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**UNAPPROVED COUNCIL MINUTES December 13, 2021**

**Members present:** Pastor Hans Dahl, Pastor Angie Larson, Katie Rentschler, Bruce Luehmann, Jana Berndt, Tyler Geyen, Lukas Gotto, Marc Sugden, Kathy Hungness, Frank Peterson

**Members Absent:** Jennifer Rentz, Deb Dittberner

The meeting was called to order at **6:05 p.m.** by President J. Berndt. Pastor Hans led us in devotions. Added the Homeless to Hopeful topic on the new business of the agenda.

**Mission shout outs and wins:** Shout outs to all the Calvary Advent events. The Women’s Advent Brunch had 150 in attendance and raised about $2300 for a vocational school in Ghana. The Kids and Carols event saw over 200 kids and provided a great place for families to celebrate the Christmas season. Carols and Cocktails was once again a popular event with about 150 people in attendance and great night of worship with the Calvary band. Jana Berndt was the guest speaker at the first Night for Weary Hearts event to help address the loneliness and sadness that some people feel at this time of year.

**STRENGTHING OUR MISSION AND VISION FOR MINISTRY**

**Strategic Priorities**:

**2021-2022 Priorities**: *Kid and Student Ministry* continues to search for a leader.

*Online Church* is going strong. We continue to pause in hiring an online minister.

*Calvary* *Partner Network* continues to move forward with one church officially signed on in a full partnership.

**Supporting our Priorities:**

**Communication of Strategies/Mission/Vision/Values conversation:** Calvary staff has been working on a communication plan for our mission, vision, and values. During Lent we will launch a special worship series about Calvary’s mission.

**Financial Planning:** *The Covid Catchup Appeal* was well received. $77,684 has been committed thus far.

*2022 Stewardship General Fund Appeal Update:* 282 households have pledged $592,850 which is over last year.

*Next Gen Minister/Kid & Student Ministry Update:* We have ended the search with SIMA Partners and the Calvary team leading the search will regroup in the new year to strategize how to move forward.

**SUPPORTING OUR MISSION AND VISION:**

**Consent Agenda:** No fund approvals were requested. **Motion was made by T. Geyen and seconded by M. Sugden, and carried to approve the consent agenda with the amendments to the language in the minutes for the special December meeting.**

**Treasurer’s Report:**

**November Financials:** B. Luehmann shared the November financials. Worship income continues to run behind budget, by about 10%. Total Income continues to run ahead of budget, about 9%. Expenses are on track and 2% under budget. December is a critical month to see worship income end the year strong, and K. Rentschler indicated that giving was strong already in December. **Motion was made by K. Hungness, seconded by T. Geyen and carried to approve the November financials.**

**Audit Report:** The internal audit of the 2020 books was completed. A full report will be made available at an upcoming Council meeting.

**Old Business:**

**Building Project Timeline and Expenses:** A full financial update will be made in the annual report. Addressed concern about no crosses up in the Worship Center. They are being designed but the installation of them is on hold as the builder had surgery and is delayed.

**Covid Update:** Covid numbers are up in the county as well as in the state. The Council continues to encourage masking when in the building and use of online worship as a great alternative to attending in person.

**Council Membership**: We have 2 current openings on Council, and discussed those who had been nominated. Pastor Hans will visit with the nominees and Council will present the two candidates for approval at the January meeting. Council members agreed that we would use an application form in the future.

**New Business:**

**Advent Calendar and Christmas Worship:**

*Christmas Worship Schedule;* Wednesday December 22 at 6:30 pm, Thursday December 23 at 6:30 pm, Friday December 24 at 1pm, 3 pm, and 5 pm, Sunday December 26 online worship only.

**New Worship Series: Asking for a Friend:**

Allows us to explore questions of our faith, and is a good introduction to people who are unsure of faith as we enter into a new year.

**Annual Meeting on January 30, 2022:**

The congregation’s annual meeting will take place on Sunday, January 30th at 9:30 am in the Sanctuary. Annual Report will be available two weeks in advance.

**Homeless to Hopeful:**

Pastor Angie presented information on the Homeless to Hopeful pilot program. Calvary Lutheran Church has been approached about partnering with United Way of Douglas/Pope County and West Central Communities Action on the Homeless to Hopeful Pilot Program. The Homeless to Hopeful Pilot Program is 12 weeks in length. Calvary would host two weeks of the program, meaning we provide overnight shelter to homeless guests and provide volunteers to cook a meal and supervise overnight. United Way and West Central Communities Action are currently in conversation with at least 5 other churches interested in partnering with the Homeless to Hopeful Pilot Program. The Council agreed to explore the liability concerns with the program, meet with the key leaders at United Way and West Central Communities Action about the program, and put together a leadership team to begin the planning.

**Top Three Takeaways:** 1. General Fund appeal success 2. Christmas at Calvary is here!

3. Homeless to Hopeful making an impact

**SENT OUT TO SERVE**

**Leadership Dates:**

January 17 at Calvary

January 30 Annual Meeting at Calvary

**Prayer and Adjournment:** The Lord’s Prayer was recited. The meeting was adjourned at **8:03 pm**