

W&M MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday January 16, 2024

ATTENDEES: Gordon S, Sheri S, David B, Carol S, Julie S., Joan Y, Kevin S, Pastor Fred

EXCUSED: Lynn S., Jessie A, Sandy S

1. **DEVOTIONS** – GLS. Welcome was given to Gordon who has agreed to chair the team this year! And welcome as well to Carol Schwarz, joining us for the first time!! Always great to have new ideas!

Gordon spoke to us about Psalm 100 “make a joyful noise to the Lord!” He spoke about other congregations he had been a part of that never ever changed the liturgy or hymns and how much he appreciates the way TLC has been “keeping it fresh.” Not always easy to learn new music, but with the musicians and cantors we have available, it has been fun. Glad to be part of this team – has never previously been on the Worship and Music teams so this is new!!

2. DISCUSSION

- Any feedback/comments on Advent and Christmas services? Julie and others reported lots of positive comments especially about the diversity of hymns – seems we managed to get nearly everyone’s favorites included at some point! Sheri noted that attendance at 3 services in 24 hours was less than previous years but not unexpected with Christmas Eve falling on a Sunday. Kevin missed the drama of the lights coming on just as the first notes of Joy to the World were starting. (this year there was a benediction after the Silent Night candlelit portion with the lights on, then Joy to the World.)
- Any feedback on our new technology for putting verbiage/music on YouTube screen? Gordon looked at some of the YouTube videos and felt the new tech was very effective. David agreed. One person told Kevin that they felt the words blocked the view of the service and found it distracting. We had a short discussion about whether it is appropriate to have a close up of the altar rail during communion – is that too “private” a moment/ should the camera be a wider angle at that part of the service?
- One ongoing concern from Pastor – are we making the digital service so good that there is no incentive to attend in person? Need to think about what the “value added” is for in person attendance. A short discussion followed.

3. UPCOMING ATTRACTIONS

- Ash Wednesday – February 14 will be at St Johns Episcopal in the evening. Exact time to be determined; Pastor meets with Father Rod tomorrow.
- Liturgy Change: Decided to use the Detroit Folk Mass for Lent. Starts Sunday 2/18 and will go thru Sunday 3/17.
- Midweek Lenten Services? Dates: February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 27. The most likely thing would be to do something in conjunction with St Andrews or Prince of peace. Pastor Psomi from St As has expressed and interest to work together on something and sent several ideas for consideration:
 - Dinner church together at St As and TLC (alternating)
 - Evening prayer service
 - Study of the ELCA World Hunger curriculum (possible favorite)
 - Midweek bible study.

All were discussed; consensus is that a digital option would be preferred (Easter is so early it will be quite dark even at 6 o’clock). Also our attendance has recently been far better with YouTube or Zoom than with an evening in person event. Pastor will discuss with Pastor Psomi.

- Palm Sunday – March 24. Starting with Palm Sunday, the liturgical setting will be changed to ELW Setting 2 (continue with that until Pentecost on 5/19; then change to TBD). Significant discussion about whether to do the entire Palm and Passion lessons? There is sentiment for letting Palm Sunday stand on its own. We will hear the passion story several times during Holy Week. Is this desirable/ possible? Agreed to do Liturgy of the Palms – NEXT MEETING COME PREPARED WITH IDEAS ON HOW TO ARRANGE THE SERVICE! Kevin and Julie will see if

we can get a small brass duet or trio. Also, remember that last year there was negative feedback about using ELW 346 Ride on in Majesty as the closing hymn. Sheri and Gordon will consider that when we pick the March hymns!

- Maundy Thursday – March 28. No special music planned. Foot Washing; communion; stripping the altar. Evening service at 7 pm.
- Good Friday – March 29. Evening service at 7 pm. Discussed “Seven Last Words” – need 4-6 vocalists (hired) and an Oboe player. Kevin has a contact for the oboe. Julie has spoken to Austen about Holy Week – awaiting his answer. If his family would sing, that may be an option. She will also check the music room to see if we have the parts. If we have to hire, this could cost as much as \$1000. Unclear if our own choir will sing; the piece will still require assistance, we can’t do it without help. Kevin will poll the choir for interest.
- Easter - March 31. Should be able to get brass, one of whom is a paid musician. Kevin working on it. We can firm up the Holy Week plans at our February meeting.

4. WORSHIP SERVICE CONTENT/PREP DISCUSSION

- Hymn selection for February: Pastor Fred and Joan Y.; for March: Sheri and Gordon
- Cantors? Choir? Discussed above.
- Liturgy changes? Discussed above.
- Palms order. Easter plant selection. Gordon and Sheri will work with Kathy M on these items. Spring Mix/ bulbs is the preferred plant.
- Date for first bulletin insert for Easter plant orders? See above; will coordinate with Kathy..
- Paraments/alter stripping. Joan and Altar Guild have the plans. Yes we will be stripping the altar as part of the Maundy Thurs service.

5. ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

- Kevin wondered if we could do any sort of Lenten decorations? The decorating team has disbanded so we’re on our own for ideas. Maybe succulents/ cactus? Carol has one she would lend us – Kevin to see if he can do anything with this idea. Possible Thrivent Action Team?
- Julie let us know that Robin and Austen both really loved singing here! Also Charlene and Ken have approached her about a possible duet! Lauren and Natalie Cook answered the Time and talent survey with an inquiry about singing: Sheri tipped off Julie and then emailed them to contact Julie. Julie stated she has left a voice mail already; pending a reply we hope.
- Briefly made the team aware of the plans to remove the pews on 1/21 and 22. Floors to be refinished and new carpet put in. Kevin mentioned that there is a nail on the choir pews by the piano that is scratching the floor – perhaps this could be fixed before re-installing the pews? Or should we consider chairs instead of pews?? Hmmm.

Pastor led us in a closing prayer at 8:30 pm.

6. NEXT MEETINGS

February 20

March 19

April 16