

**Agenda**  
**Congregational Council**

**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
**December 17, 2019 | 7:00 p.m.**

Prayer - We begin our meeting centered in the presence of God. Silence, then opening prayer led by Merilyn Calcutt.

1. Future Dates
  - a. Council - Tuesday, January 14 - Budget.
  - b. Annual Meeting - Sunday, January 26, after the 2nd Service
  - c. Boards - Tuesday, January 28.  
Reminder: Please contact your board members prior to the meeting to remind them.
2. Pastor's Report
  - a. Appeal cards for donations
  - b. Grace Overflowing Update
3. Financial Report
4. Council Action Items & Updates
5. Consent Agenda Items
6. Prayer - The president leads a prayer asking God's grace and help in our ministry.  
Lord's Prayer: after the president's prayer is concluded, we finish the meeting by prayer the prayer Jesus taught us.
7. Adjournment follows.

**St. John's Stewardship Board**  
**December 10, 2019**

Present: Allene, Mary, Samuel, Brad, Kristy

Pr. Pam gave an update on 2020 Stewardship campaign.

- 180 pledges received.
- Phone calls could be made to outstanding members. Reminder cards could be sent to people who have historically pledged.
- Budget needs to be completed by the end of month
- Mail reminder will be included with the statements that will be mailed by the end of the week. Recipients will be urged to contact Bernie Renander.
- **Plan to provide stewardship messaging throughout the year.**

**Thank you Event - Thankful time**

January 26, 2020

Event will be between services on the day of the Annual meeting

- Consideration: small notepad with thumbprint for distribution to members. Order enough to give notepads to new members. Brad will check with Carlton print shop. (500-1,000)

**Changes**

Bob Nyvall will be joining the Board. Allene and Mary asked what information would be helpful to new Stewardship board members.

- CCB
- Identify mission of the board - outlined in the Constitution.
- Definition of stewardship: time/talent/passion/financial
- Consistent message of stewardship throughout the year
- Financial updates: quarterly (Revenue vs. expenses)

**Board Collaboration**

Boards seem to operate in isolation; Brad proposed that joint meetings to address overlapping topics would be preferable. Membership of the Board agreed.

**Best Practices**

Distribute the Best Practices to the other Boards electronically.

At 8:05 the group started preparing thank you notes.

We adjourned at 8:55 pm

**Faith and Health**  
**December 10, 2019**

Members: Debby Nitz, Guenther Moesler, Suzanne Pfau, Shirley Keltto, Kristi Wermager and Parish Nurse, Sally Lindell

1. Pastor Davis presented the 2020 budget for Faith and Health:
  - a. Reduce Stephen Ministry to 500\$.
  - b. Increase Faith and Health Resources 300\$.
  - c. Prayer Shawl Ministry 150\$ (consider a Thrivent application).
  - d. First Aid 150\$.
  
2. Reviewed the year for annual report.
  
3. Suggestions for 2020:
  - a. "Being Mortal" film presented at St John's with discussion.
  - b. support CAC Women's Hygiene Initiative.

Respectfully,  
Bonnie Peterson

**Benevolence and Social Concerns Board**  
**December 10, 2019**  
**Kathy Shea, Chair Notes**

Members Present: Jo Franklin, Gretchen Hardgrove, Carolyn Nitz, Sue Sharrow, Kathy Shea

Thank you letters for benevolence gifts were shared with the board from the Southeastern Minnesota Synod Office, The Community Action Center for the Pajama Project, Friends of Mwangaza for education, Greenvale Elementary School for the Snack Drive program, and Northfield Shares for support of the Community Dinner Project.

Budget – David Nitz, incoming congregational president, visited our committee and told us that because the number of pledges is down, we will likely need to cut 10% from the total Benevolence Budget of \$88,615 for 2020. We may be able to obtain the 10% from the Grace Overflowing pledges which are coming in for one more year. Except for the synod gifts, we can send gifts after mid-year, once we have a better idea of the budget. We are still charged with presenting a budget and therefore request PlanA if income allows it and if not, all line items will be reduced by 10%, PlanB:

