**Big Timber Lutheran Church Annual Meeting Minutes for 2020**

**January 31, 2021**

The annual meeting was called to order by President Barb Terland with a word of prayer. There were at least 27 voting members in attendance.

A Motion was made by Kelli Brewer to adopt the agenda, Steve Harvey seconded the Motion. Agenda adopted.

A Motion was made by Loren Beling to accept the Minutes to the 2019 Annual Meeting, Karole Walla seconded the Motion. The Minutes were approved as written.

Barb asked if there were any questions in regards to the Pastor’s report, President’s report, Synod letter, Christikon report, Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp report and St. John’s Ministries annual report. No questions were presented.

The Annual Reports from Committees included reports from WELCA, Endowment Committee, Property Committee, Music and Worship, Mission and Education Committee.

Church statistics for 2020 consisted of 1 baptism, 1 wedding, and 8 funerals with an average weekly attendance of 39 people in-person and 209 online. Weekly views online, including Sunday Worship and weekly videos, averaged 150-300 viewers.

**Nominations Report:** Three Council Members are going off the Council: Ron Riter, Steve Harvey and Becky Frese, as well as two High School members: Kyler Mehus and Bailey Finn. Kyler Mehus did attend a couple of meetings, however, due to the pandemic and the kids having to attend online classes, they were unable to join the meetings. Kyler did make an effort to make sure when Youth Group got together, he encouraged and recruited kids to attend. Kyler and Bailey are welcome to be present at any future meetings. Nominees volunteering to join the Church Council for the next 3 years, to replace Ron, Steve and Becky, are:

* Ken Nelson
* Al Buerkle
* Les Schiele
* Jim Bratvold

Barb thanked the members going off the Council as well as Norm Duncan, who has been on the Property Committee for years, for all their hard and dedicated work.

**Financial Report:** Summary of finances for 2020 showed a checking account balance of $5,934.67 at the beginning of the year and a balance of $8,168.38 on December 31, 2020. The savings account (Memorial Fund) ended with a balance of $33,525.25. The Thrivent Financial account has $61,791.67 as of December 31st and the Money Market account ended with a balance of $102,736.78. Barb thanked Debbie Buerkle for a great job in keeping the books and keeping everything on track.

**Proposed 2021 Budget:** Lori Minette made a Motion to accept the 2021 Proposed Budget of $173,915.00 and Ron Riter seconded the Motion. The 2021 Budget was approved.

**New Committee Members:**

 **Church Council**: Steve Harvey made a Motion to accept Ken Nelson, Al Buerkle, Les Schiele and Jim Bratvold on the Church Council and Judy Riter seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

 **Christikon Bible Camp Representatives:** Deanna Novotny made a Motion to retain Einar Stene and Carol Becken as the representatives for Christikon Bible Camp. Rusty Terland seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

 **Montana Synod Assembly:** Becky Frese made a Motion for Natalie Rosebrock and Steve Harvey to attend the 2021 Montana Synod Assembly online. Karole Walla seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

 **Property Committee:** Eunice Kirkpatrick made a Motion to keep Ron Riter, Al Buerkle and Leonard Walla on the Property Committee. Lori Minette-Harvey seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

 **Music & Worship Committee:** Deanna Novotny made a Motion that Jim Bratvold, Pastor Julia, Debbie Buerkle, Ron Riter, Les Schiele, Diane Ronneberg, John Callahan and Eunice Kirkpatrick stay on the Music and Worship Committee. Al Buerkle seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

 **Endowment Committee:** Becky Frese made a Motion that Jodi Christensen, Al Buerkle and Cheryll Bratvold remain on the Endowment Committee. Kelli Brewer seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

 **Missions Committee:** Karole Walla made a Motion that Becky Frese, Lori Minette, Meggen Whalin, Jillian Whalin, Pastor Julia, Steve Harvey and Mark Rosebrock remain on the Missions Committee and Kailey and Melanie Forrey be added to said Committee. Dallas Roots seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

 **Auditing Committee:** Gemma George made a Motion and Jodi Christensen seconded the Motion that Mary Parker be on the Auditing Committee. Motion carried.

 **Education Committee:** Deanna Novotny made a Motion and Gemma George seconded the Motion that Pastor Julia and Debbie Buerkle be on the Education Committee co-working together. Motion carried.

**Offering Information:** Total offerings received in 2020 were $146,315.62.

Benevolence contributions for 2020 totaled $15,363.14.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

* The Endowment Committee volunteered to donate $5,000 to the Civic Center, where donations are being matched by a donor. Since the Church has used the Civic Center in the past and it being a very good resource for the community, the Church Council voted on and agreed to also donate $5,000 to the Civic Center. A check for $10,000.00 will be submitted to Mr. Austin, the Superintendent at the High School.
* Bible Study went from once a week to twice a week with up to 15 participants at a time. Also up to 5 different states have been represented during these bible studies.
* Barb reported that she attended a Zoom meeting with other Pastors this past Spring. She commented that we should be very proud of Pastor Julia for all the amazing work and long hours she has put in to maintain some kind of normalcy and continue worship in alternative ways during this difficult time. Barb said that many Pastors were overwhelmed and not sure what there next step should be. Pastor Julia commented that even though Jane Stene and Doug Brekke are no longer with us, they made things possible in ways they could never have imagined for the Church to carry on this past year through their love and devotion to the Church.

Once again, Barb sent out big thanks to Pastor Julia and Melanie Forrey for their wonderful hard work this past year. A thank you to Debbie Buerkle for her continued support in managing the Church’s funds. Thanks to Les Schiele, Jim Bratvold, Cherryl Bratvold and Deanna Novotny for their dedication to the Church. Thank you to Ken and Ethel Nelson for the use of their keyboard and Ken singing every Sunday outside through the summer. Thank you to Steve Harvey for the sound system and thank you to the Council Members. We have a great Church body and great attendance. We are truly blessed.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Deb Silverstein