



## Minutes from Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Council Monday July 27, 2020

**Members Present:** Don Livingston, Rick Burnett, Pastor Fritz, Pastor Miriam, Mike Oliver, Robbi Martin, Molly Breckling, Lisa Manthey, Sue Byers, Eric Jakubowski, Mark Bunker

**Members not present:** none

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by Council President Don Livingston. This meeting was conducted via Zoom video chat.

### **Devotional:**

The devotional was given by Rick Burnett.

He utilized Psalm 34 to discuss the idea of “What do Christians do in troubled times?” Key annotations from the passage include:

<sup>1</sup>I will bless the LORD at all times;  
His praise *shall* continually *be* in my mouth.

<sup>4</sup>I sought the LORD, and He heard me,  
And delivered me from all my fears.

<sup>6</sup>This poor man cried out, and  
the LORD heard *him*,  
And saved him out of all his troubles.

<sup>8</sup>Oh, taste and see that the LORD *is* good;  
Blessed *is* the man *who* trusts in Him!

<sup>15</sup>The eyes of the LORD *are* on the righteous,  
And His ears *are open* to their cry.

<sup>17</sup>*The righteous* cry out, and the LORD hears,  
And delivers them out of all their troubles.

<sup>18</sup>The LORD *is* near to those who have a broken  
heart,  
And saves such as *have* a contrite spirit.

<sup>19</sup>Many *are* the afflictions of the righteous,  
But the LORD delivers him out of them all.

Rick relayed that in his time of stress, David chose to praise God, and that God provided for him every step of the way.

-We all face trouble, but God will see us through.

-“G>^v” God is greater than our highs and lows. (Tie-in to recent Sarah Juhasz sermon).

### **Pastor Reports:**

Pastor Fritz:

-Pastor mentioned that the newly formed Tech Team was off to a fast start. More info below.

-In-person traditional worship will restart. More info below.

-He discussed the new worship schedule of 9:45 virtual contemporary and 11:00 live/virtual traditional.

-He thanked Sue and Dave Buyers for their logistical work to allow in-person services to resume.

He proposed a Wednesday night 7pm 30-minute service at Palmetto Road to allow people to observe social distancing while still allowing an in-person worship opportunity. He asked for staff/council volunteers to give 5-minute testimonials.

Pastor Miriam:

-Pastor discussed her ongoing Wednesday evening online devotions.

-She thanked Steve Profeta and Mark Bunder for their efforts reconciling our financial books.

- She spoke about efforts with Shirly and Robbi to determine updated engagement opportunities stemming from the results of our recent Care Calls.
- The Children and Family Ministries Director position is still open. She is now asking for single-event coordinators.
- Finally, she spoke about a few personal issues concerning both her daughter-in-law and David's pending knee surgery.

#### **Financial Report:** Mark

- Mark stated that June was a tough month financially. We were \$13k under budget for giving.
- Overall, Mark stated that he was nervous about our income because May and June giving were both significantly below budgeted.
- Steve P. cleaned up some of the outstanding bookkeeping issues.
- Our insurance bill was \$4k over budget.
- Overall, we finished the year with about a \$38k deficit (better than the \$64k deficit budgeted).
- The deficit level is not sustainable long-term, but our PPP loan of \$109k will help stem the short-term damage.
- Mark and Steve are looking hard at our restricted accounts and trying to both clean up the books on them, as well as start to get some of the allocated money flowing towards its intended uses.

#### **Tech:** Eric

- Eric described the formation of a new Technology Team standing committee at COS. The team consists of four people with extensive IT experience--Richard King, David Turk, Kelvin Joyner, and Jeff Hartman, as well as Bill Porter (worship technologies), Linda Volckmann (staff liaison) and Eric Jakubowski (council liaison).
- Current Tech team initiatives include determining the best IT support and telephone support services and contracts going forward. LibertyTech has quoted COS a new contract rate beginning in August of roughly 4x as high as our current support contract with them. Richard and team will explore options with both LibertyTech and other companies to provide a more cost-effective solution.
- Addition concern areas that the team will look at include: cell phone coverage within the church (especially on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor), Microsoft Office support, our server maintenance and upgrade plan, requirements for a new conference room computer, and several other issues.

#### **Communications:** Don

- Don spoke about meeting with Shelley C. and Reach Right Communications monthly to review our website tracking numbers and discuss potential tweaks or updates. Overall, our website traffic is up 14% from May to June. Our Google ad grant valued at up to \$10k per month is responsible for 62% of the traffic coming to our website. FB and other social media are only responsible for 2%.
- He discussed the process of imbedding relevant search terms into our website to help drive traffic to us. Big terms right now include: "online, streaming, and Christian church."
- He discussed what the overall traffic numbers really mean for us.
- Upcoming initiatives include: adding a "Prayer" tab, updating the "Serve" page, adding music, and continued modifications to our home page.

#### **Administration**

- The motion was made by Don and seconded by Molly to accept the June Council meeting minutes once a small section for Mark's report was updated. The motion passed unanimously.

- Audit. David Pfundt accepted the call to serve as the head of the Audit Committee for the upcoming external audit. Bernice, Mike and Mark will all make some calls to try to get some more members to serve on the Audit Committee. They estimate needing 2-3 people.

### **Moving Forward**

- We discussed lessons learned from our first in-person services to be held. Overall, everyone felt safe, complied with the guidance given to them, and thought it was a meaningful experience. Great job everyone!
- Now that we've proven we can hold a safe in-person service, the key is to get the message out to the congregation so they come back.
- Sue B. discussed some of her lessons learned from the logistics side: greeting, flow patterns, etc. Future services will be updated to capitalize on these points.

The meeting was adjourned by Don at 8:26pm. We remotely closed with the Lord's Prayer together.

The next regular monthly council meeting will be Monday August 24th.