

MINUTES FOR W&M MEETING

TUESDAY JAN 19, 2021

Roll Call: Judy, Sheri, Pastor, Julie, Lynn, Kevin, Katie, Sandy, Jessie, Barb, David, Ken(?)

Meeting hosted by Judy on Zoom.

1. DEVOTIONS – Lynn: “Hope for The Future” Jeremiah 29:11

2. CHRISTMAS EVE

- a. 12/24 service (recorded live to YouTube with Father Rod and soloist)
 - Positive feedback from congregation, great soloist.
 - Found it overpowering; little much for every Sunday, nice for Christmas service.
 - 205 views on YouTube!!

3. CHRISTMAS DAY & DEC 27

- a. Service on 12/25 at 10 am (recorded live to YouTube)
 - 73 views on YouTube
 - attracted people who do not normally go to Christmas Day service.
- b. Lessons and Carols on 12/27 (pre-recorded ahead of time with readers’ videos inserted along with artwork and words of hymns on screen)
 - liked having readers from home by prerecording service. More work for Katie, but great job!
 - 136 views on YouTube

4. PLANS FOR JANUARY

- a. Epiphany Wed, Jan 6
 - Prerecorded
 - liked idea of house blessings, still available if members call church for appt.
 - 29 views on YouTube
- b. Baptism of Jesus: Sunday, Jan 10
 - Baptism family decided to postpone until more people allowed, safer
 - microphone issues with positioning of microphone for both cantor and lector. Needs to be adjusted prior to service.
- c. RIC Sunday last Sunday in January: 1/31
 - This is a pre-recorded service (recorded on the 17th)
 - ELCA sent hymns and sermon. Hymns revised by Pastor.
 - Katie putting it all together.
- d. Liturgy setting: Setting 1 since Jan 6.
 - committee discussed and decided to keep Setting 1 until Easter, April 4, then switch to Setting 4
- e. Mask wearing in service: Questioned if there is a protocol. Pastor said he is setting a good example for others after a conversation with Lynn as Parish Nurse. Cantors and lectors are doing what they feel comfortable with since everyone is spaced at least 10 feet apart.

5. NEW BUSINESS/FUTURE PLANS

- a. Upcoming events: Transfiguration Sunday 2/14; Ash Wed 2/17; Palm Sunday 3/28; Easter 4/4/2021.
 - Transfiguration 2/14 – all set
 - Ash Wednesday 2/17 – Pastor would like Ash Wednesday service. Cannot have people coming in for imposition of ashes, can they be sent home with a prayer and to follow online service?
 - Would like extended period of confession and no absolution at end.
 - prerecorded more time and more difficult for Katie, but opportunity for more readers and artwork.

(Ash Wed Cont.)

