

Shepherd of the Valley Council Minutes
October 19,2021 via zoom

Present: Pastor Benolkin, Barbara Pearson, Bob Tukker, Carolyn Ciaccio, Rhoda Fox, Julie Johnson, Pearl Fortman, David Musser and LaVon Downing.

Absent: Phil Smalley, Gina Fiorenza, Steve Larsen, Karen Dolan and Brian Carpenter.

Guests present: Chad and Ryland Farris, Carol and Logan Bailey.

Meeting was called to order by President Julie Johnson at 7:00 P.M. Pastor opened with devotions and prayer.

Pastor proposed to focus on the confirmands before proceeding with the meeting. Each council person introduced themselves and spoke of their challenges and affirmations of their faith. Ryland and Logan also affirmed their faith and the challenges they face. The two will be confirmed on October 31st.

Carol Bailey brought to the council the Giving Tree tradition to see if this is something we want to continue doing this year. It was agreed that Carol would connect with her contact and get names of children needing gifts this year, Rhoda would put up the tree a little before Thanksgiving as a reminder of people to take a name. The gifts would need to be back at church 2 weeks after Thanksgiving .

Barbara made a motion to approve the minutes as written, Pastor seconded. The motion carried.

Pastor's Report was electronically submitted. He enjoyed a week of vacation. He also encouraged everyone to do what they can to help with Trunk or Treat on October 30,2021.

Old Business:

- A. Pastor Erickson's visit last month. Pastor asked if anyone had been thinking of where we go from here. Carolyn commented that Pastor Erickson had mentioned our strengths and assets as a church, and that we should continue to build on those strengths. Pastor was inspired on where we were before the pandemic and suggested we refocus on 1. Faith formation, 2. Connecting with others in and outside the church body, and communication with the congregation and how we reach out to others. Pastor will send out a letter with the financial statements giving a picture of what we can do together. Remind the congregation of our strengths and how we can connect with our community . **THIS IS WHAT COULD HAPPEN IF WE WORK TOGETHER !** It is important to impress upon the congregation we need their help. We need to actively invite people to come to our church.

New Business:

- A. Preschool: Julie met with Patti and surveyed the preschool "stuff". There is furniture and lots of craft supplies. Pastor made a motion to try and share what we have with other Lutheran preschools, Rhoda seconded. Julie will do an inventory with pictures and an invitation to come and look at what we have. She will be the contact person. We will reach out to other preschools and place a notice in the Synod newsletter. The motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- A. Worship and Music was electronically submitted. The official flower chart is up, there is a sign-up for All Saints Sunday if you would like your loved ones to be remembered. The Thanksgiving service was also discussed at the meeting.
- B. Finance: electronically submitted.
- C. Property: The roof issue is still in process. It is between the contractor and the insurance company. So far no settlement has been reached. The gutter covers will be placed after the roof is completed. The bushes will be trimmed by a volunteer from the congregation. It was quite costly to hire it done.
- D. Outreach: We are on track for the Trunk or Treat event. We have a total of 13 trunks along with a church table. Money and candy have been donated for this event. In case of rain, it will be held inside under guidance of the covid restrictions. Miss Carly's is in need of socks and underwear. This is something we will be doing and also Rock House Kids have reached out for a meal on November 29th which is also something we will be doing.

Bob made a motion to adjourn, David seconded. The motion carried.
The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 P.M. Pastor closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
LaVon Downing