

A Caring Family Sharing Christ

Mount Calvary Lutheran Church Council Meeting February 15, 2021

Agenda

Call to order and opening prayer – 6:30pm

Review for Approval: Previous Meeting Minutes – 6:32pm

Pastor's Devotion Pastor Vanderbilt – 6:35pm (30 minutes)

Elders' Report Jake Hermanson – 7:05pm (5 minutes)

Financial Report Linda Norton – 7:10pm (5 minutes)

Treasurer's Report Vicki Hornback – 7:15pm (10 minutes)

Board Reports – 7:25pm (10 minutes)

Education Melinda Grimm

Evangelism Jeret Koenig

Discipleship Colleen D / Julie J

Worship Charlotte Weaklend

Parish Nurse Carolyn Pauling

Youth Amanda Cawthorn

Records Terry Pauling

Stewardship Jennifer Olson

Property Steve Roush

Old Business: 7:35pm (5 minutes)

- Boards up for Elections in June – (President, Education, Records, Stewardship, Worship, & 3 Elders) **Current Open Boards (Treasurer, Discipleship, Youth)**
- Work going on in the Sanctuary – crack repairs, painting, audio-video progress

New Business: 7:40pm (20 minutes)

- Pastor's Intent Update
- Pastor's Housing Resolution Review
- Church Lay Leader Zoom Call with Dr. Debra Alfsten – Feb 25th @ 6pm – DCE Intern
- Amazon Smile Account status
- Dave Ramsey course (Financial Peace University) being facilitated by Denise Rudolph to be held at the church – not only for members, but non-members as well
- Governor's recent proclamation – no major changes to our services and/or programs
- Set a date for the Semiannual Congregational Meeting – June 6th, 13th, 20th, or 27th

Next Meeting: – Council Meeting – March 15, 2021 (Spring Break week)
Council Meeting – April 19, 2021
Council Meeting – May 17, 2021

Adjourn

**Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
February 15, 2021**

Chad called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

Those in attendance included Pastor, Terry P., Steve R., & Jake H. with the following attending via Zoom conference call: Jeret K., Linda N., Charlotte W. Colleen D., Vicki H. and Melinda G.

A motion to approve the January Council Meeting minutes was submitted by Jake H., with second by Charlotte W. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Pastor's Devotion– Pastor led the group in a continued study of Nehemiah. See attached. A lesson to be learned is that True Christian obedience comes from the fact that God has already blessed us.

Board of Elders: See attached.

Board of Finance – See attached report. A motion to approve the January 2021 Financial Report was submitted by Jake H., with second by Terry P. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Board of Treasurer – See attached Treasurers and Specials Reports. A motion to approve the January 2021 Treasurer's and Specials reports was submitted by Terry P. with second by Linda N. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Parish Nurse - No report

Board of Education – See attached.

Board of Evangelism – Jeret noted there are many online resources to choose from, including <https://missioncentral.us/> and <https://www.lhm.org/> . Contact Jeret for more information regarding a "Joining Jesus on His Mission" event planned for February 28th.

Board of Discipleship – No report

Board of Worship: See attached report.

Board of Youth – No report

Board of Records - See attached report.

Board of Stewardship – No Report

Board of Property – Repairs and repainting has begun in the Sanctuary. Plans are to complete the painting, wall repairs and installation of audio/visual equipment in about three weeks. Until then, chairs will be used for services. A Spring-Cleaning Day for the Church facility is being planned for Saturday March 27th, just prior to Easter. More details will be provided soon.

Old Business

1. There are currently three open board positions on the Council: Treasurer, Discipleship and Youth. June 2021 Board positions that will appear on the ballot include: Chairperson, Education, Records, Stewardship and Worship. Three elder positions will also be on the June ballot.

**Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
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New Business

1. Pastor provided Council with an update of his plans which point Mt. Calvary in the right direction. See attached report for details.
2. After their review, the Board of Elders submitted the following motion: Resolve, that Mt. Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, as a standing resolution, to remain in force and effect until such time as amended or revoked, hereby authorizes and establishes a housing allowance for Pastor Tom Vanderbilt for the duration of service in an amount each year up to fifty percent (50%) of said person's annual compensation. Annual Compensation comprised of base salary, parish factor, housing, and Utility.
The motion received a second from Vicki H. Discussion of the motion indicated this is an ongoing resolution that provides our Pastor with certain rights for income tax preparation. The motion passed with unanimous voice vote.
3. The Board of Elders were notified of a Church Lay Leader Zoom Call that has been scheduled for Thursday February 25th at 6 p.m. with Dr. Debra Arfsten, Concordia College-Chicago, to discuss the congregation's desire to accept a DCE Intern. The Board is asking Council members to participate in the call.
4. Mt. Calvary now has an Amazon Smile account. Amazon launched a new program called AmazonSmile, which allows buyers to donate a small percentage of their purchase(s) to a charity, or charities, of their choice. When anyone selects Mt. Calvary as their charitable organization of choice, Amazon will donate a percentage of the purchase through <https://smile.amazon.com/> to Mt. Calvary. NOTE: Everyone, member or non-member, is eligible to choose Mt. Calvary as their charity of choice.
5. Denise Rudolph is planning to facilitate a Dave Ramsey course title "Financial Peace University" soon. She requested to use the Church as the place to hold the classes. The Council was in favor as long as current social distancing guidelines are followed.
6. The Governor's recent proclamation regarding changes in wearing masks and social distancing will not change our guidance for worship services or other meetings. A motion to encourage visitors to wear masks and to restart Adult Bible Study between services on Sunday mornings, beginning February 28th, was submitted by Jake H., with a second by Steve R. Discussion included using the Ark Room or the Fellowship Room for Bible Class based on attendance and the ability to maintain adequate distancing between members. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.
7. The Council reviewed the June calendar and agreed to set June 13, 2021 as the Semi-Annual Congregation meeting.

