

# Agenda

## Congregation Council

St. John's Lutheran Church  
December 18, 2018 + 7:00 p.m.

### 1. Prayer – We begin our meeting centered in the presence of God.

Silence, then opening prayer led by *Board Chair*. A time of silence for prayer and for gathering our hearts and minds together will precede the prayer.

### 2. Future dates

- a. Boards – **January 22, 2019** 7:00pm. Treats provided by xxx Board at 6:45 pm.
- b. Council – **January 8, 2019** 7:00pm; Board Chair, prayer
- c. Annual Meeting – **Sunday, January 20**
- d. Board Retreat – **Saturday February 2, 2019**

Reminder: Please call or e-mail your board members prior to the meeting and remind them.

### 3. Pastor's Report

### 4. Council Action Items and Updates

- a. 2019 Budget Priority update
- b. Director of Youth Ministries update: Pr. Jonathan.
- c. Shared Ministries staffing update
- d. Hearing Loop Update – Mark Gleason
- e. Anniversary celebration update
- f. Merylyn Calcutt – WELCA
- g. Next items

### 5. Consent Agenda Items for Council

- a. Treasurer's Report, November 2018
- b. Minutes from the November 27, 2018 meeting

### 6. Prayer – The president leads a prayer asking God's grace and help on our ministry.

Lord's Prayer: After the president's prayer is concluded, we finish the meeting praying the prayer Jesus taught us.

### 7. Adjournment follows.

## Appendix:

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### 1. Board Minutes/Notes from December 11, 2018

#### **Adult Education & Ministry Board**

*St. John's Lutheran Church*

*13 November 2018*

*Present: Merylyn Calcutt, Anita Hellie, Andy Nelson, Alyssa Ness, Sandra Nyvall, Genevieve Quarberg*

#### **Library Updates**

Genevieve encourages us to read the article she has submitted for the January edition of "The Voice" newsletter, regarding Bibles. She notes that there are many Bibles to be found in the library.

In the process of deaccessioning parts of the collection, the library committee is making plans to have a "book sale" in February, serving the purposes of re-homing some of the collection, raising some funds for future library purchases, and marking "I Love to Read" Month. The current plan is to make books available for people to take for free, while noting that donations are encouraged as people feel so moved. Any resulting funds will be put towards the library's designated funds.

The committee members intend to acquire for the library the books highlighted during the Wednesday evening Advent services. It is noted during general discussions that we're interested in supporting local bookstores as we pursue these and other titles, but we are also very cost-conscious, so will be inclined to go for deals as they're found. In this vein, a few of us have expressed interest in acquiring the new graphic novel on Dietrich Bonhoeffer; Alyssa proposes that she would be interested in ordering it from Content herself and then donating it to the library.

#### **ASI Trip Report**

Four of the six current board members attended the trip to the American Swedish Institute, coordinated between Duane Engstrom and Genevieve. The trip was very well received, and as with the previous trip, the surveyors sought suggestions for other trips for the future, and received many suggestions, for destinations near and far.

To start the trip, the incoming guests parked their cars in the St. John's parking lot and, given the cold weather, had boarded the bus immediately and settled in as they arrived. A number of people were asking afterwards who everyone was, as not all of the participants present had been acquainted with each other. Sandra suggests that for future trips, the incoming participants could be instructed to meet in the church library and do a little introduction activity (say their names, etc.). This would also be helpful for conducting a roll call, as well as getting people into the library space. Genevieve suggests that name tags would be nice, too.

It was appreciated that the tour leaders at ASI noted which guests had mobility issues and catered to them, automatically leading them to elevators, etc. as needed. There were 3 groups, with roughly 10 people to a tour group; a good size, especially as it enabled people to stand close together and properly hear the guides as they were speaking. The tours ran for between 45 minutes to an hour. The group from St. John's got its own dining room for a meal after the tour,

and Duane & Marlene Engstrom provided gingerbread cookies for a light dessert. Afterwards, people could wander and explore at their leisure.

We collected \$1600.00 from sign-ups; ultimately, the cost for the trip totaled \$1505.56. The bus driver informed us that ten percent of the cost for the bus is typically given as the bus tip; this \$60.00 was paid by Genevieve with the extra \$60.00 left over from the last trip.

Genevieve thinks 3-4 trips per year would be sufficient. She notes that in this instance, she worked with Duane to organize this trip. She suggests that if a person from this board could connect with and coordinate trips with other congregation members, this sort of system might work out very nicely.

We are currently looking into possible options for the next trips.

### **Upcoming Items for Next Year**

Anita notes that it would be good to have more information about our board's finances. She thinks we should have a treasurer's report every month. Alyssa notes that Council gets this every session. She'll scan the section relevant to this board and email it to board members next week so that they can see what the report looks like and if we'll want any additional information. Many of us remain disturbed that money from our budget can be requested and disbursed without our previous knowledge or permission. This feels like a disconnect / insufficient budget oversight.

Anita also notes that we may establish a senior ministry committee in the new year, given how difficult it can be to provide even small, necessary comforts for our elder community members (i.e., in order to get more large print items, we have to go through the office and perhaps a board; to add cushions for the pews to the sanctuary, we need to check in with specific other boards, etc.). There are often a few "hoops to jump through" in the process of meeting basic needs. We will clearly need to be more aware of and active about space issues, in terms of walkers, wheelchairs, etc. If the pews are redone in coming years, this should be something that is considered.

