

Worship & Music Committee meeting (online: via Zoom) Oct. 3, 2023

Present: Deacon Cheryl Erdmann, Sherry Scheider, LaVon Downing, Carolyn Ciaccio, Richard Popp, and Susie Smalley

Deacon Cheryl opened the meeting with an opening prayer, reflecting on last Sunday.

Old Business:

- † **minutes from last meeting:** Last month's minutes were approved.
- † **Season of Creation:** There haven't really been many comments from the congregation about the Season of Creation we did last month, but we think people were okay with it!
We will decide later (next year) whether to do it next September.

New Business:

- † **home communion kit:** Sherry believes Pr. Scott inadvertently left the home communion kit he received as a gift from our congregation and wonders if we should send it to him (and if we need Council's approval). We agreed she should, no Council approval necessary; she will take care of it.
- † **setting changes:** We are still using a Season of Creation liturgy that Richard found (used last year) and will continue using this until Advent. Setting 2 will then be used Advent through Christmas.
- † **Deacon Cheryl:** Deacon Cheryl will be gone four upcoming Sundays: Oct. 15, 22, 29 and Nov. 5.
- † **Reformation Sunday (Oct. 29, 2023):** This is one of the two red parament days in the church calendar. Per Deacon Cheryl's suggestion, we'll have red velvet cake. Will need help from the committee for serving and cleanup.
- † **All Saints Sunday (November 5, 2023):** We will again set up the table in the back with votive candles. Deacon Cheryl will print out a sheet for people to fill in names of deceased loved ones. No baptisms are known. Since there are none, Deacon Cheryl said we could do the "Thanksgiving for Baptism" at the beginning of service. (Susie: look in hymnal pg. 97 setting 1 or Sundays and Seasons) Check to see if pascal candle needs to be lit on All Saints and Reformation Sundays. All Saints Day is another "cake Sunday"...Carolyn volunteered to order (and serve) cake for this day.
- † **Confirmation (November 12, 2023):**
Another cake Sunday! (Do we need to fill in these dates on the sign-up treat sheet? Yes, we should.) There will be three confirmands: Roman & Dominique Hernandez, and Oliver Anderson. Deacon Cheryl will ask how they want their names written on the certificates; Susie will write them using calligraphy.
- † **Thanksgiving Eve (Wed., Nov.22, 2023):** It would be our "turn" this year, to do a combined service with Alpine Lutheran should we decide to do it. Cheryl is going to reach out to fellow local clergy to see what other churches are doing. This will help us decide whether to have our own service or to just recommend other available services for people to attend, since history shows there is typically a low attendance for our congregation. She will decide and let Richard know if he'll need to choose music for that date or not.

[NOTE: Just after the meeting, Deacon Cheryl emailed all of us and said she heard back from several people regarding Thanksgiving Eve service and has decided that we will not host one this year. The council president over at Alpine agrees and thinks it's best for both congregations not to do it this year. (They are also without a permanent pastor.) She is going to invite our congregation to a Thanksgiving Luncheon on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. We will just let people in our congregation know about the various options for Thanksgiving time events.]

† **Advent (starts Dec. 3, 2023):** Year B: the year of Mark begins December 3, with 1 Advent.

Richard asked if we usually sing during the lighting of the candles. We typically do, yes. We have sung a few different things through the years. Susie mentioned he can look at the previous Decembers, in the digital hymn selection files she gave him, to see what we have sung in the past. Also, Carolyn will order the Advent devotionals.

† **Hanging of the Greens/Christmas tree:** Deacon Cheryl mentioned not knowing when we do the “hanging of the greens” typically. Susie pointed out there really isn’t a “typically” in our church regarding this: it has been done at many different times in recent years. Since that is the case and it’s always a point of discussion during our worship and music committee meetings, we attempted to “standardize” it last year. Susie read last year’s minutes in which it says the committee decided to wait until after the 3rd Sunday in Advent to put up the tree. If we decide to do that again this year, it would be after the December 17th service. LaVon suggested going back to putting it up earlier in the month.

Deacon Cheryl looked up Hanging of the Greens online. She found that in Western Christian culture the Hanging of the Greens is traditionally observed the Saturday before the 1st Sunday of Advent.

After a bit of discussion, we decided to go with what Deacon Cheryl found online and do it the Saturday before Advent begins. That means the tree and other greens will go up Saturday, December 2nd. We decided that would happen at 9am. We will start “publicizing” on Sunday, Nov. 5th as an announcement first, then in subsequent weeks as a “reminder” in the weekly updates.

The discussion then turned to using Chrismons to decorate the tree. Sherry said we have some in the basement that haven’t been used in years. Deacon Cheryl looked them up and shared some she found on Amazon (around \$30 for a set of approximately 30 pieces). We also talked about perhaps teaching what these symbols mean during Sunday School and possibly printing some out and having them color/decorate them on cardboard or cardstock. Regarding the Sunday School kids, Carolyn will give it some thought and talk with Julie and Karen about it.

The meeting was closed with a blessing by Deacon Cheryl.

Next meeting: Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023 at 10:30am, via Zoom

Respectfully Submitted,

Susie Smalley