Council Meeting Schedule: March 15, 2021
 April 19, 2021
 May 17, 2021
Congregational Meeting June 13, 2021

Adjourn - A motion to adjourn was submitted by Steve R. at 8:08 p.m. with a second by Jake H. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Pastor's Report
February 2021

Opening:

- What's an old tradition that has gone out of style that you would like to see make a return?

Study:

Read Nehemiah 8:13-18

On the first day of the seventh month, Ezra read the God's Law to all of the people. The next day, the second day, the leaders gathered with Ezra to continue to study God's Law.

- What did these leaders learn from the Law of God (v. 14)?
- God's Law said that this festival was to happen on the fifteenth day of the month, which left them just twelve days to prepare. What was their response to this news (v. 15)?
- Do you think it took courage for the leaders to do this? Why or why not?
- In your opinion, what was the greatest obstacle to this event?

The people complied with the leaders' proclamation. They built temporary shelters, much like tents, in their yards and stayed in them for a week.

- Imagine that you are a returning exile, someone who has been away from home for years, and you are asked to keep this tradition. How do you think you would respond?
- Why do you think the people responded with such joy (v. 17)?

Apply:

In his book, *Visioneering*, Andy Stanley rightly points out: "...obedience is an overflow of a grateful heart." The people of Israel have hearts that are overflowing with gratefulness. They have been allowed to return home. They have rebuilt the wall around the city of Jerusalem. They have rediscovered God's Law and His gracious provision. Realizing their great blessings, they have no problem sleeping in tents pitched in their front yards for a week.

We often turn obedience around. We think that we have to be obedient to God *so that He will* bless us. True Christian obedience comes from the fact that God *has already* blessed us.

There's a piece of advice that I received in confirmation class that I still pass on to my students each year: **"As I live my life, I do so with this prayer: 'Lord, may I be worthy of the price you paid for me.'"** The price has already been paid. Jesus Christ is crucified and risen for me. Every day I do my best to obey Him because I am grateful for all the blessings that I have.

Elders Agenda

Elders Meeting January 25th 2021 (Zoom Meeting)

Attendance: Jake, Dave Cooper, Gene Grimm, Dave Jordan, Steve Hauge, ~~Don Fredregill~~, and Pastor Vanderbilt

Old Business:

- Reviewed Council/Congregational Meeting notes
- Currently working emergency action plans.
- Church Policy manual in progress (wedding, confirmation, Prayer, Weather, Baptism, Communion, memorials, etc)
- Elders and Pastor are discussing recovery operations and timelines as we transition.
- Reviewed weather policy

New Business:

- Submitted DCE application package
- Ash Weds service procedures
- Continue contacts amongst church members
- Conduct usher training and additional responsibilities in the future
- Pastor Housing Resolution
- Review Baptism and Prayer List policies

Next Elders meeting will be February 22nd, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

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Minutes - Board of Education of Mount Calvary Lutheran Church

February 2, 2021 @ 6:00 p.m.

Sunday School & Life Classes /New Business:

- Board members researched possible curriculum for LIFE classes and all found a good possibility in Enduring Faith materials from Concordia. It is a three year cycle which suits our program classes and has both regular and virtual materials. We have grades 1, 2, & 3 in a class, 4, 5, & 6 in a class and 7 & 8 with Pastor for confirmation class.
- We looked into providing devotional materials for families during Lent and they have been ordered. Items will be passed out after services on 2-14 and 2-21 as well as before Ash Wednesday services.

Shepherd Program – No report

Adult Education – Bible Studies/Small Groups Small groups are meeting at the discretion of the group members.

Missions - No report

VBS – In an effort to be ready for the possibility of COVID being under control later this year, the board set the tentative dates for VBS to be held. It is August 8 – 12, 2021. We know that RAGBRAI is set for July 25 – 31, Warren County Fair is July 28 to August 2, Balloon Fest is July 30 -August 7 and the Iowa State Fair is August 12 – 22 so those dates fit in nicely. The board is beginning the search for a leader or team of leaders to coordinate the program. If a DCE intern comes, they can be an assistant.

Other Business – New materials – We decided to order additional Arch books as the year proceeds.

Next regular meeting will be March 2, 2021 at 6 p.m.

