

Present: Carolyn Ciaccio, Sherry Scheider, Pastor Scott, Liz Beale, Linda Longardner, and Susie Smalley

p. 53 from the Use of the Means of Grace was read and discussed. ("Lutherans Long for Unity at Christ's Table")

Old Business:

- † Last Sunday of Advent (12/22/19): – Sunday School children sang for the prelude. Tree was brought into the sanctuary after service and decorated by people of all ages.
- † Blue Christmas (12/22/19): – There were only three who attended this service this year. Sherry wondered if we should continue to have it. It will be addressed again during a later meeting.
- † Intoning the psalms: – We are continuing to intone the psalms, but on Christmas Eve, we switched to a different tone (wasn't from the hymnal though – written in the key of D (two sharps)).
- † Setting changes: – We began using setting 7 on Christmas Eve and will continue using it through Transfiguration (2/23).
- † Christmas Eve: – We again did a ½ hour long musical prelude this year. The past two years, timing has worked out pretty well, in terms of length: 11 songs. Service was again at 5:00pm; there were 123 in attendance. We used "evening lighting" throughout the entire service, there was continual Holy Communion with wafers, and as people left the Communion rail, Alexa and Axandra distributed candles. Right before the sending hymn, the ushers began lighting the candles, starting with the people sitting closest to the aisle, from the front of the sanctuary and working their way towards the back.
- † Epiphany (1/5/20): Epiphany, rather than 2 Christmas, propers were used that Sunday. The Magi were brought out and put in the narthex. The Christmas tree was taken down after service and that, as well as the rest of the Christmas decorations, was put away.
- † Ways to help the congregation get more involved in worship:
 - Musically: Susie can write something to put in the announcement sheet inviting musicians to volunteer to provide music during various Sundays, especially when the choir is not singing.
 - Communion presenters: right now, we have presenters once a month. Sherry just usually asks people who are attending that day if they would like to present. We discussed having it presented *every* week, rather than just once per month, then began discussion the method in which the presenters would be chosen. Sherry wondered if we should add it to the *Time and Talents* booklet; Pastor thought perhaps every member of the congregation could be included on the list, with the ability to opt out if they didn't want to be included in that list, were physically unable to present, or for any other reason. Susie said she liked that option. Liz asked what happens if the person listed for a Sunday isn't going to be there, are they responsible for finding a replacement? [Sherry said that SVLC used to do this for assigning greeters each Sunday. *She* used to be the one who would call people to remind them and who would find replacements if they couldn't. Susie commented that, though that sounds like a good thing to do, she didn't think Sherry needed to be the one to do that!] We decided to table this discussion and talk again at a later meeting, during which we could 'iron out' more details.

New Business:

- † change of committee members: – We would like to welcome Carolyn Ciaccio to our committee. Bev Wacker stepped down from the committee, as of last meeting.
- † question regarding hymns: – Pastor suggested that, if there is a familiar hymn that has quite a few verses, perhaps we could have certain verses designated as ‘women only’ or ‘men only’ He cited hymn #300 *The First Noel* as the hymn that brought it to mind. The committee members seemed to agree that we could try it.
- † Baptism of Our Lord (1/12/20): – This coming Sunday would normally be a “cake Sunday”, however there are no new members, no one is being baptized, plus there is already someone signed up to bring treats. So, there won’t be a cake.
This led to a discussion of whether or not to still have cake on our “cake days” if there aren’t any baptisms, new members being welcomed, or confirmands. The decision was yes, there still will be, apart from this Sunday, as explained above.
- † “Cake Sundays”: – The following days of the church year are festival days during which we will celebrate after service with cake (regardless of whether or not new members are being received, there is a baptism, or there is Confirmation): Baptism of Our Lord, Pentecost, Reformation, and All Saints Sunday.
- † Presentation of Our Lord (2/2/20): – We will observe this, rather than Epiphany 4, on Feb. 2nd.
- † Ash Wednesday (2/26/20) – We will again do our simple suppers and Holden Evening Prayers.
- † Piano tuning: – Richard Dowling will be tuning the pianos tomorrow.
[NOTE: he ended up not, because our heaters were not working in the sanctuary.]
- † 2020 Summer Concert Series: – Susie has lined up four summer concerts so far.
June 3: WHS Jazz Band
June 17: Trinadora
July 1 & 15: *still open*
July 29: Alleluia Quartet
Aug. 12: Patta Armato Lund (still waiting on final confirmation from her)

Meeting was closed with a prayer, led by Pastor Scott.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 4, 2020 – 1pm in the church library

Respectfully Submitted,
Susie Smalley