PlanA – resubmit budget from 2019 for 2020

PlanB – reduce overall budget by 10% in 2020

Adult Forums –

For the Creation Care Series, we have Dave Legvold, local farmer, and Ben Doherty of Open Hands Farm to talk on Jan 19. We need someone to introduce them as Kathy will be out of town. Kathy Shea invited Diane Angell, faculty in Biology and Environmental Studies, to talk on Environmental Health on February 16<sup>th</sup>. We have Kiara Jorgensen, Religion and Environmental Studies at St. Olaf, to talk on environmental ethics and will help with the April 4 WELCA Meeting (1-3 p.m.). WELCA has invited a panel and will have tables with local people sharing how each of us can contribute to a better environment. We have also invited Matthew Hand, Director of Lutheran Mideast Development to speak at the Forum on March 8. He will be with Morrie Wee, former St. John's pastor who is also on this board. They work along the Turkey/Syria border and with the Kurds.

Global Missions – Carolyn Nitz will write an article for the January Voice, the bulletins in January and the news blast. We have a special offering in January for Global Missions.

For the Legal Assistance Clinic (on second Tuesdays) we have helped support with Grace Overflowing Funds only two people came last month. More publicity seems to be needed.

Annual report – Kathy will work on it.

We thanked Jo Franklin and Sue Sharrow for their service as they will be leaving the board.

Next meeting is January 21, 2020.

**Ministry with Youth & Families Board Minutes**  
**December 10, 2019**

Present: Jenny Nystrom, Rob Nutt, Barry Becker, Dan Franklin, Emily Westerback Staff: Angie Gehring, Emmanuel Kaghondi; Absent: Sue Hagen, Johan Schroeer

- Youth Involvement on Board
  - Discussed trying new model of Youth Led subgroup rather than just having a couple Youth Advisors
  - Emmanuel is trying to connect with HS Youth to discuss ideas of greater Youth Leadership and involvement, particularly for HS
    - Possibly meet once a month or every other month
    - Invite a speaker/do more of a longer retreat less frequently
    - Focus on making it more Youth driven
  - Communicate general change in annual council update
  
- Council
  - Budget
    - Plan A – same as last year (take out OWL \$)
    - Plan B – take out \$500 from HS Events; \$500 from MS Events (\$1k less total)
      - Will need to do events that are more local, less expensive
      - Continue to try and utilize Thrivent funds to make up difference
  - Change in Members
    - Thank you to those going off board – Dan, Sue and Johan
    - Welcome in Jan to anticipated new members – Amanda Tracy; Kerri Peterson
  - January 26 Annual Meeting
  - January 28 Board Meeting (4<sup>th</sup> Tues instead of 2<sup>nd</sup> Tues)
  
- Post-Grad/Young adult reception
  - Discussed informal reception at Church before/after service
    - Too many logistic difficulties
  - Decided to do informal gathering at Fairfield or Applebees on 12/23
  
- Sandwich Project
  - Need to schedule; no guarantee of availability
  - Appx 7-10 p.m.
  - Reach out to Kristin Partlo – volunteered for service committee
  
- FUN-Raiser 2/9/20
  - Focus of event is on Fun - raising up Youth - and relational opportunities
    - Less about raising funds
  - Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale

- Breakfast
  - 9-10:30 a.m.
  - Barry applied for Thrivent Funds for costs of food
- Ideas
  - Help Bake us to Denver
  - Price is Right
- Additional Youth Board meeting to plan
  - 1/5/20 between services
  - Will try to connect with Children's Board – important to coordinate
- Recent Events
  - HS Lock-in
    - Not enough interest
    - Consider rescheduling as joint event w/Bethel
      - Emmanuel will follow up with Barb/Bethel
  - 12/7/19 Pay it Forward
    - Lots of People 1<sup>st</sup> shift (volunteers and 'customers'), less 2<sup>nd</sup> shift
    - Ran out of \$ appx half hour before end
    - Lots of positive feedback, one person very negative
    - Added benefit of specific volunteers connecting with each other
- Upcoming Events
  - 12/22 Christmas Dinner Workshop
  - ?1/31 Sandwich Project & Movie
  - 2/9/20 Fun-Raiser
  - Feb HS Parent Potluck/OWL Info Sessions
  - March MS In-Home Events
  - 3/8/20 Skyzone (MS/HS)
  - 4/12/20 Easter Breakfast (MS/HS)
  - See Calendars
- Table Items
  - In-home MS & HS Events

Next Meeting: **12/28/2019 – 7:00 (6:45 to partake in treats)**