

Faith Lutheran Church - Council Minutes

Tuesday, November 21, 2023

President Mona Hjerpe	x	Vice President Dennis Langehaug	x	Treasurer Ian McDonald	x	Secretary Amanda Schueler	
Jan Kreie	x	Tanja Glaser	x	Mark Schuman	x	Lindsey Hoffman	x
Al Scharn		Monica Schiller	x	Joy May		Jamie Kaping	
		Derek Durst	x	Karna Blake	x		
Pastor Scott	X	Pastor Dave	x	Pastor Paulus	x	Pastor Paul	x
Wendy Magruder	X	Marsha Schmit	x	Sara Wegner	x	Jeff Amundson	
Austin Willhite	X	Laura Stowman	x	Kristen Durst			

Call to order by President Mona Hjerpe. Opening Prayer by Pastor Scott

Secretary's Report: M/S/P to approve the October 2023 meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report:

A motion to close the Faith Forward designated account which was renamed to Ansgar/FLIP (Faith Lutheran Intern Program). The major expenses have been paid out of this account from donations received during the Faith Forward \$150,000 for the next 150 years campaign, such as the purchase of the Ansgar House, carpet, electrical, plumbing, kitchen upgrades, soffits/gutters, and shower work. Because this is church property, it is also moved that future repairs be paid out of the Building Repair and Improvement account. M/S/P

Roof repairs of the church are still pending an invoice for the work completed.

Capital Campaign funds continue to be received as we plan for Phase II of the building project. Interest earned from the 6-month CD which matured in Oct. was deposited into the Capital Campaign savings account.

Giving for October reflects a 5-week month and year-to-date giving is up over last year's giving.

M/S/P to approve treasurer's report for October 2023.

Pastor/Staff Reports—Pastor Scott shared some reasons for the Phase II building project: size of our worship spaces limits attendance; a common entry point; more sense of unity; functional for ministry. Austin gave an update on the Common Cup "Coming Together in Song" concert which had a good turnout. Bev Bonte mentioned they have received about \$15,000 in donations.

Ministry Team Reports:

Management (Exec Comm)—Personnel is scheduled to meet for its annual year-end meeting at the beginning of December. The agenda will include review of the employee handbook, review of benefits, review 401(k) funds, and recommendations for staff/pastor compensation changes.

Music and Worship (Karna and Derek)—The next fundraiser, "Come and Dine So Bells Can Shine," will be a candlelight meal prior to the Advent service on Dec. 13. The team also had a discussion on the liturgy used during worship and if it should be varied during the year.

Children, Youth and Family (Lindsey and Jamie)—Planning for the Happy Birthday, Jesus Faith Family Fun event to be held on December 10.

Church in the World (Al and Jan)—Recommend giving an additional \$250 for the UCAP Backpacks and sending \$500 to each of the three Awaken Project participants, all from the Special Mission—Local budget line. There is no real room for Awaken participants to work, so this amount will help

them financially while they are participating. The Awaken Project is part of the Greenhouse Collective that we also participate in. M/S/P

Continuing the Community meal discussions for changes for next year. Anticipate posting more signs, change week of the meal, change ending times, etc.

Congregational Life (Tanja and Monica)

Giving Tree with tags for gifts for senior residents in McLeod County. We have 40 tree tags for gifts.

More pies are needed for the Thanksgiving Eve fellowship.

Serving cocoa and cookies after the Advent worship service on December 6.

Discipleship (Mark and Joy)

Looking for more people to bring soup or chili for the Nov. 29 meal prior to the first Advent service.

Rescheduled date night for next spring; more details to follow.

Continue calling new members.

Men of Faith is changing directions to be more of a support group.

Team members are reviewing the website for any recommended updates.

Old Business:

Phase II Building Committee (P2BC) is meeting monthly with the architect, including discussing a bell tower steeple and look of the sanctuary. It plans to present an updated plan to the congregation.

Roof repair updates are almost finished; we are awaiting the invoice for work completed.

Intern Updates – The final ministry focus area will begin next week with Music & Worship. After that, the FLIPterns will select the tracks they will focus on for the remainder of the year. They will be guided through the discernment process to find their area of focus. All ministry focus area have been valuable to them and they are fully engaged in the process.

New Business:

Advent/Christmas Preview: The Advent theme is “Mystery of the Messiah,” based on “The Great ‘O’ Antiphons,” ancient Advent prayers that are the basis of the beloved hymn, “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel,” which will be the theme hymn.

Christmas Eve is on a Sunday, so there will be many worship options. Christmas Day worship is a communion service held at 10:00 a.m. on Christmas morning.

Year-end giving goals/Joy to the World are updated each week in the bulletin. We began with a \$250,000 deficit and are working to reduce expected expenses, We received a generous offering on Sunday. The deficit is manageable based on prior years’ experience and members’ generous giving.

2024 Budget Process: A few expense lines were added for next year (Great Start, Kid’s Music Club) and moved the FLIPterns expenses from a personnel line to be a separate ministry line. Personnel insurance expenses will increase by 9% for 2024.

Nominating Committee: Record number of team members agreed to renew their terms in 2024.

Time to prepare annual meeting reports. Report submissions due by December 19.

January church council meeting will be held a week earlier on January 9.

Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 28.

Volunteers needed to help with communion on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Closing Prayer by Pastor Dave

Meeting Adjourned. The next church council meeting will be Tues., Dec. 19, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.
Devotions next month by Mark Schumann