

Worship & Music Committee of Trinity Lutheran Church, Dover NJ

Apr 21, 2020 (Via Zoom)

MINUTES

Call to Order

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

Excused: Ken, Shelly, Kevin, Sandy

1. Zoom meeting hosted by Judy. Thanks Judy! Meeting went well.
2. Review of worship services:
 - Last “real” church was Sunday March 15; attendance 40 including 12 in choir. All services thereafter were done via Zoom. Sunday attendance on 3/22 = 70, 3/29= 85.
 - Lenten midweek services at 7 pm March 5 – April 2: “real” attendance 14 on 3/5; zoom attendance rest of Lent = 10, 25, 27, 45.
 - Palm Sunday 4/5/2020. Zoom attendance was 102.
 - Due to situation, added Vespers service on Mon, Tues, Wed 4/6,7,8. Zoom attendance was 24, 21, and 18.
 - Maundy Thursday 4/9 at 7 pm– zoom attendance was 66.
 - Good Friday 4/10 at 7 pm– attendance 66.
 - Easter vigil 4/11 at 7 pm – cancelled.
 - Easter Sunday 4/12 at 9:30 am = attendance 115

Discussion:

- Thank you to Katie Serbeck for massive “tech support”? Thank you note sent from council
- There are 2 microphones in church, one on Pastor, one on organ. Still some variations in sound.
- Lynn asked if we could use a “cantor” to sing along with for hymns and liturgy. Will not work as it would have to be same microphone as organ and due to internet delay, it would be hard to sync.
- Some members asking if all mics could be unmuted for hymns, Creed and Lord’s prayer. Would not work due to syncing and it would just be a garble of sound.
- Asked Pastor what other churches are doing? Some are recording just sermons and hymns. Feels we are doing it the best way for the time being.
- Positive feedback from members! People are happy to be able to see each other on Sunday and talk during “coffee hour” at the end. Thank you, thank you to Pastor Fred for his time and effort and dedication to worship and congregation during this very trying time! Worshipping together on Sundays has been a light in the dark days and brings us hope that we will get through this together. 😊

3. Calendar tasks:

- Need a Plan A and Plan B going forward.
Plan A: same as what we are doing – Zoom Church
Plan B: Difficult to plan at this time until we know what the restrictions will be once the state starts to re-open.
- Planning for Pentecost / Confirmation May 31: We have no confirmands this year. If we can have a “regular service” great! Otherwise Zoom it is! Will revisit at May meeting.
- Planning for Holy Trinity June 7: Only one week later – Cannot imagine things will be any different than 1st Sunday in Pentecost. We will have to wait and see.
- Graduate Sunday: We want to have a graduate recognition Sunday, but we may need to push it until July/end of July. Kathy usually coordinates with graduates. Sandy Dean involved with scholarships. Sheri will send an email to Kathy and Sandy.

- Planning for Summer worship/dinner church (assuming restaurants reopen of course)
 - Discussed possibility of offering dinner church on Zoom. May give opportunity for more people to “attend” mid-week service.
4. Follow up item:
- Hymns for May done by Sheri – may need revision/simplification assuming services will all be online
 - June will be picked by David; Wait on July hymns until May meeting.
5. New Business
- Discuss options – how can we use what we have learned in future?
 - Members are excited about opportunity to be involved in worship when shut-in; away from home; not feeling up to coming. Would like to continue to offer an alternative.
 - Zoom costs us \$15 per month. Should we plan to keep subscription even after “normalcy” returns?
 - Did not come to a decision on this but did discuss possibly using in summer. Will discuss at May meeting.
 - Sound system upgrade:
 - Would like to offer a way for members to be a part of worship when not at church.
 - Discussed that Zoom would not work as adjunct to worship service.
 - Live streaming the worship service might be a better alternative.
 - Phase 1 of sound system approved by council and contract signed with vendor.
 - Phase 2 is next year – would cost \$5,000
 - Pastor Fred talked with Vendor about adding video to system. It would be compatible with present system being planned. It would be approximately \$6500, bringing the total cost to approx.: \$12,000 - \$15,000. We have money bequeathed to TLC for new ministry, which this would fall under and would cover the total cost.
 - Discussed and agreed that Sheri, on behalf of Worship and Music, will submit a proposal to council recommending that we go forward with the entire sound/video upgrade as soon as possible. The monies are available and with the unpredictability of how this pandemic will play out, we may have use for a more sophisticated system starting now and going forward.
 - Celebration Service: Looking to the future, hopefully sooner than late. Discussed the need for a Celebration service when we are able to worship together again.
 - Need to think about looking ahead at some possible changes to worship to meet social distancing guidelines. Please think about this and we can discuss further.
 - Standing in line for communion one by one
 - No kneeling at rail
 - Do we need changes in sacrament distribution
 - No shaking hands or even fist bumps
 - Nods or peace signs; virtual hugs
 - When hand sanitizer available – having bottles available in pews
 - How do we spread out in pews?

Parking Lot

Learn new liturgy? WOV 4 or ELW 8?	Worship Recording/streaming	Organ Recital Series	Grand Piano
Fix the sound system! None of the speakers in the nursery or 101 or library are working!		Consolidation of Christmas decorations sched for 2/16	Permanent storage location for decorations

Next Meeting Date: May 19, 2020 (VIA ZOOM)

Closing Prayer: Pastor Fred