

*We are a community of all ages gathered by God's grace
for worship, learning, loving and service to all.*

**MINUTES - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Council Meeting
Sunday, September 17, 2023**

Present: Pastor Andrew Isenhower, Ed Woodward, Anna-Marie Plyler, Amy Kemp, Becky Shealy, Carole Sox, David Lucas, Debi Powell, Jan Haigler, Jason Fowler, Mike Weaver, Suzanne Sanders

Absent: Heather Gilbert

Call to Order President Woodward called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Devotion: Carole Sox gave the devotion followed by a reading of scripture.

Adoption of Agenda:

1. Motion to approve the September 17, 2023 Agenda by David Lucas, second by Suzanne Sanders. The agenda was **Unanimously Approved**. Note: Becky Shealy distributed a Worship Life Committee minutes before the meeting. Additionally for reference, the current 2023 Time and Talent card verbiage was distributed before the meeting.

Adoption of Minutes:

1. Motion to approve the August 20, 2023 Council Minutes by Mike Weaver, second by David Lucas. Motion **Unanimously Approved**.

Attendance

Attendance and Membership for August 2023

<u>2023</u>	<u>9:30</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>		<u>2022</u>	<u>9:30</u>	<u>SS</u>	<u>YouTube</u>	<u>Total</u>
8/6/2023	93	17	25	93		8/7/2022	92	12	36	92
8/13/2023	100	16	50	100		8/14/2022	87	11	41	87
8/20/2023	106	17	39	106		8/21/2022	91	10	35	91
8/27/2023	84	20	22	84		8/28/2022	96	9	19	96
				0						0
Average	96	18		96		Average	92	11		92

Note: YouTube numbers reflect number of views, not number of people viewing.

Total Membership 12/31/2022: 594

Total Active Members 12/31/2022: 293

Current active membership at the time of the August 2023 Council Meeting: 288

Members Added since the August 2023 Council Meeting: 1

Hagan Michael Sightler: Baptism

Members Removed since the August 2023 Council Meeting: 2

Gene Upright: Death

Johanna Moore: Transfer to Non-ELCA

Current active membership at the time of the September 2023 Council Meeting: 287

Reports:

1. Treasurer's Report: Written Report submitted.
2. Realm Financial Report: Written Report submitted
3. Pastor's Report: Written Report submitted.

Standing Committees:

1. Communication – Carole Sox: Written Report Submitted.
2. Evangelism Committee: Jason Fowler: No Written Report Submitted.
3. Finance Committee – David Lucas: No Written Reports Submitted.
A discussion was held regarding the 2024 budget requests. Treasurer Haigler suggested that committee chairs use the Income and Expenditure Report contained in their council package as a guide for preparing their budgets.
4. Gifts Committee – Ed Woodward: No Written Report Submitted.
Council was provided with a draft of the 2024 Time and Talent Card (using this year's as an example) to assist in making sure that there was nothing left out or needed to be added. Council was requested to either make changes as soon as possible or to make changes at the meeting and give the edited cards to Treasurer Haigler. Jan would then place the edited cards she was given in the Parish Administrator's mail box.
5. Learning Committee – Heather Gilbert: No Written Reports Submitted.
6. Parish Life Committee – Debi Powell: Written Report Submitted.
7. Property Committee – Mike Weaver: No Written Report Submitted.
Mr. Weaver reported that the well would be finished on September 26, 2023. Also, Dominion has completed the energy savings project of replacing the non-LED lights (with exception of the Sanctuary lights) with LED lights throughout the campus. .
8. Social Ministry Committee – Suzanne Sanders: Written Report Submitted.
9. Worship Life Committee – Becky Shealy: Written Report was distributed at the meeting.
10. Youth & Children Committee – Amy Kemp: No Written Report Submitted.

Old Business:

No Old Business.

New Business:

1. Food Pantry Relocation Request
Council received a request from the Food Pantry Manager to relocate the Food Pantry from Classroom 5 to Classroom 2. The current process of replenishing the food supply and disbursing the food to the families was discussed and is briefly outlined below.
Donated food must be brought from the collection place in the Narthex, brought downstairs in the grocery cart via the elevator near the downstairs backdoor, and then transported to Classroom 4 via the entire length of the downstairs. On distribution days, the food is then transported via grocery carts from Classroom 4 back the entire length of downstairs to the hallway where the elevator is located to be distributed to the families at the back downstairs door next to the elevator.

