

**Unapproved Council Minutes January 18, 2021**

**Members present:** Pastor Hans, Angie Larson Executive Minister, Katie Rentschler, Bruce Luehmann, Lucas Gotto, Frank Peterson, Marc Sugden, Tyler Geyen, Jana Berndt, Kathy Hungness, and Jennifer Rentz

**Members Absent:** Deb Dittberner

Meeting called to order by M. Sugden Vice President at 6:03 p.m. No changes were made to the agenda.

**Mission sightings:** Pastor Angie organized and executed 310 Christmas meals for the community. Calvary hosted a meeting (led by Pastor Hans) on 01/18/2021 with a diverse group of 20 pastors to discuss and respond to the rise of violence and threats of violence within our community and our country. 31 pastors agreed on a written statement striving for unity and peace in our community and country by following God’s way rather than our own. This written statement will appear in the Echo Press 01/19/2021. Connie Good Preschool Director has personally called all of the 3 year old families that didn’t start the school year. 5 children from that age group will start the 2nd half of the school year. All the 3 year old families that didn’t attend this year have signed up for next year. Calvary Partner Network is going well. 5 churches requested to be part of the network including two from out of state. Despite a different Christmas this year there was incredible viewership. As we continue to grow a concern was raised about the importance of keeping the small town feel and connectedness that Calvary has.

Calvary has a new logo. It consists of 3 parts (symbolizing the triune God); the blue part represents we are rooted in a community where water connects us, (where we come from) and Baptism where we’re all welcome at Gods table.

**Devotion and Learning Moment:** Pastor Hans led us in devotion and prayer. Devotions were inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King’s quote “I have decided to stick with love”.

**Strengthening Our Mission and Vision for Ministry**

**Worship**: *Christmas reflections;* it was a different year for worship but participation and viewership was great*. Current Worship Series:* Take Back Your Life focuses on wanting our life back; what part should we hold unto and what part should we leave behind? *Upcoming Worship Series*: He’s Still got the Whole World in His Hands and Heart Matters. The Whole World in His Hands series will focus on the idea that God has us in his hands despite the craziness of this prior year. Heart Matters is the Lent theme for this year.

**Connect***: Lenten Groups:*We are encouraging the Connect Groups to meet 4 times during Lent. If people are not in Connect Groups they will have the opportunity at this time to join one. *Student Event on January 21, 2021:*6th thru 12th graders will be able to attend this event called One on One. Currently 140 students are registered to get a box that will contain games, a Zorbaz coupon for a mini pizza, questions for discussion, and a science experiment. The idea is for the student to connect with a caring adult in their life while learning, communicating, and having fun. *Valentine’s Event on February 14:* Katie and Hans will have a fun online event for couples that will help them connect (date night). *Ash Wednesday Drive Thru on February 17:* This event will consist of distributing ashes with a card explaining the significance of this, items for kids to help explain what Ash Wednesday is, and an invite to our Lenten Series.

**Serve*:*** *Calvary Kids Crates*: continue to be distributed. 324 kids are currently signed up to receive this. We are thankful for the volunteers who have helped to put them together and distribute them. *Christmas Generosity: The giving tree* was a success*;* 14 girls were sponsored in the Ghana Program, many families from Calvary adopted families thru the United Way partnership, and the Calvary Preschool Christmas wish list was achieved*. Meals:* 310 Christmas Meals donated by Calvary and Cub Foods were provided to families in need in the community (United Way list) and Launch Pad Program (transitional housing). *Lincoln Elementary Staff*: Calvary adopted this school and gave the staff gift cards from Pike and Pint and a personal note written by Calvary members. Financial help for this came from Geneva Capital, Bremer Bank, and individual donations. *Backpack Attack on Superbowl Sunday:* Calvary is planning to pack 2,500 bags. This event will follow Covid guidelines; masks required, 3 areas to pack in, limited to 10 people in each area, and only one hour duration. Families and connect groups are encouraged to help. *Calvary Preschool Registration:* We have 44 children registered for Preschool next year and plan to open the registration to the public on February 1, 2021. There will be an extended day for one of the Tuesday, Thursday 3 year old classes next year. *Calvary Partner Network* has begun. It is an extension of our mission, to lead all people to a lifelong faith in Jesus Christ. Their website is calvarypartners.org. This will be a resource for congregations who are part of the network.