Submitted by Melinda Grimm, Board of Education Chair

February Board of Worship Report:

A 2021 schedule of communion set up and clean up workers has been produced and distributed to Pastor, to Cindy, and to our two ongoing and five new volunteers in this area.

I convened a joint meeting of the current six member Board of Worship, those seven congregants who had expressed to me an interest in being a part of our soon-to-be reinstated Altar Guild, and the Pastor this past Monday. A discussion of the Altar Guild's responsibilities - including overseeing the changes of paraments, the upkeep of candles, the placement of banners, the set up and clean up of communion, baptism and funeral prep, the placement of flowers, and the organization of decorating the church for special occasions, was held. Sherrie Engle has volunteered to assist me in contacting congregational members who are currently working in each of those areas, thanking them for their service, and asking them to write out a detailed explanation of the specific duties they are currently performing, for review by the Altar Guild, the Worship Board, and the Pastor and for documentation for future workers. These documents will also be used in future training sessions, as will instructions as outlined in the book, *The Altar Guild Manual* by Lee A. Maxell, copyright 1996. (Please note that following instruction in setting up and cleaning up communion that I had received by current experienced communion workers and the Pastor, I produced detailed written instructions on how that work should be done in a reverent and respectful manner for the consecrated body and blood of the Lord, both during the remainder of the pandemic mitigation and after, when the chalice will return to our distribution of the Lord's Supper. The Pastor has reviewed that document and has made some suggestions for improvement. That revised document will be distributed to all of our volunteer communion workers soon, along with additional one-on-one instruction as needed. A copy will also be placed in the communion preparation room, along with a copy of the worker schedule.) For those areas of work that were not represented by those attending the meeting, a few volunteer workers will be encouraged to serve on the Altar Guild, under Sherrie's direction, with a total of one or two meetings per year. It was suggested that those meetings could also serve as an opportunity for guild members to regularly clean brassware, organize supplies, etc., as has been the custom in other congregations. Worship Board members interested in helping with these routine housekeeping duties will be encouraged to attend these work sessions, as well. Sherrie, a member of the Worship Board, will report to our board issues that may arise as time progresses, supplies to be purchased and/or made by members, the need for additional volunteers in the various areas, etc.

The purchases of candles for the pew candle holders used on Christmas Eve and gluten-free wafers for communion are currently being finalized. New easy care polyester altar runners to replace our worn linen ones will be made when the fabric is available.

I will be glad to answer any questions or take suggestions that Council members may have concerning our organizational plan in our upcoming Council meeting and relay them to the Worship Board.

Respectfully reported,
Charlotte Weaklend

MT. CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
Church Council
February 15, 2021

	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
As of February 15, 2021		
Communicant Membership	424	420
Baptized Membership	519	538
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020(4 Sundays)</u>
January Worship Attendance (5 Sundays & 4 Thursdays)	381	552
Average per Sunday (& Thursdays)	42	138
Communion Attendance (2 Sunday & 4 Thursdays)	177	201 (2 Sundays)
Visitors (5 Sundays)	17	45 (4 Sundays)
Average per Sunday	3	11

DECEASED: Nancy Saunders passed away on January 25, 2021, and received Christian burial at Hamilton's Funeral Home in Des Moines on February 2, 2021

Pastor's Intent Update
10 February 2021

Our WHY:

Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church exists to preach and teach the Word of God so that people are blessed in this time and for eternity.

Engagement Updates:

- Pointing Mt. Calvary in the right direction: OUT.
 - I am developing a culture of being on mission with Jesus through “Joining Jesus on His Mission” classes led by Sara and me. All Council Members and Elders have been invited to at least one offering of this class to help them learn what this looks like.
 - We are serving the expressed needs of the community by adopting HEAL House as a mission project and looking for more ways to engage community needs directly.
 - Engaging with neighbors in conversation... with or without “witnessing”: I don’t have a metric for this... yet.
- Putting the right people on the team and in the right roles
 - We have identified and prioritized our staffing needs as calling a DCE as first priority and a Communications person second. Music is a distant third.
 - We have completed a packet for a DCE intern from Concordia University—Chicago and that packet is received and awaiting action by the university. It is NOT the intent that Mt. Calvary have a steady stream of interns; it is our intent that our next intern will convert to a long-term called worker at our church.
 - Terry Pauling has been in discussion with Simpson College about a Communications Intern. This WOULD be a revolving position if we were to pursue it long-term. These discussions are on-going.
 - Reconstituting and retraining worship volunteers. Charlotte Weaklend has solicited and scheduled new people to assist with setting up and taking down the elements for Holy Communion. This process continues to be refined but the number of volunteers has swelled from 4 to over 8.

Timeline Updates:

- Our timeline has been extended because of COVID-19. Many of the things we planned were based on the virus running its course by December 2020. Those

markers and milestones are still ones that I would like to see us achieve when the timing is better.

- Some of the development for the Missional Lifestyle Training Process is still ongoing as much as possible. I am continuing to talk about how we can let our light shine before men so that they will see our good deeds and give glory to our Father. This will continue to lay the foundation for getting our congregation pointed in the right direction: OUT.