Moving the Food Pantry would allow the food collected in the Narthex to be taken to the elevator and placed in Classroom 2 (the first room across from the elevator). Likewise on distribution day, the food could be delivered by moving the cart to the outside door across from Classroom 2.

The request for the relocation of the Food Pantry to Classroom 2 would cause the Around the Corner Class to either share the classroom with the Food Pantry or relocate to another room. It was mentioned that there were three possible locations for an adult Sunday School class: an unused classroom in the Education Building, the Conference Room, or the Parlor.

President Woodward asked the Members of the Around the Corner Class to confer with the Come and See Class to see if a suitable solution could be found to accommodate the movement of the Food Pantry as well as a find a comfortable and practical arrangement for two adult Sunday School classes.

2. Motion to accept the following as new members of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Executive Committee moves to approve the following for membership at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church: Deb Bodie, Steven Brown, Jan DeRoner, and Virginia Morris.
The Motion was **Unanimously Approved**.
3. Status of Upcoming Council Elections
Pastor said that he would start contacting the nominees.
4. Audit and Staff Support Vacancies
There was a question as to who should contact the nominees to obtain their willingness to serve. Pastor Andrew said that he would contact the nominees.
5. Stewardship Campaign
President Woodward said the Stewardship Campaign would begin the week of October 2, 2023.
6. Day School Transition Update
Amy Kemp reported that she hoped that the renovation of the Education Building would be complete the week of September 17, 2023. Amy said the Nursery and former Day Care Rooms have been painted, flooring replaced, some countertops replaced, and some toilets replaced. She stated that some of the children's Sunday School Classes have been relocated into the newly refurbished rooms.
7. Good Shepherd Constitution Task Force
Pastor Andrew said that the Task Force (Pastor Andrew, Becky Shealy, and Anna-Marie Plyler) would start this fall and should be finished with the draft in February of 2024.
8. Reinvigoration Task Force:
President Woodward led a discussion regarding a plan for membership growth. He suggested that the young adults of Good Shepherd form a Reinvigoration Task Force. The task force will be asked to come together using their generation's perspective to generate ideas and actions to draw and retain young families and singles into the Good Shepherd family.

Petitions and Communications

1. Becky Shealy, Worship Life Chair said that it was brought to her attention that at times some of the ushers have been locking the red doors during worship. Becky said that she has spoken with the User Team Leaders to make sure that this should not be done.
2. Council was reminded that their committee budget requests were due to the Finance Chair by September 30.
3. The council was reminded that Oct 18 is the deadline for the November Newsletter.
4. Veterans and FROGS (First Responders of Good Shepherd) will be recognized on Sunday, November 12.
5. Council was reminded that even though they did not have a committee meeting, if there were any updates, actions or status changes, a Committee Status Report was requested to be submitted.

The Pulse

N/A

Executive Session

N/A

Adjourn:

Council President called the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. Pastor Andrew then led the Council in the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted: Anna-Marie Plyler

Pastor's Report
Rev. Andrew Isenhower
September 15—October 12, 2023

Pastoral Acts

- No funerals
- No baptisms
- No weddings

Worship and Music

- I preached, presided, and led worship for 4 Sunday worship services.
- I participated in worship planning.

Education

- I have continued leading the mid-week bible study via Zoom.
- I have provided Faith 5 resources each week for members and families.
- I have continued teaching in-person Bible study.
- I taught one session of the Around the Corner class.

Pastoral Care

- I made 3 in-home visits and 2 hospital/facility visits.
- I have followed up with bereaved members and families.
- I made 16 Pastoral Care phone calls.
- I provided a monthly communion service to folks at Wildewood Downs.

Social/Fellowship/Community Events

- I attended the GYF Fall Crafts event.
- I attended the POGS meeting.
- I planned and led the Blessing of the Animals service

Church Business

- I followed up with visitors to our congregation and prospective new members.
- I attended the following committee meetings:

- Fall Fest
- Staff Support
- Mutual Ministry
- Shepherd's Visitors
- Finance
- Executive
- Communication

Synodical Business

- I attended a Midlands Conference Meeting.

