



Calvary Lutheran Church Council Minutes

November 13, 2023

Members Present: Pastor Hans Dahl, Jana Brandt, Katie Rentschler, Cheryl Whitchurch, Bruce Luehmann, Mark Christenson, Mark Stromswold, Ann Stehn, Brett Boyum, Jeff Rodel and Kathy Hungness.

Meeting called to order by Jana Berndt at 5:00 p.m.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Hans Dahl lead the council in prayer.

Mission Sightings: Jana

Trunk or Treat was successful again, and the Hot Dogs that were served were a big hit.

Women's brunch had great attendance and made a positive impact for Ghana vocational school.

Confirmation was a meaningful service for kids taking a next step in faith.

Worship attendance was up approximately 100 people over last year at this time.

Leadership:

Capital Appeal: Hans, Katie, and Bruce have been meeting with the "Make Room" Committee. Several of the same people that were on the building committees serve on this committee. They also have met with kid and student leaders, and the quilters for ideas as to the best use of the basement. Forum meetings will meet in November to share where the loan payment is and to open up a discussion about renovations with the congregation. The whole process will go at a comfortable, step by step pace as we gather information and feedback. Bruce and Katie met with the bank to understand their opinions on our current mortgage status. Currently the interest rate is still at a favorable rate.

Consent Agenda: Jana

A motion to accept the consent agenda was made by Brett and seconded by Ann. The motion carried unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce: October was a good month for worship income. We exceeded the projected amount and caught up on the YTD budget. We had a high month of expenses, the liability insurance for the building increased from \$18,000 in 2021 to \$32,000 through October of 2023. This much of an increase was unexpected. At the end of October, we are \$96,000 behind budget. We will have to receive approximately \$277,000 in worship income in November and December to make the budget.

Calvary received the balance of the Lilly Endowment Christian Parenting and Caregiving Grant in the amount of \$600,000 and put it into CDs for a better return.

Mark S. made the motion to accept the Treasurer's report, and Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Sabbatical Expenses: Pastor Hans applied and received a Lilly Endowment Clergy Renewal grant to pay for his sabbatical. To prepare for his time away, they have had to incur some expenses. Jana asked the Council for their approval to release some funds to Hans to offset these expenses. Hans will submit proof of expenses.

Kathy made the motion and Cheryl seconded to allow funds to be released to Hans to help pay for the Sabbatical expenses already incurred. The motion passed unanimously.

Old Business: Jana will be the only council member leaving in 2024. To date there haven't been any applications submitted. The council spot will be open until December 1. Hans received the blessing of the council to approach members that may be interested in serving.

New Business: General Fund Budget: Bruce reviewed the draft 2024 budget with the council. The next steps in the budget development will depend on the November worship income. The next meeting will have a more accurate budget presented.

Top Three Take Aways: Upcoming Make Room forums, General Fund financials improving, and the Sabbatical announcement.

The next meeting will be held on **December 11, at 6:00 p.m.**