

Worship & Music Committee meeting [online: via Zoom](#) Jan. 4, 2022

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

Pastor opened the meeting with a reading from chapter 6 of Isaiah, then a prayer.

Old Business:

† Christmas decorations: The Christmas tree was put up during Advent (Wednesday, Dec. 15) – Sherry said that felt ‘wrong’ to her because of how early it went up. Sherry remembers that, in years past, we did put the tree up, but not until after Advent.

[After the meeting, I (Susie) looked up minutes from previous years during which I have been taking minutes (2012). It looks like, except for last year (when we totally closed due to COVID,) and in 2019 (when it went up on Dec. 22), the tree has been put up during Advent.]

The following are excerpts from the meetings in which I found it addressed:

from 9/24/2012: " [Decorating the sanctuary](#):

11/28 (6:00p – decorate the Sanctuary)

wreath – any time after 11/25 (Don Weise)

tree – up and decorate Dec. 5 (needs to be up by 12/9) – Patte suggested asking the congregation to bring in colorful ornaments of different ethnicities – it will go right along with the Children’s program. Patte is going to write up something for the insert for the bulletin, as well as make announcements before service."

2013: [We had a “Hanging of the Greens/Christmas Party”, but I can’t find a date on which it happened.]

The following was from the October, 2013 minutes: "[Hanging of the Greens](#): Bev, Kay, and Myrna are working on the planning . This is not intended to be a worship service, but rather a party for decorating the church for Christmas. Kids are already working on making ornaments (three: one to take home, one for church, and one to give to their grandparents, parents, etc.) The giving tree (from Carol’s school) will already be up, but Patte thought of doing a separate “giving tree”, with ornaments the Sunday School children will hand-make, for all the children. Patte wondered what we’re doing to get the word out to everyone. We would definitely want it to be in the November newsletter, and also we should do regular announcements leading up to the event."

From 9/2/2014: "[Hanging of the Greens](#): Should we do this again this year? If so, need more help! Also, maybe keep things only in the sanctuary and have the kids decorate the main tree and the giving tree, rather than all the window decorations et cetera. We decided yes, maybe Friday, Dec. 5. Need to coordinate with the fellowship committee to make sure that date is fine with them. Maybe we could start a bit later though, since all the decorations we did last year won’t be done this year. Perhaps we could allow 45 minutes."

from 10/7/2014: "Christmas party will be Dec. 5 (confirmed with Janette): Hanging of the Greens, followed by party in Moline Hall. Bev would like to welcome more volunteers!! (...Lois offered! 😊)"

2015: [piecing together the minutes from a couple different months, it looks like we changed from “Hanging of the Greens” to “Prelude to Christmas” (and possibly decorated on Dec. 4?)]

from 10/4/2016: "[Christmas decorations](#) – Lois suggested we decorate in ‘stages’: week 1 – wreath; week 2 – swags; week 3 – tree and whatever else is left to put up/out."

from 11/28/2017: "[Christmas decorating – SVE](#) – We discussed when to put the tree up and decorate for Christmas.

Dec. 10, after service was discussed, and we think it'll be a good choice because that is the morning of the children's program, so many kids/families will be there. Linda suggested laying the ornaments out on the first couple pews a few days prior, so that they'll be ready for the helpers on Sunday"

from 11/6/2018: "[Christmas tree](#) – There was quite the discussion as to when to put up the tree. Pastor thought of putting it up the tree after service on Sunday, Dec. 23, but there won't be Sunday School that day to help decorate it. Then he suggested considering the 16th, after the service. Linda suggested we go with putting it up after service on the 16th, then there will be two Sundays before Christmas Eve during which the kids can help decorate. It will remain up through Epiphany (1/6/19)"

from 12/4/2018: "[Christmas decorating](#) – The tree will go up after service on Dec. 16 and all are asked to help put ornaments on during fellowship time. Additional decorations will go up during the following week. Tree will stay up through Epiphany 1/6/19.

Sherry suggested we publish the tree decorating date in the bulletin insert to encourage all families to participate. Liz said she had a few people ask her if she knew why it wasn't up yet and reiterated the importance of letting people know what is happening, as far as Christmas decorations and the tree."

from 11/5/2019: "[putting up the Christmas tree](#): – the tree will go up on Dec. 22 (immediately after service) and remain up through, and including, Jan. 5. Sunday School kids will sing a song (during the prelude perhaps?) on Dec. 22."

† Christmas Eve service: Liz commented that the end of Christmas Eve service seemed way too somber: There was no celebration, just darkness, and Zoom just ended suddenly. Pastor said that somebody turned down the lights, unbeknownst to him, and did not turn them back up after we sang. He was not aware that would happen. He said he set the lights at the beginning of service and expected them to remain that way until the end.

Next year, we obviously need to open the lines of communication better! We will make sure we address the lighting during the service and that evening and let the ushers know what should happen.

New Business:

† Christmas decorations: Many of the decorations were taken down earlier this week, the rest will be taken down before Sunday.

† Annual Meeting: (Jan. 30, 2022) - the annual meeting will take place **only** over Zoom at 11 am

† Setting changes: we will discuss during next meeting

† "Grace Unbounded": Carolyn will be ordering these devotionals for Lent from Augsburg Fortress to have available for people to take home with them. Thank you, Carolyn!!

Meeting was closed with prayer.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Feb. 1, 2022 at 1pm, via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,
Susie Smalley