Continuing Education

- I met with my clergy colleague group. We meet once a month with a counselor to support one another and strengthen our ministries.

Self-Care

- I took time each day for devotional reading and prayer.

Respectfully submitted,



Pastor Andrew Isenhower

MINUTES – Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Communication Committee

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Meeting Date: October 12, 2023

Present: Carole Sox (Chair), Pastor Andrew, Susan Sturkie, Deborah Mitchell, Don Caughman, Karen Lucas and David Lucas

Call to Order: Call to Order by Carole Sox at 5:57 pm.

Agenda Item 1: Update on Website

- Deborah Mitchell and Pastor Andrew reported that they have reviewed the first stage of the website changes and those changes have been sent to Wade Wingard for implementation. For the second phase, church committee chairs have been sent the portions of the website applicable to them and have been requested to review the information for updates and changes. Deborah, Pastor Andrew and Susan Sturkie were all thanked for their continued hard work on this stage of the website update.

Agenda Item 2: Photo Permission Forms

- Deborah reported that we have received 48 photo permission slips back from congregation members, but many have forgotten to include their children's names on the form. We will continue to solicit return of the forms and once the final photos have been selected, and individuals identified, those who have not returned the form will be contacted individually to seek permission.

Agenda Item 3: Photo Selection

- The committee reviewed, selected, and approved 36 photos for use on the website. Carole Sox and Deborah Mitchell will work on placement suggestions and present them to the committee at the next meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Additional Photos Needed

- Additional current photos are still needed for the website. Deborah will request photos to be taken at the Fall Festival and Reformation Sunday in hopes of including them on the website.

Next Meeting:

- The committee will review the photo placement suggestions and any new photos collected. Additional photos still needed for website placement will also be identified.

The meeting concluded at 7:00 pm.

The next Meeting is November 9 at 6:00 pm.

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**Finance Committee Meeting - MINUTES
Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
October 3, 2023**

PRESENT: Janice Haigler, Pastor Andrew, Rod Kent, David Lucas, Karen Lucas, Deb Embrey, Janet Lockhart

ABSENT: Becky Shealy

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM, by David Lucas, chairperson of the Finance Committee.

DEVOTION: David Lucas shared an article by Stormie Omartian titled "When We Need Financial Wisdom".

The minutes from August 8, 2023 were emailed to all members. The minutes were approved as emailed.

TREASURERS REPORT: Janice Haigler provided the balances, as of September 30, 2023, for the savings and checking accounts. She explained the low amount, shown in the checking account, as a timing issue due to when the payroll taxes were due and the arrival of the refund from Church Mutual Insurance Company.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT: Deb Embrey shared that the August offerings were about average and provided 70% of what is needed. She explained that September offerings were down 20% from the past 2 years and were 67% of what is needed. Deb also shared that there is one quarterly offering that came in late that will help with the October offering numbers.

TABULATORS REPORT: Pastor Andrew reported that according to Becky Shealy the tabulators are doing well.

TECHNOLOGY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT: Pastor Andrew shared that the committee is working on new cameras.

OLD BUSINESS: The Balance Sheet was reviewed, and all looked good.

NEW BUSINESS: The Finance Committee reviewed all the submitted budgets from the other committees. Deb Embrey reiterated the request from Council that all committees submit a realistic budget. If the committee did not spend it this past year, then it should not be in next year's budget.

The Finance Committee needs additional details from the Staff Support Committee before approving their budget. David Lucas will contact Bruce Shealy concerning the Staff Support budget.

Worship Life had included Music - IT Software and Music – Online Worship in their budget. The Finance Committee budget already has an IT Software and IT Hardware line, and the consensus of the Finance Committee is that all IT software be together. The Finance Committee moved those 2 lines from Worship Life back to the Finance Committee budget.

The Parish Life budget added \$100.00 due to the increase in the price of paper products. Janice Haigler asked about Supper Club, since we had not used the money this year. Karen Lucas explained that Supper Club was considering a Christmas dinner this year and that Lavina Chandler was trying to get Supper Club going again. There was a question about the Homecoming fund. Every year \$500 is budgeted for Homecoming that is moved into the Capital Fund. Homecoming is every 5 years and uses that built up Capital Fund account.

