



CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Approved Calvary Council Minutes January 13, 2025

Members Present: Pastor Hans Dahl, Pastor Angie Larson, Katie Rentschler, Bruce Luehmann, Mark Christenson, Kathy Hungness, Brett Boyum, Mark Stromswold, Ann Stehn, Deb Dittberner, Jeff Rodel, and Cheryl Whitchurch

Absent: None

The council meeting was called to order by Mark Christenson at 6:03 pm.

Mission Sightings:

- Record Christmas attendance of 2400 - shout out to those that invited
- Those returning to Calvary after a Christmas invitation
- Celebration for Preschool - Renewed 4 star rating with Parent Aware, a highest quality rating with more scholarship opportunities
- Mentor kick-off with all middle school students placed with a mentor - Students and mentors will pack for Backpack Attack
- Distributed 414 Christmas meals through Big Hearts of Central MN

Opening Prayer: Pastor Hans led the group in opening prayer.

Leadership: Council Priorities for 2024

- Sustaining Ministry: Appeal
- Facility: Improvement Study
- Engagement: Dashboard
- Staff: Sabbatical & Next Gen Minister Hiring
- Lead Pastor Review

Sustaining Ministry: Appeal: Katie reported year-end generosity for the Make Room Appeal. We received \$128,000 in appeal gifts in December and we have received over \$2.1 million in commitments.

Facility: Improvement Study: Katie reported that the estimate for the basement abatement came in around \$100,000, with no further action being taken at this time. The basement is able to be programmed as usual and used as is with no health threats.

Engagement: Dashboard: Katie reported the data from 2024 regarding engagement. We will continue to come back to the data over the next few months.

Consent Agenda:

- Minutes of December Meeting
- Staff Reports
- Fund Approvals

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

Treasurer's Report:

December Financials: Bruce reported that December giving did not track with the record number in worship attendance. Worship income was short of the projected income in December 2024, ending the year 4% below our total budget. Expenses remained at 2% under budget for the year. Our mortgage reserve funds remain strong. Total giving was up in 2024 with Calvary's people giving over \$1.8 million.

A motion to accept the treasurer's report was made by Kathy and seconded by Ann. Motion passed unanimously.

Old Business:

2025 Stub Year Budget: A stub year budget, January through June, was presented for approval. A full year budget will be presented for approval in July of 2025.

A motion to accept the stub year 6 month budget was made by Brett and seconded by Deb. Motion passed unanimously.

New Business:

Annual Congregational Meeting: The Annual Meeting will be on February 2, 2025 at 9:30 am. Votes will be needed for the shift in the fiscal year to July-June, approval of the stub budget, and council membership.

Council Membership: Council member terms will shift to July-June, consistent with the fiscal year. The council approved Kathy Hungness to extend her final term for another six months through June 2025, consistent with the fiscal year. Whitney Anderson will be on the annual meeting ballot, replacing Deb Dittberner. Other council members on the ballot serving another term are Brett Boyum, Mark Christenson, Jeff Rodel, Ann Stehn, Mark Stromswold, and Cheryl Whitchurch.

2025 Priorities with North Point Consultants: A podcast on the Dechurching of America and articles on church giving trends were discussed in preparation for work with North Point Consultants in March.

Top Three Takeaways:

- Fiscal Responsibility
- Discussion on looking forward strategically
- Celebrations - Record Christmas Attendance, 4 Star Preschool, Meals Distributed

The meeting was adjourned @ 7:45 pm.

The next council meeting will be held on **February 24 @ 5:00 p.m. All Staff @ 6:00 pm.**