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**Peace Lutheran Church
September 15, 2020
Council Meeting**

Members Present: Rick Castner, Mark Wernicke, Dennis Swenke, Linda Will, Jim Justman, Mike Masar, Jeff Miller, Deb Bohm, Melanie Nyquist, Pastor Stuart, Jeff Rafn, Michelle Feivor, Nikki Gerth

6:03 Wernicke called to order. Pastor Jim led us in an opening prayer.

Secretary's Report: Motion made by Miller, seconded by Castner to accept meeting minutes from August 4, 2020. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Deb shared an overall image of our financial situation. She stated we are doing fairly well for the times we are in. The mortgage is coming down each month and enough donations are coming in for the payment each month. The budget can take 5 years to bounce back after a change like a new Pastor. The general treasury is \$16,000 less but with the pandemic this isn't unexpected. People are giving to the sound system and more envelopes are coming in for the general treasury. We currently pay \$1400 extra on our mortgage each month and we discussed how if needed we could hold on the extra mortgage payment. Bills continue to be paid. Benevolence is also beginning to be paid. Deb feels the financials seem hopeful. Will made a motion to accept the Treasurer's Report. Miller seconded. Motion carried.

Action Item: Pastor Jim and Pastor Stuart shared requests for building use during the pandemic. They made a proposal to not allow community groups to use building (Pastors) and to allow church groups to use the facilities. Groups would submit names of individuals present, wear masks and practice social distancing. **Council will review the building use plan at our November meeting.** Motion made by Nyquist to allow Peace Church groups to utilize facilities and restrict outside groups from using the facilities. Seconded by Castner. Motion carried.

Informational Items:

1. **Financial Planning for 2021**--Mark reviewed the overall budgeting process. With the unknown of giving and with our new Pastor, we want an earlier start on the budget process including more transparency. We will make the best guess with financial needs and estimates on revenues. By Mid October we should have

an idea to understand where we are at and if we will fall short. Deb and the Ministry Financial Team will take the lead to determine the potential budget.

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2. Buildings and Grounds, continue thinking about the bigger project needs but also have understanding if the financials do not allow for the projects to be completed. Critical maintenance for the building should be prioritized. For the parking lot pledge, the significant donation is on hold based on personal feelings on Covid precautions.
3. **Worship** Pastor Jim and Pastor Stuart shared that members have been very cautious about coming back with the pandemic. Other churches that are open are also seeing a cautiousness about returning to service. Numbers are slowly getting higher. Other Pastors within Synod are very cautious and concerned about in person services and many have not opened for in person services.
 - a. Starting this week, we will have a checklist and a staff member in the lobby checking off members to ensure all will sign up to assist with contact tracing. If a COVID case is present on a Sunday morning, contacts will happen. We will continue to have services the following week. There will be a statement as needed to media and congregational members if there is a positive test. If a member tests positive, our staff will remind members to quarantine. The county health department will also be called for guidance. Peaceful Beginnings had 2 cases and closed for 2 weeks.
 - b. **At the November meeting we will assess Christmas Eve worship.** It will be a unique experience this year. How do we want this Christmas to look?
4. **Sound System:** Pastor Stuart shared an update on the sound system bids. Camera Corner's bid is \$63,000 with a \$30,000 down payment. Northern Sound and Video is preparing a bid. Deb shared funds from Sound Money various funds including budget, estate gift, and the Memorial fund. We could borrow money from the Contingency fund. At that point, we would have enough to pay for it. Pastor Stuart laid out very clear expectations for the companies as they prepared a bid so hopefully the bids will be very comparable. Pastor Stuart will look carefully at the bids to ensure they are comparable. Rick asked about the potential for a service plan. Pastor Stuart will connect with Rick on some negotiating tips as well as ways to save money by having in house members complete portions of the project. We will need Council approval and to hold a church meeting to approve the purchase.

Committee Reports : Mark shared that at this point in the pandemic, we are not sure if the committees need to meet. You are welcome to set up a Zoom meeting for your

committee. The Staffing Committee will need to meet for reviews and the Financial Committee will also need to meet. Budgets will be sent by early October. As staffing

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decisions are made with salaries or other, having an early discussion will be respectful of staff.

Staff Reports: as reported.

New Business: Pastor Jim and Pastor Stuart are forming a wonderful working relationship. Pastor Jim mentioned appreciation for Deb's hard work with the move. Deb updated Council on the Tanzania donation. The wiring company wanted a physical address but the Tanzania church is on a plantation. Deb continues to work on donating to Tanzania.

The Peace You Tube page is up and running for Sunday School. There's an informational meeting for confirmation class with a potential of over 50 potential students.

New Member Orientation is at 6:30 Monday, September 21, 2020. A Zoom invite will be sent out.

Next Council Meeting: Our next Council meeting will be held Tuesday, November 10th at 6:00pm in person at church with masks. Committees will be on their own outside of the November 10th date.

Closing Prayer was led by Pastor Stuart.

7:08 Meeting adjourned.