

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

Annual Meeting Minutes, January 29th 2016

Attendance:

Pastor Beth Pottratz, Jason March, Roger Gustafson, Sue Gustafson, Marie Nybloom, Steph Marsh, Joanne Bislow, Jeff Gilbertson, Angie Korpela, Brent Speldrich, Dave Eller, Marty Nelson, Kay Henniger, Nancy Olsen, Burton Peterson, Barry LeBlanc, Earl Erickson, Mary LeBlanc, Glendora Peterson, Ed Myhre, Donna Myhre, Lori Carlson, Rodney Peterson, Jim Myhre, Rachel Nelson, Lance Korpela, Scott Gustafson, Jeff Nybloom, Zach Langhorst, Brooke Anderson, Jean Hendrickson, Caleb Anderson, Chuck Porter, Donita Korpela, Erin Langhorst, Jody Eller, Luke Lekander.

Blessings and opening devotions by Pastor Beth Pottratz

Minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting: Motion to approve the 2016 annual meeting minutes by Caleb Anderson, 2nd by Roger Gustafson. **Approved**

Annual Reports and Reviews:

- Pastors Report: Presented by Pr. Beth Pottratz. Summary of Pr. Beth's first impressions of Salem and her initial experiences. History of the Lutheran Church and Reformation. Pr. Beth hopes for Salem this next year to continue to be a vibrant faith Community. Thank you to Salem from Pr. Beth.
- Statistical Information was presented by Pr. Beth. 2 Baptisms, 2 Deaths and 9 Confirmands. Weekly Worship attendance was 66.
- 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. Jason thanks all the groups and people that have assisted during the time without a Pastor full time here at Salem and we were blessed with a new Pastor this fall.
- Building Committee Report: Presented by Lance Korpela. The main focus for 2017 will be the completion of the roof on the church. Remodeling the Parsonage was a lot of work and a thank you for Dave and Jody was extended for all his hard work. Thank you all for the support on our projects.
- Holy Hootenanners: Presented by Jeff Gilbertson. Hootenanny was a success this year with a great attendance. It was a busy year with many fundraisers and church's to perform in.
- Salem Soul Sisters: Presented by Sue Gustafson. Many contributions were made from the Soul Sisters from many fund raisers that have been held. Fundraisers are continuing to be a great success. Funding will be designated for replacement of windows in the church fellowship hall and office in the upcoming year.
- Soul Sisters Financial Report: Presented by Jody Eller. The balance is around \$7,000 currently.

- Confirmation: Presented by Pr. Beth. There are twelve 7th graders and four 8th graders that are in confirmation. The 8th graders will be confirmed this spring. Focus on how God is active and present today and on the Lord's Prayer, baptism and Holy Communion.
- Youth Group: Presented by Laec Lekander. Total of 14 events were held this last year. Over \$10,500 was raised for community projects and the mission trip. Mission trip was in Nashville, TN this last year.
- Sunday School: Presented by Angie Korpela. Moved to The Whirl for our curriculum. There are a lot of kids and Rachel is assisting with teaching. They moved time to get out of church early and this time is working out well. Looking for ideas in which to allocate Bella the COW money.
- Mount Salem Cemetery: Presented by Chuck Porter. 2016 was not any different than previous years. Things are going smoothly.
- Salem Financial Statements: Presented by Jody Eller. Questions were encouraged at this time. 2016 came in with a deficit of \$2,249.03. Jody can print this report out at any point in time if you ask for it. Transparency is important.
- Audit committee: Presented by Angie Korpela. Audit is completed and request to have account contact person and phone number for any of our accounts. A reconciliation report is requested from committees. Want to request a guideline for the audit committee expectations. The bank is requesting new contact information for new council members and Pastor.

Motion to accept reports and auditor's findings: Motion by Esther Peterson, 2nd by Jean Hendrickson,

Approved

New Business:

- Budget for 2017: Council proposed budget for 2017 of \$101,473.62. Discussion and questions answered. Making the budget was discussed as this is a concern. Pr. Beth addressed this concern. Thrivent was discussed. If you are a Thrivent member, you can designate that funds go to Salem through this. Discussion on Simply giving and other electronic ways to donate were discussed and encouraged. If you shop via Amazon, you can shop via Amazonsmile.com instead and this will ask you what fund to donate to and you can select Salem Lutheran Church. This will allow a portion of your purchase (at no charge to you) to go to your designated choice. Motion to accept the budget as presented by Chuck Porter, 2nd by Caleb Anderson. Motion Carried
- Declarations for council and the 2017 Nominating Committee (5 seats available): Thank you was extended to Jason Marsh for his commitment and completion of a 4 year term.
 - Brent Speldrich, Jeff Gilbertson, Donita Korpela, and Zack Langhorst have completed a 2 year term and are up for re-election. All those have accepted nomination for second term.
 - Marie Nyblom and Rachel Nelson have been nominated and they have accepted.
 - Motion to cease Nominations by Donna Myhre, 2nd by Barry LeBlanc
 - Ballots counted: Council for 2017 will be Brent Speldrich, Jeff Gilbertson, Donita Korpela, Zach Langhorst and Marie Nyblom

- Audit committee: Angie Korpela and Mindy Malenke will continue. Brooke Anderson has completed her term.
 - Scott Gustafson – Nominated and Accepted
 - Voted via White Ballot for approval, **Approved**
- Nominating Committee: Need three members to be part of a nominating committee.
 - Lori Carlson, Jim Myhre, and Erin Langhorst have been nominated and they have accepted.
 - Three will be voted on via White Ballot for approval, **Approved**
- Delegates To the Synod
 - Jeff and Nicole Gilbertson nominated and accepted
 - Voted via white ballot for approval, **Approved**

Closing prayer by Pastor Beth Pottratz

Motion to adjourn by Erin Langhorst, 2nd by Brooke Anderson. Motion Carries