**Advent Lutheran Church – Church Council Meeting – April 1, 2020 Minutes**

**Present – Voting (n=11)**: Pastor Danielle Miller, David Richards, Michael Hammett, Miriam Sitz Grebey, Deanne Walters, Jon Dohlin, Hans Kriefall, Damaris Maclean, Juan Minier, Blessing Tawengwa, Bree Vandenburg

**Present – Not Voting** **(n=2):** Kevin Bowen, Abby Ferjak

**Not Present – Excused (n=0):**

1. **Call to Order**

David Richards opened the meeting with prayer.

1. **Strategic Discussions: Presentations, Feedback, and Actions**

**Pastoral Care and Care Team.**

Damaris Maclean reported on the efforts of the new Care Team. Each person on the ~30-member members has a list of families/individuals that they will call on a regular basis. They will inform Damaris of any concerns, who will route the most urgent/serious to Pastor Danielle Miller.

**Update on members.**

Pastor Danielle Millerreported that a number of members have been affected (personally or their loved ones) by COVID-19 or other medical issues. Please hold in prayer: Shelly, Carlos, Charlie, Rebecca, Betty, Frankie, Arden.

**Worship.**

Pastor Danielle Millerreported that we have held worship virtually for two weeks. This past week was the first time that the worship leaders were located in different places. Kevin Bowen explained that a brief dip in internet signal resulted in a video feed issue. The Council affirmed that even with the technical difficulties, the team leading worship—Pastor Danielle, Kevin, Ross Murray in last week’s sermon—did an excellent job thinking quickly and being flexible.

Kevin also reported that the Spanish-language worship sees around a dozen live viewers, then approximately 200 interactions by the end of the day. The English-language service has had around 100 live viewers and some 1,000 interactions by day’s end.

We will have Holy Week worship this week; Pastor Miller and Kevin have solicited “parade” videos from various members to incorporate in service. There will be storytelling for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil. On Easter Sunday, Jesus is risen no matter what we do. The staff is exploring the best way to handle music for Easter Sunday.

Pastor Danielle also reported that the Council of Bishops has made a recommendation to churches to hold services of the Word that do not include Communion; there has been debate within the Synod, and everyone is working to act in a way that is faithful.

**Food Ministries.**

Pastor Danielle Miller reported that approximately 170 people attended Community Lunch last weekend, with 5 or 6 volunteers each day. Food Pantry will also proceed this coming weekend. More volunteers are needed; more PPE/surgical masks are needed.

**Staff.**

Pastor Danielle Miller reported that the staff has been working incredibly hard. She especially recognized Kevin Bowen for his efforts in pivoting to digital communication.

February numbers have been reconciled; there have been people giving online, including some new givers. There’s a document being finalized now about our financial hit, especially re: space sharing.

David Richards noted that the church qualifies for a Small Business Loan underneath the federal relief package (the CARES Act) that would cover 2 months of salary, benefits, and office expenses, and would likely be converted into a grant. With the Council approval, he would begin to pursue such a grant application.

**Action** ***(Motioned, Seconded, Approved)*:** The Church Council affirmed its support for pursuing loan-to-grant funding from the CARES Act for payroll expenses

1. **Next Meeting**

The next Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday, April 15, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Adjournment — Closing Prayer.**

David Richards closed the meeting in prayer.

***Respectfully submitted by M.S. Grebey, 4/1/20***