

MINUTES FOR W&M MEETING

Tuesday September 21, 2021

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

1. **DEVOTIONS:** Shared how she sees God working through people everyday in her new job as Director of Faith Kitchen. Overwhelmed by the generosity of people every day! "People walk in everyday with donations" (monetary and otherwise) "We needed perishables and they just came in! There are helpers all around, too. I say thank you every day and look up A LOT"
2. **ENERGIZER SUNDAY:** Fabulous Day!! Full of energy, laughter, hard work and much was accomplished – 40 desks were made for kindergarteners in Dover! Organized and led by Bruce Kleindienst and team. There was a job for everyone, and it was fun to see people doing sanding, nailing, painting etc. that we never imagined doing these tasks. No negativity was heard all day, and everyone worked together and helped each other. Truly an outstanding day!

There will be a video account of the day, put together by Katie, to be shown on Sunday, Sept. 26, in the narthex.

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. 19.3% as of 9/21/21.
 - ii. Fewer than 5% of people tested test positive. 4.6% as of 9/21/21.
 - iii. Fewer than 70% of ICU beds are occupied. On 9/12/21 it was at 48%.
 - iv. Above numbers are Morris County numbers. County vaccination rate is 75%
- 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.

Discussion: Doing well with masks and contact tracing sign-in. Social distancing could improve. Passing of peace generally doing well. Need additional education on protocols, new guidelines, staying home if not feeling well etc. Lynn will write an article for Chimp Mail newsletter.

4. **COMING ATTRACTIONS:**

- a. Guest Preacher – Oct. 3: We are a host congregation for a call committee and candidate for a congregation seriously considering the candidate.
- b. Special Meeting of congregation – Oct. 17 & 24: Proposing changes to constitution. Needs to be voted on by congregation in two meetings in succession. This way changes could be made without waiting a year between meetings.
- c. Reformation Sunday – Oct 31: New set of three red banners will be used. Question about possible Bell Choir this fall instead of Chancel Choir? Sheri talked to Jeff about his interest. Receptive to idea, if he has time. Judy will ask again. Possibility for Christmas? And need to start practicing sooner than later, especially for those who have never rung bells before.
- d. All Saints Sunday - Nov 7: Use new white banner.

Money to buy new banners came from a member who liked the set of three green banners we have been using.

- e. Christ the King – Nov. 21: noted
- f. First Sunday of Advent – Nov. 28: Switch to setting 2. Question – Do we want to go back to having cantors. They definitely add something to the service. Kevin will work on getting cantors as often as they are available. Concentrating on special Sundays.
- g. Annual Meeting – Dec. 5: noted

** Note: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Sunday the 26th – three day weekend of services

- h. Christmas Eve – Friday, Dec. 24: Two services - **6pm & 10pm**. Last year all online. Will require people to sign-up ahead of time. Of course, we will have to prepare for walk-ins and people changing plans. Julie spoke with Austin and he has committed to being cantor on Christmas Eve. 😊
- i. Christmas Day – Saturday, Dec. 25: One service @ **9:30am**. Discussed skipping Christmas Day or Sunday this year, decided Christmas Day is an important service to keep.
- j. 1st Sunday of Christmas – Sunday, Dec. 26 – Pastor suggested a carol sing on this Sunday. Discussed various ideas and decided to have a Service of the Word prerecorded and @ **9:30 am on YouTube only**. Could be prerecorded the week of Dec.19 since church will be decorated on Sunday, Dec. 19. Noted it would be nice to have a cantor for this service.

5. OTHER RECURRING BUSINESS:

- a. Hymn Selection: David did October; Pastor Fred will do November; Julie & Lynn will do December.
- b. Cantor status: Kevin will work on getting a hold of cantors if possible. Otherwise the congregation is singing well and it is being picked up by mics for online service.
- c. Liturgy Change: Switched to Setting 4 on 9/12 (Energizer Sunday). Seems to be going well. Next change would be @ 1st Sunday of Advent on November 28th using Setting 2.

6. ROUND TABLE/NEW BUSINESS:

- a. Choir/Bell Choir for Christmas – discussed previously
- b. Need for Altar Guild Coordinator – to replace Jill Ryan who will be moving to NC in October 2021. She has done a fabulous job organizing cataloging etc. Barbara will write Jill a thank you from W & M for her service. May be difficult to find a replacement. Pastor and Sheri will continue this discussion.
- c. Advent Mid-Week Services: Advent Weds dates would be 12/1, 12/8, 12/15, 12/22. Last year mid-week services online. Makes sense to repeat this year based on attendance and present COVID situation.
 - Will be prerecorded ahead of time.
 - Pastor will plan to send out Advent candles to everyone again. Can't rely on everyone to have saved them from last year or be able to find them. Discussed that member feedback was positive and it helped people feel more connected.
 - Discussed possibly filming service at Pastor's home or in 4 different congregant's homes? Music could be prerecorded.
 - Will continue to discuss this at next meeting.
- d. Decorating Team will meet soon – Probable tree date is Sat 12/18; decorating Sun 12/19 after service; flower delivery Thursday 12/23.
- e. TLC Laptop for online service – There will be a laptop available for use by Bruce or Judy when Katie is not available. Will have guidance to follow for online services.

Next meeting scheduled for October 19, 2021

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

PARKING LOT:

- a. Future invite to Tim Weingert?
- b. Learn a new liturgy some day: WOV 4 or ELW 8 possible