

Desert Cross Lutheran Church

Gilbert Chamber Meeting

December 8th, 2020

Attendees:

<u>Council</u>	<u>Chamber</u>	<u>Pastors</u>
Angela Nannenga—P	Nancy Zine (worship 1 of 3)—P	Andrea Cain—P
Patrick Jennett—P	John Hughes (finance/stewardship 2 of 3)—P	Doris Nolan—A
	Deborah Gabrielson (Mission & Outreach 1 of 3)—P	
	Rosemary Schlechty (Education 1 of 3)—P	
	Susan Johnston (facilities 2 of 3)—P	
	Deb Christiansen (Hospitality 1 of 3)—A	
	Kelly Kaiser Borning (Communication 1 of 3)—P	

Devotions: Angela Nannenga

Approval of Agenda and minutes

Motion for Approval of Agenda (December) and Minutes (November) : Motion made by John, seconded by Nancy. Motion approved.

Old Business:

Dogs 4 Vets update: Angela received an email from Doug (yesterday). The amount is currently over-budget. Dogs 4 Vet has been able to reduce their overhead, however, John reports that even with the reduction, we are still about \$5,000 over budget. We are waiting for Gilbert to approve the permit. Suites 101 and 102 had a cost/line-item in the budget of \$4,500 that was not approved so maybe that money could go towards the budget-ovrage? Concerns were brought up about the fact that this project should have been completed a while ago, so it needs to be resolved soon.

Reports:

Council report: Patrick attended the council meeting and reported. Transitioned with new council members. Updates which are reported in Pastor Andrea’s report. Update on PPP loans. Pledge updates. Budget was approved. There is a Scout who will be painting a mural on the Tempe campus.

Pastor report: Christmas Eve worship has been planned based on safety in considering pandemic. It will be a recorded worship service on Christmas Eve, staged at the Tempe site, with Malcom overseeing the technology production. The service will consist of Carols, Candles, and Communion. It will be filmed in separate segments. It will premiere at noon on Christmas Eve. Malcolm has been working on getting the “Live Stream” ready for when we are able to go back to that format. He has been great to work with.

Pastor Thadd’s home in PA is under contract and he has a home in Gilbert under contract so his move is going smoothly so far. His first Sunday will be January 10th (virtual). The welcome committee is working

on a welcome for him and his family. The budget meeting (virtual) went very smoothly. It was only 37 minutes (fastest congregational meeting in a while). The annual report is due January 15th, so reports need to be submitted soon. The farewell for Pastor Doris is slated for December 27th. We may want to do something similar for Pastor Thadd's welcoming.

Finance report: From the congregational report, as of November, giving is less than expenses by \$152,000 at this time. This is better than the previous month. The money from the PPP loan/grant will help with this difference. Due to the loan, the "cushion" should be less than +\$13,000, and with the historical increased-giving during December, we hope to stay in the positive for the end-of-year. The "Cost" side of the budget has been significantly assessed, so we need to focus on the "Giving" side of things. Lower utility costs have been helpful but do not make up the difference. We need to communicate with the congregation more regularly. At the presentation on Sunday, 153 commitment cards had been received. There were 49 cards that had not been received from prior members, but 35 of the cards were new commitments. We need to gather more information from "Tithe.ly" (online giving system) to see information on who is giving through this system vs. who is sending in money. The ELCA has partnered with Tithe.ly. Tithe.ly offers a giving platform for churches in addition to keeping up-to-date records for the congregation, a template for church website, giving records, pledge records, e-mail, blog, and so much more for less than \$100/month. By using this product, churches can realize a substantial savings so it is a new and efficient way of giving.

Committee reports: The call committee would like to have a welcome for Pastor Thadd (See below).

Susan Johnston (facilities): The Gilbert-campus landscaper reported in September that his fees have increased (for things like hauling and fertilizer). Arturo has asked for more money to cover these costs. Doug suggested getting more bids before agreeing to these fees. John reports Arturo has been dependable and responsible and great for the Gilbert campus. Angela agreed that he does an amazing job with the church grounds. Susan reports that the request was made in September, but asked for the fees to change as of January 2021. Because the request was made a couple months ago and this is the first the chamber has heard of this (and if no new bids were obtained) then Patrick recommended that we approve this increased payment. Arturo has been working for us over 2 years and has done a great job. John asked that the Chamber recommend to agree to this increased payment and let Doug know to make this retroactive to December 1, 2020.

New Business:

Welcome for Pastor Thadd and his family: An "official" welcoming will be mainly virtual at this time. Nancy is looking for ideas on how to best welcome them (groceries, diapers, local resources, (son Lincoln likes dinosaurs), etc.. Both sites will likely want to be involved in welcoming the Book family, so anyone who wants to help or contribute ideas will be welcome! Members of the church staff, council, chamber, and outreach (pathway to form committee / ask for assistance).

Pastor Andrea mentioned that June Bowman and Lola Peterson from the Tempe Outreach committee may be good people to reach out to to help with the welcoming. There may be an option on Tithe.ly to make a designated gift towards a welcoming for Pastor Thadd. A Welcome for the Book Family will be held on Zoom after the worship service on January 10th.

2021 I-HELP date: Angela wanted to know if the Chamber would agree to providing the meal for iHelp in August or September. The Chamber agreed to volunteer for August 2021 I-HELP meal support.

Closing:

Prayer Concerns: From Angela: Peyton started the experimental treatment for her cancer. Recent testing/scans reveal that the treatment isn't working as they had hoped and the tumors have grown. A new treatment at the University of Washington is being sought. It is not currently approved for a child her age. Prayers for her treatment! (Parents names are Brittney and Jake. November 16, Brittney had a double mastectomy due to pre-cancerous tests.)

Closing Prayer: Pastor Andrea. Personal prayer followed by the Lord's Prayer

Adjourned: Patrick made the motion to adjourn, Susan seconded this motion. Chamber passed the motion. Adjourned at 8:37pm.

Devotions next month: **Rosemary Schlechty**

Distribution:

Council:

Patrick Jennett
Angela Nannenga

Chamber:

Nancy Zine
John Hughes
Deborah Gabrielson
Rosemary Schlechty
Deb Christensen
Susan Johnston
Kelly Kaiser Borning

Pastors:

Andrea Cain
Doris Nolan

Staff:

Maegan Jennett
Michael Lottes
Doug Bjotvedt