisters have combined now. Planned many fundraiser events and made all the events of the church possible through good coordination. Option of future CPR/AED class can be set up if interest by others. Our AED has monthly checks for maintenance.
- Soul Sisters Financial Report: Presented by Esther Peterson the financial funding the Salem Sisters has raised this year.
- Confirmation: Presented by Luke Lekander. Pre-confirmation was added this year to meet on Wednesdays. Attendance has been very good and kids are interested in this program and topics of discussion.
- Youth Group: Presented by Donna Lekander. Youth group fundraised money and received grants to complete community projects and many other events. They offered movies in the park and

created a prayer Labyrinth behind the Salem Mahtowa Hall. There was good attendance with events. 2016 plan is to go to a mission trip to Nashville for a group of 13 students.

- Sunday School: Presented by Angie Korpela. Holy Moly curriculum has been going well this year. Attendance includes pre-K thru 6th grade. Music by the Hoots with the kids is offered when able.
- Mount Salem Cemetery: Presented by Chuck Porter. Meetings were held two times per year on the cemetery. There was a thank you offered out for the generous donation made this year for our Salem Mahtowa Hall improvements.
- Salem Financial Statements: Presented by Jody Eller. Salem has ended the 2015 year with a positive bottom line. This is primarily due to not having to pay a pastor wages for most of this year. Church and Salem Mahtowa Hall electric and propane expenses were separated on the statement this year.
- Audit committee agrees with all presented reports reviewed. Proposal for developing a form that each committee/group of the organization can keep better reports and book keeping for the auditing committee.

Motion to accept reports and auditor's findings: Motion by Roger Gustafson, 2nd by Susan Zymslony,
Approved

New Business:

- Budget for 2016: Council proposed budget for 2016 was presented. Discussion and questions answered. Motion to accept the budget by Lance Korpela, 2nd by Roger Gustafson. Motion Carried
- Declarations for council and the 2016 Nominating Committee (2 seats available) : Thank you was extended to Erin Langhorst for her commitment and completion of a 4 year term. Caleb Anderson has completed a 2 year term.
 - Caleb Anderson – Nominated by Jeff Gilbertson (accepted)
 - Dave Eller – Nominated by Doug Soukkala (accepted)
 - Donna Myhre moves that nominations cease.
 - White Ballot for Dave and Caleb be added to council, **Approved**
- Brooke Anderson has created a new website for the Holy Hootenanners and also for Salem. If any items need to be added to our website, get these items to any council member and/or Brooke. It is important to keep the website current and calendar updated regularly as we are in this call process.
- Easter Breakfast: Proposal to not have an Easter breakfast this year but continue to have the Easter Egg Hunt for the Children. Discussion held. Motion by Jean H to table this topic and interested parties go to a council member for decision.
- Audit committee: Mindy Malenke, Brooke Anderson will continue. Jean has completed her term.
 - Angie Korpela – Nominated and Accepted, **Approved**

Reminders for the Congregation:

- Go out and invite new families and encourage others to come and visit Salem to see what we are all about.
- A 2016 goal has to be to increase fundraising efforts in order to make our budget next year. This is very important for our stability.

Closing prayer by Pastor John Estrem: Prayers are offered for Esther P, Marvin B, Joanne B and any others that are in need for health and healing.

Motion to adjourn by Erin L, 2nd by Chuck P.