

# MINUTES FROM W&M MEETING

## Tuesday October 19, 2021

ATTENDEES: Sheri, Judy, Jessie, Kevin, David, Lynn, Katie, Pastor Fred

1. DEVOTIONS – Sheri shared some tidbits from an article about sabbath rest.
2. FEEDBACK FROM RECENT SUNDAY SERVICES
  - a. How did we do? Pastor Fred stated that he had recently been calling on members who he'd not seen in church for a while and found that although not physically in the building, most were very faithfully attending online. And that they were really appreciative that the online option is available for them. Some also noted that they were glad we had not shortened our service; apparently many congregations are using an abbreviated service skipping many parts of a "normal" service.
3. UPDATES - PROCEDURES & PROTOCOLS FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP (COVID-19)
  - 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. **13.8% as of 10/19/21.**
    - ii. Fewer than 5% of people tested test positive. 3.3% as of 10/19/21.
    - iii. Fewer than 70% of ICU beds are occupied. On 10/19/21 it was at 54%.
    - iv. Above numbers are Morris County numbers. County vaccination rate is 76.8%
  - b. Singing has been deemed safe as long as congregation wears masks indoors.
  - c. Contact tracing is ongoing. All must sign in the Lobby.
  - d. Outdoor services without masks deemed safe by the CDC.
4. COMING ATTRACTIONS
  - a. Reformation Sunday – Oct 31<sup>st</sup> Will use the new red banners. So far, we've been unable to secure any special musicians for that day.
  - b. Nov 7 All Saints – possibly will use new white banner
  - c. Nov 14 – Pastor Fred will be doing a "pulpit swap" with Abiding Peace. Pastor Serena Rice will do our service at TLC. Also, Julie will be off that day and Karen Coates is on board to supply as organist.
  - d. Nov 21 Christ the King
  - e. Nov 28 First Advent – change to blue; Switch to setting 2. Pastor Fred will be on vacation; Bob Kriesat will supply.
  - f. Dec 5 Annual Meeting
  - g. Friday Dec 17 – tree assembly and Sunday Dec 19 Decorating Day
  - h. Friday 12/24 Christmas Eve – two services 6 pm and 10 pm. Austin will be cantor for at least one service
  - i. Sat 12/25 Christmas Day – one service @ 9:30
  - j. Sun 12/26 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas– one service @ 9:30 on YouTube only (PRE-RECORDED)
5. OTHER RECURRING BUSINESS
  - a. Hymn Selection: Julie & Lynn did December; the hymns for Sundays have been sent to Kathy and Kevin. Hymns for 12/24 and 12/25 are in progress pending Pastor's review and will be out shortly. Pastor Fred volunteered to pick January; Sheri will do February.

- b. Cantors? Still a work in progress. But the congregation is doing just fine singing without a cantor and the new equipment is picking sounds up extremely well. Lynn noted that she could even hear the words!
- c. Liturgy Change: Next change would be @ 1<sup>st</sup> Advent on November 28<sup>th</sup> using Setting 2. After that, no change until Lent.
- d. Choir/Bell Choir for Christmas? Under discussion. Noted that Grace, Mendham has brought their choir back, although it seems small and they are singing with masks and extra spacing. We would have to figure out the spacing as our choir loft is a bit tight.
- e. New Altar Guild Coordinator Joan Yurecsko. She is absorbing all the materials that Jill gave her and will “shadow” Sheri and Judy as they do AG in November. Perhaps in January once she has her feet under her we can meet to look at the tasks of AG and seek improvements and new members.
- f. Mid-Week Services 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22. Pastor working on something similar to last year. Attendance last year (online) was robust (66, 45, 36) Pastor has already ordered candles to be sent to each home like we did last year. All 4 services will be pre-recorded, preferably at 4 different homes.

#### 6. ROUND TABLE/NEW BUSINESS

- a. David will miss the November meeting; on vacation.
- b. Katie – there is supposedly a “form” for pre-planning funerals? She has never seen it, but it would have helped her to know before the Johnson funeral what the general service looks like. Pastor Fred said he has a new version of the form and will share. Maybe do a newsletter article reminding people of how helpful this can be to the family. Can be kept at home or filed in the church office.
- c. Katie reported the online views for recent attendance: Sept 12 had 44 views online, Sept 19 = 59, Sept 26 = 43, Oct 3 = 71, Oct 10=46. The Johnson funeral had 51 views online and 62 in person. Note that the number of views isn’t recorded until the following week – the actual views live on Sundays at 9:30 runs 15-20 but grows during the week.
- d. Kevin asked if there is any available data about how long each viewer watches and do the numbers reported “boost” our Facebook or YouTube status at all. Katie said there were a few analytics, but she needs to research what they actually mean first.
- e. Kevin wondered about the camera angles being used, specifically could we show the congregation when the congregation is singing? The camera is in the back, so there’s no way to show “faces” and it only captures the first 8 pews or so. Also, unless switching from camera 1 to camera 2 (or vice versa), the transition isn’t very smooth.
- f. Noted: how great is it that we finally found a way to get the congregation to stop talking during the Prelude!

### **Next meeting scheduled for November 16, 2021**

2021      next dates 12/21. In 2022, 1/18 and 2/15 will be the first 2 meeting dates.

PARKING LOT: Future invite to Tim Weingert? / Learn a new liturgy some day: WOV 4 or ELW 8 possible