

## MINUTES FOR W&M MEETING Tuesday April 20, 2021

Roll Call: Pastor, Judy, Sheri, Julie, Kevin, Lynn, Katie  
Excused: Barbara, Ken, David, Jesse

1. DEVOTIONS: Judy - Proverbs 15:1-18  
A gentle answer turns away rage, but a harsh word stirs up anger.
2. HOLY WEEK & EASTER FEEDBACK
  - a. How did we do?  
Several people said it didn't feel like Holy Week, as much as we tried.
    - i. Maundy Thursday (live) – positive feedback from Ashes sent on Q-tip. Made it more interactive. (positive feedback from Palm crosses made and sent, as well)
    - ii. Easter (Germania Park) – Very positive feedback from Easter. Was nice to be out and about with other members. Music was great! Pastor noted an energy from emerging after being quarantined for so long and being able to see members we haven't seen in so long! 68 in person, 65 online.
3. POSSIBLE RETURN TO IN-PERSON WORSHIP
  - a. ELCA's guidance is that indoor gatherings are relatively safe when all three of the following conditions are met (covidactnow.org):
    - i. Daily rate of new cases is less than 10 in 100,000. (At time of meeting it was 32.4 - a week later down to 24)
    - ii. Fewer than 5% of people tested test positive. (At time of meeting it was 7.5% - a week later down to 5.7%)
    - iii. Fewer than 70% of ICU beds are occupied. (At time of meeting it was at 42% - a week later up to 49%)
    - These statistics are looking very good, we are almost there. Will not be able to resume in-person worship on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Decided we need to be stabilized at favorable rates for 2 weeks before returning to in-person worship.
    - CDC and NJ Dept of Health are still not recommending gathering with med – large groups of people.
    - discussed vaccinated vs. unvaccinated. We cannot exclude those who are unvaccinated from an "all are welcome" Christian perspective. Some are choosing not to be vaccinated. Asked if there is a way to get information of how many are vaccinated? Can we offer to help those who haven't made the decision. (Lynn wrote a newsletter article, after our meeting, on vaccines and facts behind it, hoping it will help)
4. MAY 9<sup>TH</sup> – GERMANIA PARK WORSHIP (Mother's Day)
  - a. Need to simplify – paraments, brass plates, candles, linens... (will be discussed with Pastor and decided.) Need to get more people to help out. If members want to worship outside, we need to emphasize we are a church and need to help each other. Make phone calls.
  - b. L4G Mother's Day project is collecting items for North Porch (diapers, baby wipes, formula, and monetary donations).
  - c. Discussed possibly having worship at Germania Park twice a month if indoor worship is not a possibility. Pastor will check with Tina at Germania Park – Pentecost May 23<sup>rd</sup> would be a possibility? Discussed possibility of blocking off Mercer for worship as alternative? Decided not a good possibility - too much to bring chairs out, etc. and would not be good for bad weather.
5. MAY 23<sup>RD</sup> IS PENTECOST
  - a. Possibly have at Germania Park.

- b. Pastor Schantzenbach will be a supply Pastor. Pastor Fred has taken on the Vice Pastor role at Holy Counselor in Vernon and will be there for confirmation Sunday.
- c. Suggested writing newsletter article to ask for help getting things to Germania Park. Decided to wait on article and ask Altar Guild first.
  - concerned that the setting up and taking down of worship space needs to be done with reverence. Need the right frame of mind.
  - a list will be made of what items are absolutely necessary. Do we have duplicates that could be kept just for Germania Park? Sheri, Katie, Jill and Judy will work on this.

## 6. JUNE

- a. Confirmation is June 13<sup>th</sup> at Germania Park. Guest flutist Jen Schroeder.
- b. Father's Day June 20<sup>th</sup>. L4G Project – CWS Blankets.
- c. Graduation Sunday – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday is June 27<sup>th</sup> – consider Germania Park if not back at Trinity.

## 7. OTHER RECURRING BUSINESS

- a. Hymns for June – done by Julie, Thank you! July: Kevin, August: Sheri
- b. Status of Cantors – Kevin is doing a great job. Cantors add so much to worship.
  - Amy Cook solo last Sunday was beautiful – beautiful voice and she is interested in singing again. ??cantor
- c. Outdoor services at GP for 5/9, 6/13, 7/11, 8/8, and 9/12 (Energizer)
- d. Media Company – Additional lighting and wireless mic status: Cost \$11,000 - \$8,000 grant from Synod. Council approved remainder of money out of Delaney Fund.
  - scheduled to be installed late May.

## 8. ROUND TABLE/NEW BUSINESS

- a. Discussed numbers on YouTube. Highest last week was 55. We are not able to see where people are from. There is no information on viewers.
  - link on Facebook and on website. Link to get bulletin as well as how to donate.
- b. Julie will be having Spring piano concert for her students at Trinity on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. It will be private for the student families and conducted the same with one student at a time like the Christmas concert was.
- c. Thank you notes to be written. To Amy for solo – Julie will write. To Sandy Dean for Easter banner – Lynn will write.
- d. Thank you to Kevin for all the time and effort you have put in lining up cantors and filling in as a cantor, too. Also for the instrumental music provided on Easter. The cantors and brass add so much to our worship and we appreciate your hard work.
- e. Julie – reported that the organ was tuned last week.
- f. Positive feedback from congregation regarding Q-tip ashes and palm crosses received in the mail. Members felt it helped to increase sense of participation.
- g. Discussion on distributing plastic communion cup in baggie. People could take their own home to dispose of it. Would it help with distribution? Probably not worth the preparatory work making them up plus it adds that much more plastic to the environment. Always thinking of physical distancing and other alternatives to distribution. Food for thought.

Pastor Fred closed meeting with prayer.

Next meeting scheduled for: **Tuesday May 18, 2021@7pm via Zoom**

2021 planned meeting dates: 6/22, 7/20, 8/17, 9/21,10/19, 11/16, 12/21

### PARKING LOT:

- a. New Hymnal "All Creation Sings" – report from Julie
- b. Future invite to Tim Weingert