NO ACTION ITEMS AT THIS TIME

## **Benevolence and Social Concerns**

**No December meeting for Benevolence and Social Concerns**

Business Management

## **Evangelism and Communications Committee Minutes**

**December 11, 2018**

**Noon, St. John's Hall**

1. ECC reviewed Council agenda items of the November meeting.
2. ECC asked Leah to confirm with Bernie whether the purchase of video equipment would need to take place, and be paid, prior to the end of the calendar year. Leah said she would check with Bernie.
3. ECC continue to review procedures and outcomes related oral/video histories for the St. John's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. ECC provided Leah with a description of the project for publication in the *Voice*, which she included in last week's issue. ECC is developing a schedule of interviews for the coming year.
4. Kristin Partlo led discussion of the oral history metadata form, which will use a Google form to collect interview information that will be used to index information. ECC will continue to develop plans related to metadata, storage, and sharing.
5. ECC has not yet set a time and place for CCB training. Likely training time is in January, likely for the Council as a whole, e.g., at the Council retreat.
6. ECC reviewed its progress thus far on hearing related needs. ECC presented a preliminary project budget to Council in November and will submit for the December Council meeting a proposal for interim or final disposition. ECC has received preliminary pledges of \$4500 towards the ~\$10,000 hearing loop technology project. Implementation in St. John's Hall and other locations at St. John's will increase the cost of the project, up to ~\$25,000 depending on the level of installation.
7. Daniel Edwins has further investigated Speech Gear closed captioning updates, and ECC will provide an update to the Council on costs and quality of the program.

**Faith and Health Board Minutes**  
**Tuesday, December 11, 2018**

1. Health Fair recap
  - What worked?
    - Important to have coffee served in St. John's Hall. That drew folks into the Health Fair space.
    - AED – probably better to demonstrate rather than have training.
  - Notes for improvement next time
    - Do not have the fair MEA weekend.
    - Are there resources for family/child health that could be included?
    - Include information about the new 3D mammography at the Northfield Hospital.
  - Feedback from participants
    - Andy Langehough – I thought it was well done.
    - Jane Rinehart and Barb Kuhlman
      - Another weekend than MEA
      - Have table for drug and alcohol treatment
    - Michael Maas - I appreciated the opportunity to be present at St. John's Health Fair. I spoke to a number of people about our SAIL class that is hosted at your church and the other programs that we have to offer. I think it would be worthwhile to continue this event. Thank you!
    - Betsy Spethmann - If you want to share information again on Medicare Annual Wellness Visits, we'd be happy to host a table anytime during coffee hour between services. We're getting lots of positive response from the community for these free preventative-health visits. The Health Fair did a good job reaching Medicare-age members; if you'd like NH+C to be there again, just let me know.
2. Report on meeting with members whose loved ones were honored on All Saints Sunday
  - Organized coffee the Saturday before All Saints Day for Pastor Pam to meet with family members whose loved ones were honored on All Saints Day.
  - Each person talked about their loss.
  - Pastor Pam shared the bulletin and went through the service.
  - She told where their loved ones would be mentioned by name in the service.
  - From this event folks knew exactly what to expect at the service.
3. Tabling event in January for mental health resources
  - Jennifer will set a date with Jane Rinehart and Barb Kuhlmann for this event. Jane and Barb accumulated so many resource and we thought that January would be a good time to share this information again.
4. Brainstorming session on ideas for Faith and Health Board for 2018-19
  - Blood Drive – Thursday, Oct. 24 from 1-7 pm as part of 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. Faith and Health will coordinate this event.
  - Grief/loss - June open gathering for those who have suffered a loss; October – event for members whose loved ones will be honored on All Saints Day.
    - Called to Care - is there more this group can be doing?
    - Labryinth walk – work with Pastors to find a time for this.
    - AED - Who should check to see that unit is functioning? Should this be a staff responsibility rather than a Faith and Health Board responsibility?
    - SAIL - Find out what other opportunities are available through SAIL.

- Contact Julie to see if there are health related issues we could be addressing for parents – drugs, dating, screen time, sexuality, self-image, making smart decisions, etc.

## **Properties and Grounds**

12/11/18

Members Present: Jim, Craig, Pat, Terry

Absent: Leif, Tim

Discussed painting quotes. The most favorable quote is near the lowest price and has a shorter time frame. The contractor is reworking the quote and we should receive before the January board meeting. We will go with that quote if it is still in the ballpark.

Basement flooring. Discussed feedback from the contractor for the cement slab. We could pour cement over cement but would need at least 2 inches. This may require breaking out and shaving off some cement before the pour. Contractor is blocking off the Mid June time frame and is including demolition in the quote

## **Minutes of Stewardship Board – December 11, 2018**

### **St. John's Lutheran Church**

Members present at the Stewardship Board meeting included Dan, Mary, Allene and Ralph. Christy was also present and Pastor Pam joined us during a portion of the meeting.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a volunteer “best practices” document for St. John's. The meeting was run as a workshop to identify practices we felt were important to a “person-centered” culture for service.

Christy provided feedback on language suggesting that the staff felt use of words such as *service* might provide a better context for a congregation rather than volunteer.

Outcomes of the meeting:

- We approved an introduction to best practices which included four core beliefs for our understanding of service.
- We separated best practices into three broad components: 1) Nurturing a Culture of Service, 2) Recruiting, Orientation and Training, and 3) Recognition and Thanksgiving.
- We discussed additions to the document which may include specific appendices to supplement various best practices.

In general, the stewardship board believes that endorsement of the document for use at St. John's is necessary. Next steps include editing our document, sharing it with board members/staff for further comment and submission to the church council.

At the end of the meeting, Pastor Pam gave an update on the stewardship campaign stating that approximately sixty 2019 intents have yet to be returned but that of those returned, there is an increase in intended gifting of around 5%.

Ralph Yernberg