



## Calvary Lutheran Church Council Minutes

December 11, 2023

**Members Present:** Pastor Hans Dahl, Pastor Angie Larson, Katie Rentschler, Cheryl Whitchurch, Bruce Luehmann, Mark Christianson, Ann Stehn, Brett Boyum, Jeff Rodel, Kathy Hungness, Jana Brandt

Meeting called to order by Jana Berndt at 6:00 p.m.

**Add to Agenda:** Mortgage Capital Discussion

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Hans Dahl led the council in prayer.

**Mission Sightings:** Jana

Carols & Cocktails: Many guests, some of whom attended church on Sunday

Cantata: Raised \$1,200 for the Giving Tree

Giving Tree: More kids supported than ever before

Big Hearts Distributing 300 Christmas meals to people in need in our community

Kids & Carols: 300 attended and fun had by all

750 people came through the church doors just this past weekend.

**Leadership: Jumped to agenda item iv. 2024 Capital Appeal: Hans & Bruce**

Bruce reported \$3.4 million is left of the mortgage. We are only required to pay interest at this time, but have made periodic principal payments. Starting in November 2024 we will be required to pay \$18,000-\$20,000 per month. We do have a 6-month reserve in the event it is needed. It was proposed to increase the reserve from \$60,000 to \$120,000 to ensure we have enough money available to begin P&I payments later this year. Bruce recommended to start building the reserve now. Kathy made the motion to start building the additional reserves and put them into a short-term CD. Ann seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Congregational forums were held regarding paying off the mortgage and remodeling the basement. Good questions and discussion were had during the meetings. The "Make Room" committee recommended spending up to \$40,000 on a Facilities Improvement Study to determine what the plans and costs would be for the basement remodel, lead and asbestos testing, and to contract with ORB as the project manager. In January there will be additional forums on January 14 at 9:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. and on January 17 at 5:30 p.m. and 7:15 p.m. The Annual meeting will be held on January 28 at 9:30 a.m. The Make Room committee requested to be added to the agenda to review with the congregation their plan. Jeff made the motion to approve the recommendation from the Make Room Committee. Brett seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**Consent Agenda: Jana**

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

**Treasurer's Report: Bruce:** November was a good month for worship income. YTD we are 6% over last year. We need \$193,000 in December worship income to make the budget. There was an accounting error in excess of \$7,000 for insurance, but we do expect an increase of 25% next year for insurance premiums. The preschool is operating well.

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

**General Fund 2024 Pledges:** Katie reported she was very pleased with the pledges thus far. In 2023, 244 households pledged \$620,000. In 2024, 254 households pledged \$634,000. She noted that more new people were making pledges and more regular givers increased their giving.

**Old Business:** Jana will be the only council member leaving in 2024. Hans will reach out to the recommended list of members to see if they are interested in serving on the council.

Bruce reviewed the General Fund budget estimating a 6% increase in 2024. Mark C. made the motion to bring the proposed budget to the congregational annual meeting for approval. Ann seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

**New Business:** January 5 is the Calvary Staff/Council Christmas party.

**Top Three Take Aways:** Celebrating December, Pledges coming in new and current, Forums in November.

The Council went into closed session to discuss recognizing staff with the Partner Network funding. Kathy made the motion and Cheryl seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next meeting will be held on **January 15, at 6:00 p.m.**