

# MINUTES FOR W&M MEETING

Tuesday August 17, 2021

1. ROLL CALL: Present - Judy, Sheri, Pastor, Katie, Lynn, Kevin, Julie, Barbara, David, Jessie  
Excused - Ken
2. RECENT WORSHIP SERVICES
  - a. John and Christina Girvin did a fabulous job as organist and cantor on August 15. Julie enjoyed her day off. She ran an actual circus for her grandkids!
  - b. Still having difficulty with sound in church. Katie states she has trouble balancing voices on mics with feedback. Needed to turn down lector. Will try to turn up cantor. It's a juggling act. (Maybe she could attend Julie's circus - lol) Kevin stated the sound seems better on YouTube than in church. It is complicated between live church and YouTube. Katie will continue to work on it.
3. UPDATES - PROCEDURES & PROTOCOLS FOR IN-PERSON WORSHIP (C9)
  - 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. **14.3% as of 8/15/21.**
    - ii. Fewer than 5% of people tested test positive. 4.4% as of 8/15/21.
    - iii. Fewer than 70% of ICU beds are occupied. On 8/15/21 it was at 49%.
    - iv. Above numbers are Morris County numbers. County vaccination rate is 72%. As of this meeting the numbers were down a couple tenths of a point more.
      - ELCA sticking with their strict guidelines, which haven't changed this year or since vaccination rates have increased.
      - CDC continues to recommend wearing masks and social distancing when outside the home.
      - On 8/11 in Jersey Jottings from ELCA, recommended shortening worship services, wearing masks and social distancing. Avoid indoor spaces without good ventilation.
  - b. Singing has been deemed safe as long as congregation wears masks indoors.
  - c. Outdoor services without masks deemed safe by the CDC.

- Discussed this and concluded our precautions and practices are working well to protect those who come to worship. Our a/c has special filters; people are doing a fairly good job social distancing wearing masks and passing the peace in a socially distanced manner. Large number of members are vaccinated

- Need to keep in mind that the louder we talk or sing the more aerosolization occurs (spewing 😊)

## COMING ATTRACTIONS

- d. Energizer Sept 12 @ Germania Park: Lunch being provided by Germania Park, L4G Project – student desks (organized and will be supervised by Bruce Kleindienst and his team) approx. 30 people signed up.
- e. August 29 – no cantor. Last cantor scheduled for August 22. Do the mics pick up the congregation to project on YouTube?? We have never had this situation without a cantor, we will find out on August 29.
- f. Reformation Sunday – Oct 31<sup>st</sup> Postpone until next meeting.
- g. Nov 7 All Saints – Postpone until next meeting.

- h. Nov 21 Christ the King – Postpone until next meeting.
- i. Nov 28 First Advent – FYI
- j. Dec 5 Annual Meeting – FYI
- k. Friday 12/24 Christmas Eve – FYI – it’s a Friday, meaning church on Fri., Sat., and Sunday!
- l. Sat 12/25 Christmas Day – one service @ 9:30? Or 10? – Postponed discussion
- m. Sun 12/26 1<sup>st</sup> Christmas– one service @ 9:30? Or 10? – Postponed discussion

#### 4. OTHER RECURRING BUSINESS

- a. Hymns: September – done; David will do October; Pastor will do November, Julie and Lynn will do December
- b. Cantors have been scheduled through August. What do we want for Sept-Dec?
  - Kevin said he is having trouble getting cantors for fall with the students going back to school. May be able to recruit more “choral scholars” once school is in swing, but probably not until at least October.
  - We discussed focusing on getting cantors for “high” holidays. i.e., All Saints, Christmas Eve. Talking to Austin about Christmas Eve, may be interested. “Work in progress”
- c. Liturgy Change: Will switch to Setting 4 on 9/12 (Energizer Sunday). Next change would be @ 1<sup>st</sup> Advent service on November 28. We will change to Setting 2. (Not a good time to learn one we don’t know.)

#### 5. ROUND TABLE/NEW BUSINESS

- a. Choir: If it is unsafe to sing together, could we join the bell choir and be ringers? Asked Judy if she would speak with Jeff to ask if he would be willing to lead us and teach those who have never played bells. Judy feels he may be willing for the Christmas holiday but would need to know how many to write music for. David brought up that there is lots of bell music in file cabinet in basement. Lynn agreed that we used prewritten bell music in the past and it could also be color coded for ease of following. Judy will talk to Jeff
- b. Identify any “nonstandard” budget requests for 2022
  - Germania: Do we want to go to Germania Park next summer? At the beginning it was fun, but it was a lot of work and schlepping. Katie says it is easier than at church because there are less cameras, but she prefers to be at church. Decided we would go to Germania once a month in July, August, and September 2022. Suggested increasing budget amount to \$900.00 to cover an increase in rate at Germania.
  - Cantors (students get \$125 - \$150) Obviously professionals get more.
  - Organ tuning is an ongoing contract. (Brought up that piano seemed a bit off. Julie said that it can happen due to extreme heat in summer)
- c. Mid-Week Services? Weds or Thurs? Advent Weds dates would be 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22
  - Mid week services didn’t fair well last year, although not a lot did well last year? Discussion postponed.
- d. Decorating Team will meet soon – any suggestions? Probable tree date is Sat 12/18; decorating Sun 12/19 after service; flower delivery Thursday 12/23
  - Discussion postponed for later date.
- e. No further round table.

#### 6. CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Fred closed the meeting in prayer

**Next meeting scheduled for September 21, 2021**

2021 planned meeting dates: 10/19, 11/16, 12/21