**Supporting Our Mission and Vision**

**Consent agenda:** **A motion was made by L. Gotto, seconded by K. Hungness, and carried to approve the Consent Agenda.** This consisted of the minutes of the December meeting, staff reports, and a fund approval of $33.46 from the Serve Dedicated Fund to Bev Williams for baptismal blanket yarn.

**Treasurer’s Report:**

**December and Year End Financials:** showed a decrease in our Worship Income for December. 2020 Worship Income was down 3.4% from 2019. Calvary ended 2020 with a Worship Income about 9% below budget. We ended at 90.7% of Worship Income Budget. 2020 Total Income was down 2.8% from 2019 5% below budget. We were left with an overall deficit of $41,000. Despite a decrease in worship income Calvary did many things for the community as listed above in the minutes. $1.9 million gifts came into Calvary this year. A revised budget was not utilized despite Covid. B. Luehmann and K. Rentschler have met with N. Paulsen CPA and have updated our Balance Sheet to reflect more accurately pledges receivable for the building project and our fixed assets including existing building, new building, parking lot, and the land. The Balance sheet also reflects the Lilly Grant and PPP monies. Current building loan is at $3.6 million, which will grow to $3.9 the end of January. **A motion was made by T. Geyen, seconded by L. Gotto, and carried to approve the December and Year End Financials.**

**Strategic Priorities 2021-2022:**

**Partner Church Network:** has begun. K. Rentschler and Pastor Hans have been working on job descriptions for the part time bookkeeper and Partner Network Administrator. *Kid and Student Ministry* person will be hired more toward September and *Online Ministry* position will start 2nd half of the budget.

**Old Business:**

**Building Project:** the cross and the letters went up on the church this week. The cross will light up soon. *Timeline:* we are currently finishing the punch list. We are 99.9% done. Next step will be to clean and move in. *Expenses:* Spreadsheet of the Now is the Time Building Renovation and Expansion was reviewed. Over 50% of pledges have been received and we are well within our expenses. There is one last round of bills to pay yet. The finances of the overall project are looking good and we continue to borrow as little as possible. As pledge dollars continue to come in we will be putting those monies toward the interest only loan first. Parishioners would like to see the building. It was suggested to reconsider the building tours adhering to Covid guidelines. The church is filming a video of the new space this week so people can see and hear what’s going on. The financial spreadsheet of Now is the Time Building Renovation and Expansion will be included in the Annual Report.

**Covid Update/Reopening/Phased Approach:** Preschool has been healthy, both staff and preschoolers. The teachers were just notified that they will be next in line to be vaccinated. *Church:* will remain closed for the time being. Discussion was had on reopening considering two items, can we keep people safe and can we provide a good church experience for them. *Calvary at the Lake:* We would like to open in person church on Memorial Day Weekend. This would be announced to the church members shortly and also would give staff time to plan for a spectacular opening. Keeping in mind this is all subject to change depending on Covid.

**Annual Report:** will be printed and mailed out by next weekend.

**New Business:**

**Hiring:** *Bookkeeper:* the final prep of the job description is being made. This will be a 10 hour week position partially funded by the Calvary Partner Network and the other part by Calvary Church. This position will be posted next week. *Digital Minister* position will come out of the Calvary budget. We want to keep the quality online ministry going. This person would be responsible for this as well as connecting with people who may never come to our church doors but present online only. This position would be 20-25 hours per week. This could be a hybrid position and would be a stipend position. The goal is to hire this person by July 1st, (2nd half of budget). *Partner Network Administer* will be hired as soon as possible. This will be a 20-25 hour per week position fully funded by the Network Grant. The job description is done and will be posted soon. This is a hybrid position with some time at Calvary and part time working remotely. We are looking for a candidate who has been in ministry 5-10 years who has experience building relationships with churches and is tech savvy.

**2021 Budget revisions and approval:** A revised budget for 2021 was presented to better reflect realistic financials as we continue the first half of 2021 no different than 2020. The Worship Income Budget matches the 2020 budget. This new proposed budget shows a $25,921 deficit. **A motion was made by J. Berndt, seconded by F. Peterson, and carried to approve the 2021 revised budget.**

**February meeting date** has been changed to February 22, 2021. J. Berndt will take over as President of our congregation.

**Top Three Takeaways:** 1. The recent gathering of pastors agreeing on unity and peace for the community and country. 2. The building project; on time, on budget, and over half the pledged monies received. 3. In person worship commencing Memorial Day Weekend.

The meeting ended with prayer. The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. The next meeting date is February 22, 2021 via Zoom.