

*We are a community of all ages gathered by God's grace
for worship, learning, loving and service to all.*

**MINUTES - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Called Council Meeting
Meeting via ZOOM Meeting due to COVID-19 Virus
Sunday, March 29, 2020**

Present: Anna-Marie Plyler, Donna Foster, Ed Beaman, Jamie Sanders, Jennifer Ross, Karen Lucas, Katie Bostic, Marcia Woodward, Mitch Uehling, Noah Adams, Pastor Andrew Isenhower, and Steve Steck.

Absent: N/A

Good Shepherd Congregational Retreat Cancellation

Karen reported that Lutheridge was willing to retain GSLC's deposit and reschedule our retreat. Karen Lucas briefed Council on all of the dates that Lutheridge was available to reschedule our Congregational Retreat. There were specific reasons not to have the retreat on the few dates which were still open for us to book such as: too soon for the social distancing ban to be lifted; Palm Sunday; Faith Alive using all of the resources; Mother's Day, etc.

After discussion, it was mutually decided to postpone the GSLC Congregational Retreat. Karen will check with her committee and then both Lutheridge and perhaps the Costal Retreat Center to see when the retreat can be rescheduled. Karen was asked to seek our \$1000 deposit from Lutheridge since they cannot provide suitable dates in 2020 or 2021.

Another discussion dealt with returning/reallocating the members' retreat deposits. Karen will send an email to all who submitted a retreat deposit and give them the choice of either having the check returned to them or letting the church retain the registration fee.

Social Ministry Motion

Social Ministry Committee moves that a donation of \$1,000 be drawn from the Food Pantry Fund to be given to Harvest Hope Food Bank.

Background Information: Since Good Shepherd's Food Pantry ceased manning the church's Food Pantry during the COVID-19 Pandemic, this donation should be given to Harvest Hope Food Bank which is continuing to meet the needs of the hungry.

Motion **Unanimously Approved.**

Virtual Music Offering from Cody Jones

President Beaman informed Council that Cody Jones offered to make music offerings to our members via YouTube. These offerings could include a setting of Evening Prayer written by Cody and performed by Cody and his wife Meredith and offering the parents of the children's choir virtual lessons and provide some videos that will connect musically with their growing faith.

Council was appreciative of Cody's offer and Ed said that he would let Cody know that he could move forward with this.

The Next Two Weeks

Mr. Beaman led the Council in a discussion of what our plans should be for the next two weeks. Marcia Woodward informed that the President in his daily briefing earlier in the evening announced that the practice of social distancing would be in effect at least until April 30. With that in mind, a very productive discussion was held regarding decisions related to worship services and church activities.

After much discussion it was decided not to attempt Holy Week services other than by current means of posting the audio of Pastor Andrew offering of scripture, sermon and benediction on the GSLC Website. The question as to holding an Easter Service outside in the parking lot came up. Ed Beaman said that perhaps he could arrange the technical solution to have an unconventional solution. It might be possible for Ed to hook up an FM transmitter with a microphone and have Pastor Andrew transmit the service to the members' car radios. This would work similar to how drive-in movies now broadcast sound to the patrons.

Pastor Andrew and Council all agreed that this would be the most reasonable solution to allowing us to worship together on Easter Morning. Additionally, Council agreed that there would be only one service at 9:00 or 9:30 A.M.

President Beaman said that he would first get clearance from the City of Forest Acres to make sure that it was permissible for our members to gather in the parking lot while staying in our cars. If Forest Acres gives permission, Ed will then work with his technician early in the week to test this solution to see if in fact it is feasible.

If this plan is feasible, all decisions having to do with the Easter service will be left to Pastor Andrew and the Music Team to plan the service.

Day School

The Day School will continue to be closed until April 30.

Executive Session

Council went into Executive Session at 7:12 P.M. and returned from Executive Session at 7:18. No Motion was brought forward in Executive Session.

Questions and Concerns

1. Sending Sermons via US Mail

There was a concern that many of our older members do not have a computer or have access to the church's Website. Pastor Andrew said that it would be possible to mail a copy of his sermon.

2. Devotional Booklets

Pastor Andrew said that the devotional booklets were on the table across from the door to the office.

3. Make cards for and mail to our elderly members.
Children can make and color cards. It was noted that Don Caughman would be the best resource for identifying who should receive the cards. Stacy Gross said that she would take the lead on this.
4. Sharing Devotions
Encourage people to share their devotionals with each other.
5. Easter Cross
The Easter Cross will not be decorated with flowers from the congregation this year. It will be draped with the white cloth.
6. Church Doors
Interior church doors are being propped open to allow for members who would like to use the sanctuary to pray and meditate to be able to enter without touching door handles.
7. Staffing:
Deb Embry, Financial Secretary: Mondays
Deborah Mitchell, Parish Administrator: Wednesdays part-time and has email connectivity to church email at home.
Pastor Andrew: Fridays and via email.
Joey Allison, Sexton: Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Adjourn

Meeting was adjourned at 7:37 P.M. with the Council members joining in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Anna-Marie Plyler