

# Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, June 8, 2021 – 7 PM via Online Zoom

## **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

The regular meeting of the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (GSLC) Council was called to order via Zoom at 7:05 PM on June 8, 2021, by Kristi Buchholz, Council President.

**Present:** Pastor Jeremy Serrano, Candace Bradley, Kristi Buchholz, Scott Etzel, Mike Henry, Sue Hertless, John Mott, Laura Mott, Renee Reis

**Absent:** Jay Neyenhouse

## **DEVOTIONS AND OPENING PRAYER** – Pastor Jeremy

## **RECOGNITIONS**

- Sue Hertless recognized and thanks all of the Friends Feeding Friends (FFF) volunteers who have been faithful in serving those in need of food and clothing during this pandemic time. It is wonderful to see so many people who care about others' well-being.
- Scott Etzel recognized Dana Deniston and the FFF volunteers for ongoing service to the community with the FFF programs distributing food, clothing, and furnishings to those in need.
- Mike Henry recognized the lady who has been escorting Jay Neyenhouse to church.
- Mike Henry recognized Jamie Rodemsky for his behind-the-scenes efforts during Sunday services.
- Pastor Jeremy recognized Kathy Reis for the continued watering of our campus plants and trees.
- Pastor Jeremy recognized Cheyanne Electric for fixing the electrical problem in the shed.
- Pastor Jeremy recognized Glen Bradley for taking old paint and paint cans to a disposal facility.
- Scott Etzel recognized the readers speaking "in tongues" (different languages) during the service on Pentecost Sunday.

## **CORRESPONDENCE** – None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **o Approval of Minutes**

**MOTION** made by Sue Hertless to accept the May 11, 2021 Council Minutes; seconded by Kristi Buchholz; motion passed.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Pastor's Report**

- o Pastor Jeremy asked if Council thinks we are ready to come back to coffee hour. It was agreed that we are ready. Kristi said we should start soon. We should have coffee hour outside in the courtyard. Pastor said we can have a standing order at a donut shop on Sundays, and someone can pick up the donuts and have coffee. It was suggested the coffee person for that Sunday can pick up the donuts.
- o Pastor Jeremy's vacation dates are: June 28-July 4; July 26-August 1. Rev. Katy Grindberg will be the supply pastor during Pastor's vacation days.
- o A camera will be purchased and mounted above the clear windows in the back of the church - this camera will tilt and zoom. We will start with purchasing one camera. The price will be approximately \$2,500. It will give a more professional look to our on-line worship services.
- o Pastor Jeremy is leading a book reading session on the book *God and the Gay Christian*. Kristi suggests if it is a large group, have this book session via Zoom; smaller groups (up to 10 people) can meet in person. Sessions will be in the evening, and signups will be held.

### **President's Report**

Kristi thought the listening session after service for Bishop-elect Megan Rohrer went very well.

### **Committee Reports**

*Please see the individual committee reports; if any questions, see Council Secretary. Some additional discussion occurred on the following topics:*

#### **Finance – Laura Mott**

- o Laura reported her new computer has been updated and should be ready this week.
- o Laura has been attempting to be in contact with Bank of America regarding forgiveness of the PPP loan.
- o The debit card for FFF has been changed to a credit card.

## **Evangelism – Sue Hertless**

- Sue reported we are in the middle of Winter Nights. We will probably run under budget, and may have about \$700 left over, which will stay in the account for next year.
- Due to Bishop Medardo's health, Sue is not sure if he will be able to travel here. If he comes, it will be around September 7, staying about a week. Pastor Christian hopes to stay about two weeks.
- Sue would like GSLC to host a dinner for Bishop Medardo, Pastor Abelina, and Pastor Christian (depending on the Bishop's health) on September 10, the night before Bishop-elect Rohrer's installation, or the evening of the installation, if the installation is open and not via Zoom or YouTube.
- Sue and Betty Jacobsen will be traveling to El Salvador October 4. They will be working with the Synod to have a two-day workshop to teach people to make paraments and stoles.

## **Property and Long-Range Planning – Mike Henry**

- Mike reported he met with C&H Plumbing and received an estimate for the kitchen work, including a new dishwasher and three compartment sinks required by Contra Costa County Health Department. The challenge has been to get a second bid. He is trying to make sure there are no loose ends and that everything is covered. The first contractor said there could be unforeseen conditions that could pop up.
- Mike reported we need to do a little more homework to confirm that we are making the right decisions on the reroofing project. May be two to three months down the road to consider hiring a contractor.
- Mike reported he met on-site with Dish Network to determine possible options for their equipment installation pending agreement review/amendment recommendations by the Property Committee.

## **Social Ministry – Scott Etzel**

- Scott reported Dana has continued talks with County Management for the shelter meals.
- Scott participated in two staff virtual visits for priority bills for Lutheran Office of Public Policy – California Lutheran Lobby Day in May. He is learning about priority bills and how to support them through advocacy. Advocacy (reading up on legislation that may be introduced in the legislature, advocate it if you support the bill, and educate the congregation) through churches, like campaigns to promote a bill. Pastor Jeremy said if Scott has a passion for this, then we would support him, but no one has gone this avenue previously. It is the mission and vision of the ELCA to promote advocacy.
- Scott is working with the Red Cross for an upcoming blood drive at our campus. Possible dates are Friday, July 16 or 23, or sometime in August. Scott has also proposed feeding participants (RC staff, volunteers, and donors).

## Youth – Renee Reis

Renee reported registration for the youth gathering next summer is coming up. She will put an informational blurb in the newsletter for this event.

Renee reported youth confirmation classes should start again soon.

## Listening Session Discussion

- Council felt the session went well. Some people may still be “afraid” to share their opinions.
- If you poll people, one would think the consensus is more positive for Lutherans than negative.
- Maybe some people would like to come to church knowing this change is being made in our Synod, so they would feel more positive about coming.
- Maybe we can come up with a welcoming statement for LBGQTQ to say they are welcome here and in a safe space.
- We could get a Pride flag to fly on the flagpole as a symbol and sign of welcome.

**MOTION** made by Scott Etzel that we consider flying the Pride flag for the month of June on our flagpole, below the American flag; seconded by Kristi Buchholz; discussion; motion defeated.

Scott suggests we follow up with a Survey Monkey to get the pulse of the congregation.

## Contra Costa Quilt Guild Facility Use Request – Laura Mott

Laura proposes a Facility Use Request for the Contra Costa Quilt Guild to use the Fellowship Hall free of charge – the Guild will make a sizable donation and pay to have the bathrooms cleaned. The Guild group has donated many bags of new quilts to FFF.

**MOTION** made by Kristi Buchholz to approve Laura’s Facility Use Request for the Contra Costa Quilt Guild to hold their event in the Fellowship Hall. Set-up would be Friday, June 25, in the afternoon when FFF is finished in the hall. The Guild will use the hall Saturday, June 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday, June 27, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; seconded by John Mott; motion passed.

## ADJOURNMENT

**MOTION** made by Kristi Buchholz to adjourn; seconded by Pastor Jeremy; motion passed, and meeting was adjourned at 8:18 PM.

Date of next regular Council meeting – July 13, 2021, 7 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Candace Bradley, Council Secretary  
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church