

COUNCIL SUMMARY

The Council of the First Lutheran Church met on October 20, 2020 and the highlights of the meeting were as follows:

- Council Vice President Lori McClaren called the meeting to order due to the absence of Council President Alison Hertenstein. Pastor Kristine led us in devotions from Isaiah.
- Treasurer Jen Snyder stated that our bank balance is doing quite well at this time. Included in the balance are the SBA funds of \$13,400. In general, giving is down a little but reminders will be going out with the third quarter giving statements. Jen will keep the council informed regarding the possible forgiveness of the SBA loan balance.
- In her Pastor's Report, Pastor Kristine told us that St. Mark's sent a thank you for the working together on services during the earlier pandemic times.
- Faith Formation - Julie Thiele reported that her committee is continuing to monitor the numbers of those participating in Faith Formation activities. An Advent activity is being considered. The Splash program continues for 0 - 36 month old children.
- Worship and Music - Chris Taylor reported that Communion distribution will resume on October 25th. The decorating for the Christmas season will be done on December 5th in a somewhat limited fashion. The radio broadcast and live stream of the Sunday service will conclude after the sharing of the peace, and then Communion will be prepared and served. Communion will be served at the rail with a great deal of concern to maintain safety for all of those participating.
- Candy Noonan-Johnson stated that the Caring Callers are doing very well. Following the placement of calls, a report is being made to the Pastor in case someone seems to need some extra pastoral care at this time. Calls are being placed monthly. More volunteers are needed and anyone interested can contact Candy.
- The volume of cans collected has become less and less. Numerous bottles are in need of attention at this time.
- The Food Pantry continues to serve between 28 and 30 families every other week. The District Health Department is encouraging the use of the outdoors as much as possible for safety reasons.
- Communication meetings will resume on November 8th. Details to follow.
- The Stewardship Drive will begin on November 8th and will feature three temple talks. On December 13th, the results of the drive will be announced. A

letter will be sent out with the third quarter statements to explain the process a little more, and there will be a pledge card included with the letter.

- Plans are starting for the Christmas Season and the service schedule. It was mentioned that we may have a pre-recorded service so that families can observe Christmas in the safety of their homes. Members will be reminded that giving to the church is an important aspect of the season. When the final decisions are made, our services will be advertised locally.
- Pastor Kristine said that the Boy Scouts wrote an excellent plan that they will implement for their return to the building. The Scouts will do all of their own set up and cleaning. The Council voted unanimously to allow the Scouts to again use the facility with the implementation and following of their plan.
- A committee of Pastor Kristine, Ann Doellinger and Enola Peters have a new Employee Handbook ready for approval of the Council. We will address this handbook at the next meeting. Lori McClaren raised a question regarding the spokesman for the congregation with the media.
- Orlando has resigned his position and today was his last day of work. Members of the church are encouraged to leave cards or notes for Orlando at the church office and the staff will make sure that the cards get to him.
- Council representation for the 20-21 year was discussed very briefly. More to follow on this later. Jenny Denne will come off the Council as she has served the maximum allotment of time, but she will continue to be involved in the National Youth Gathering. Strategic Planning may be discussed at the Council retreat in March after the installation of the new Council.