

Worship & Music Committee of Trinity Lutheran Church, Dover NJ

May 19, 2020 (Via Zoom)

MINUTES

Call to Order

Roll Call: Judy, Sheri, Pastor Fred, David, Julie, Barbara, Lynn

Excused: Ken, Sandy, Jessie, Kevin

Devotions: Pastor Fred shared that people are being profoundly generous during this difficult time with money and food. Our church is fortunate to be on the receiving end of this generosity for food cupboard!

Also, local man, "Angel" has been highly active in raising money and orchestrating food distribution to food pantries as well as individuals in Dover. He is now in the hospital on a ventilator due to COVID-19. We will keep him in our prayers.

1. Zoom meeting hosted by Judy. Thanks Judy! Meeting went well, good discussions.
2. Review of worship services:
 - All services via Zoom platform.
 - Approximate attendance: April 26 – 91; May 3 – N/A Worship with Bishop of NJ Synod: May 10 – 75; May 17 – 61

Discussion:

- Thank you to Katie Serbeck, Pastor Fred and Julie Sauder for their hard work and coordination so we may all worship together on Zoom!
- Positive feedback from members regarding church. Request that more people be put in chat rooms for coffee hour afterward. Katie is still learning this format and will try to change this.
- Return to Sanctuary – Worship going forward
 - Prior to meeting the members of W & M committee reviewed the 7-page document from the Synod, "Considerations for Returning to In-person Worship". Main takeaway from document: Even being in the same room with masks on is a risk.
 - Many guidelines in Synod document we cannot meet at this time.
 - Document states singing, saying Lord's Prayer or any unison speaking is one of the riskiest behaviors due to droplet transmission.
 - No receiving lines after church or fellowship allowed.
 - Numerous considerations for communion, physical building including traffic pattern and cleaning --
 - Could have members sign up for 2 different services. This would help with numbers at church as well as in tracking people if a COVID case is discovered at TLC.
 - Unanimous decision that we should continue with Zoom Church. No sense returning to in-person church if we cannot have unison singing, speaking, communion or fellowship.
- Discussion of what we will need to consider and have guidelines to keep everyone safe, when we can open:
 - one-way traffic inside church. Dave suggested we use the door next to choir loft with stairs that exit to side of building. For those with mobility concerns they would need to exit through narthex. We would need to excuse people in an orchestrated manner.
 - cleaning of bathrooms
 - providing hand sanitizers in pews
 - spacing people 6 feet apart in pews and from one pew to the next – every 3 pews
 - everyone must wear masks, masks are hot, especially for an extended period of time

- bulletins instead of hymnals. (all hymnals pencils and papers should be removed from pews)cleaning pews. Probably unnecessary between Sundays, as virus should dissipate in a week.

- How Can We Continue to Worship Now?

- Continue Zoom

- Other Options: Outside Worship

Pastor would like to investigate using parking lot possibly at Prince of Peace; or have worship at an area park

- Bruce Kleindienst has connection at Germania Park

- investigate Hurd Park

- Pastor will ask Pastor Jack

- Having a Pavilion would be best in case of rain

- Pastor would consider drive up or walk up communion. Not worried about aerosolization. Disposable cups were ordered. ?Bread or wafers?

- Still would need to consider wearing masks, having hand sanitizer and social distancing people during worship.

- Cost of park: we have money in budget to cover this.

- Music: need keyboard or musicians.

Consensus that we cannot meet in sanctuary until we can meet the regulations.

Probably at least 4 more weeks of Zoom church

Pastor feels “people are chomping at the bit” to be together. Need to give congregation an idea when they will see a change.

Sheri will put something in Chimp Mail stating that we are looking into all options and when we figure out the best option, we will let the congregation know.

3. Calendar tasks:

- Pentecost and Holy Trinity will be via Zoom.

- Graduate Sunday: Will be planned by education committee. Scheduled for June 28 via Zoom.

- Planning for Summer worship/dinner church – table until next meeting in June.

4. Follow up item:

- Hymns for July will be picked by Julie – TY! Thank you to Sheri and Dave for May and June hymns!

5. New Business

- Sound system upgrade:

- Proposal to council to go ahead with entire sound/video system APPROVED!

- Contract signed and vendor is working on getting supplies.

- Unable to do Zoom with live service. Works until someone tries to speak on the internet. All the action has to take place in the room. Once we get an upgraded system, we will be able to offer a live service as well as an alternative.

Round Table: Julie – need to research where we can get a keyboard for outside worship. Suggested checking with Pastor Dan. Also, Judy has her son’s Walking Brothers musical equipment, but no keyboard.

Pastor Fred – When and if we have outside worship, would like to have some color banners for backdrop. We have stands and poles that should be able to make this work.

Next Meeting Date: June 16, 2020 (via Zoom)

Closing Prayer: Lord’s Prayer led by Pastor Fred