



## Calvary Lutheran Church Council Minutes

February 12, 2024

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

**Absent:** Pastor Angie Larson, Deb Dittberner, and Cheryl Whitchurch

Meeting called to order by Jana Berndt at 5:10 p.m.

**Agenda:** No changes to the agenda

### **Officer Elections:**

- President: Mark Christianson
- Vice President: Brett Boyum
- Secretary: Cheryl Whitchurch
- Treasurer: Bruce Luehmann

Jeff made the motion to approve the officers as presented and seconded by Ann. The motion was carried unanimously. Jana left the meeting as her time as a council member was over. The Council thanked Jana for her years of hard work on the council.

**Mission Sightings:** Mark C.

- Largest attendance of the annual meeting in years. Thank you to all that attended.
- January was Mentors Month. Over 500 more people attended worship compared to January 2023.
- Invitations to church have become a part of our culture. People are becoming more comfortable inviting others to join them at church and it is evident in our first time guest attendance.

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

**Leadership: Council Priorities for 2024 are to**

- Sustaining Ministry: Appeal/Financially
- Facility: Improvement Study of the basement
- Engagement: Dashboard data
- Staff: Lead Pastor's Sabbatical

**Appeal:** Now through May the leadership teams will be organized for the Fall appeal. Hans will be meeting throughout the spring with lead donors. This summer will be more education to share stories of how we as a church are making room. The Make Room initiative will focus on financial stability and taking care of the building. The first five years of the mortgage interest-only phase will be completed in October, moving into term phase after that.

**Facility Improvement Study.** At the Annual Congregational meeting the congregation approved having the study conducted for a cost of up to \$40,000. Those dollars are not yet raised and until then the team is paused.

**Engagement Dashboard:** Katie reviewed the year end numbers from 2023 around Giving, Serving, Connecting, and Leading. Now that we have a baseline of data started the Council will receive quarterly and year-end updates to see how we are engaging people in a life of faith.

**Staff During the Sabbatical:** Hans reported the goal is to make sure the responsibilities of the church continue to run smoothly. The planning is underway and the staff feel good about where we are at right now. More will be shared in detail this spring.

#### **Consent Agenda: Mark C.**

A motion to accept the consent agenda as presented with no fund approvals and the annual meeting minutes was made by Kathy and seconded by Brett. The motion carried unanimously.

**Treasurer's Report: Bruce:** January was a good month for worship income. The pre-paid General Fund pledges did not get moved in January, so the roughly \$10,000 it represents will be reflected in the February Treasurers report. The expenses are right on target. Property expenses were up due to some units on the roof that needed repair. The Preschool is on a tight budget, and will show a deficit this year due to not being completely full, Calvary Preschool funded scholarships, and changes to staffing structure. The building expansion fund is working to build a 6-month reserve up to \$120,000 for the next phase of mortgage payments. Currently, sixty thousand dollars was put in a high interest CD.

Ann made the motion to approve the report as presented. Kathy seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Lilly Endowment grant year-end financials for the Calvary Partner Network were shown for transparency, and do not need approval.

#### **Old Business:**

**Lilly Endowment Grants:** Hans reported the Calvary Partner Network has added another partner in Paynesville Lutheran Church.

**The Christian Parenting & Caregiving Initiative:** We will be bringing on a staff person to oversee this grant and the Kid & Student Ministry. Angie is looking at candidates and will start interviews soon.

**New Business:** Scott Jenson will be on leave for at least two months. Jim Anderson has taken over Scott's duties as video production director. Jim has video experience and was able to step in and conduct the online worship process.

**Lead Pastor Performance Review:** The Council will discuss this at the April meeting and will be ready to present to Hans in May.

#### **Top Take Aways:**

- Planning for the Appeal, study of the basement, Sabbatical preparation, and dashboard up and running.

The next meeting will be held on **March 18, 2024, at 6 p.m.**