- Suggested we have full service, including sermon.
- could use Holden evening prayer service or alternative vesper service. Would need a cantor as choir members have no trouble following along, but all members do not sing or follow music.
- Austin would welcome more cantor opportunities. We would need 2 voices for Holden.
- Katie could prerecord Wed services 2/24, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17 & 3/24 and reuse vocal accompaniments. She would fill in with images instead of showing vocalist so they would not be seen wearing same clothes every Wednesday. Prerecord by 2/24.
- lots to think about. Katie and Pastor to meet and decide what is best.
- **Table Palm Sunday and Easter discussion to February 16 W&M meeting. Be ready to discuss alternate plans.
- looking at positivity rate; having air conditioning on and/or windows open for good air flow.
- b. What is necessary for us to resume "normal" "in person" worship? Is it worthwhile to try it again with limited seating capacity of 24? (max we can get with 6' spacing):
 - It is legal, but is it smart? New variant of COVID more transmissible.
 - Pastor said Bishop believes in reality that we will not be in church for Christmas at the end of this year! 😞 Tough to accept.
 - Many people may be asymptomatic but have COVID.
 - ** Table in-person worship for a couple months.
- c. Outdoor worship:
 - Germania once a month is an option.
 - Is there enough space to social distance? Do we have 2 services? Or record Germania service and place on YouTube later?
 - Easter will probably be 50-60 degrees. Warm enough? People can bring blankets?
 - last year Germania services there was no singing allowed. Can we sing if we have masks on??
 - Ushers at Germania were not tough enough on social distancing. "we had ushers that were Golden Retrievers when we really needed German Shepherds" 😊
 - Discussion with consideration to the work required to get all the materials packed and transported and set up and returned. Need more people to help out. Set up and clean-up crew. Put something in newsletter now to assess interest to come and to help. If there is not the interest, we will not plan to do it. Discussed need to have someone from alter guild to supervise gathering necessary pieces and getting them back where they belong afterward.
 - committee feels people will feel more comfortable if majority of people are vaccinated.
 - ** Tabled discussion until 2/16 meeting.
- d. Availability of cantors and level of professionalism vs cost:
 - We have lucked out because a couple of our cantors are music majors in college and are home due to COVID. College cantors gave a little more – solo work and coming in for rehearsals with Julie.
 - no cantors lined up for February
 - discussion of cost issue: if we hire cantors who are professional. Obviously, Christmas Eve was more because of cantor's high caliber. Nice for higher holy days. Holy week would be nice to have higher level of professionalism. Julie brings up a good point: Two of our cantors, Austin and Chris are both vocal majors in college. They don't get exposed to sacred music as part of the curriculum. It is good for these kids to learn sacred music and Holy Week would be an excellent opportunity for them to get some extra time. Money is coming out of Choral Scholar Fund, as this program is on hold due to the pandemic.
- e. Council requested that we consider again "drive by communion" versus the "theology" behind our communion practices: Kevin and Pastor led discussion started at council meeting.
 - question as to why Pastor is now preparing communion at service and took it himself at the beginning of Jan? Seems like "catholic experience when communion is reserved for clergy and not the people. Pastor agreed and is no longer taking communion. Started on Christmas Eve when Father Rod asked to have it and Pastor was being an obliging host. Will continue the preparation as to go along with what is stated in the "Spiritual Communion" prayer.

- In the Lutheran theology communion is new each time. God comes into the bread and wine. each time.
- discussion continued on communion practices in other Lutheran churches. Mobile communion, standing on the corner, picking up the elements from church to have at home... Our Bishop says this is not what communion is about and she has asked us not to practice this. Pastor will send the team an article. Also suggested something be written for newsletter for the congregation to read and understand.

6. ROUND TABLE

- a. Hymns: January - Sheri; February – Pastor Fred; March – Ken
Kevin suggested we have hymns as early as possible so they can be given to the cantors for practice.
- b. New Hymnal "All Creation Sings" – discussed possibly buying the edition for organist. Pastor offered to get a couple pew additions. We have a small sample, predominantly melody. Julie has not had opportunity to study or play them.
**Will table decision to use until February meeting.
- c. Future invite to Tim Weingert: Pastor said he is preaching at Grace in Mendham until their new minister starts on Easter.
** Table discussion until later
- d. Microphone issues:
 - Discussed static on Pastor's mic: He has discovered it happens when he wears a paper surgical mask. Will wear cloth mask from now on unless unavailable.
 - Discussed cord problem with cantor's microphone: outlet is on L, tripping hazard. Would it be feasible to put another outlet on the right side of alter or purchase another wireless mic? Probably more cost effective to buy another wireless mic. Also, would be more useful as we could put the cantor anywhere in church. Need to get a quote from company who installed sound system.
 - Julie thanked committee and council for allowing her to use the church for her Christmas recital. The kids and parents were incredibly pleased with it.

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday February 16, 2021@ 7pm on Zoom.

Rest of 2021 planned dates: 3/16, 4/20, 5/18, 6/22, 7/20, 8/17, 9/21,10/19, 11/16, 12/21