Deb Embrey reported for the Gifts Committee, the account to offset the cost of offering envelopes has an income of \$210.00. Since the 2024 offering envelopes have been ordered and the estimated cost will be around \$710.00, the budget line item for Offering Envelopes needs to be \$550.00. The other line items under the Gifts Committee can be eliminated as they were not used this year.

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The Finance Committee adjusted the Youth and Children Committee budget by zeroing out the Scholarship-Youth line and the Transportation line. There are other funds available for these if ever needed.

The Finance Committee changed the Social Ministry budget to one line for a total of \$500 to be used as needed by the committee. Most Social Ministry activities are funded by other means.

The Finance Committee budget was reviewed. The postage may need to go up from \$5000 to \$5200. Realm on-line giving has replaced the old VANCO on-line giving. Deborah Mitchell is looking into the telephone options with other companies. Currently, we have two incoming lines for phone calls. The internet is run through our telephone system. If the internet service goes down, we don't have the telephone service either. The line items for the Finance Committee budget were reviewed and updated. Time and Talent sheets and Statement of Intent cards are due by October 15th giving us a better picture of funds available next year.

Budgets from Evangelism and Mutual Ministries were not submitted. David Lucas will follow up with the Committee chairs.

NEXT MEETING: Our next meeting will be November 7th.

ADJOURN: The business meeting was adjourned at 8:02 PM with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted: Karen Lucas

Reinvigoration Task Force

Meeting on October 10, 2023

Members: Amy Kemp, Heather Gilbert, Jason Fowler and Suzanne Sanders

Focus: Discuss ways to increase church membership

Brainstorming ideas

- A. Fab Rental – members free, non-members have a fee; how to advertise, logistics for day of (i.e. locking/ unlocking, cleaning, damage)
- B. Part- time Youth and Children Minister (or Family Minister) – Program and EVANGELIZE
 - a. Edit: Children, Youth and Young Adult Director. – Roles and responsibilities to program and evangelize to these populations. Perhaps they teach a Young Adult Sunday School class, provide programs to children and youth and actively reach out and attract new members.
- C. Small Groups – what we know that other folks like about the big churches is their small group, based on common interests and likes. Use this time for meaning making and some socialization. Use supper club for fellowship across interests.
- D. Welcome team- Suzanne attended a church that had a welcome team that met guests in the narthex AFTER church and gave them homemade bread. Announcement was made at the beginning of service (maybe also in the bulletin) to meet the welcome team after church.
- E. Welcome in Church service. – If you bring someone introduce them
- F. Community outreach – Fall Fest, Forest Acres Festival, FA tree lighting.
- G. Love Feast (like the Moravian ones) Basically a hymn sing and serve coffee and a bun during church service. Around the Corner class discussed this in the spring and really liked it.
<https://www.homemoravian.org/who-we/tradition/moravian-lovefeasts/#:~:text=Moravian%20lovefeasts%20are%20a%20modern,mission%2C%20Christmas%20or%20Good%20Friday.>
- H. Weddings – advertise more, same as Fab rental, need to work out logistics and let more folks know about it.
- I. Showcase member benefits more
 - a. FAB rental
 - b. Weddings
 - c. Key to Sanctuary
- J. Bring back greeters
- K. Parents night out – like the Karate place, daycare and others do. Member vs. non member price. Have Pizza and a movie

- L. Bring a Friend Sunday (should do all the time but really talk it up) what we looked up said most folks go to a church that they already know someone at. We should be asking our friends to come. Maybe do this quarterly and have coffee and donuts after.
- M. Reinstate Lutheran Men
- N. Intermural team – we have done kickball, softball but maybe something with a smaller team size
- ~~O. Pickleball, bouce ball tournament~~
- P. Cornhole tournament – probably more feasible in out space, make it fun competition for public, social atmosphere, food and drinks for spectators.
- Q. Use Narthex space – not bulletin board to showcase programs and offerings for new members. Similar to Social Ministries board.
- R. Use Marquee out front for fun stuff. Like quotes, sayings, more inviting to folks.