

Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
August 27, 2024

Members: Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Ellen Ellickson, Jill Enestvedt, Dan Franklin, Daniel Hanson, Andrea Hoff, Tamara Jackman, Erik Johnsrud, Judd Lohmann, Elaine Nesbit, Rob Quanbeck, Alli Walters Mode, Michelle Kramer-Prevost

Present: Ellen Ellickson, Alli Walters Mode, Dan Franklin, Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Michelle Kramer-Prevost, Judd Lohmann, Daniel Hanson, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Andrea Hoff, Rob Quanbeck, Jill Enestvedt, Tamara Jackson, Elaine Nesbit, Damian Jackson (guest)

Not present: Erik Johnsrud

Meeting was called to order by Dan Franklin a few minutes after 7pm.

1. Opening: Dan Franklin opened us in prayer.
2. Damian Jackson (guest from the Worship Board) presented a recommendation to purchase and display Native American artwork (maps). The Worship and Arts Board has funds to cover the purchase. The council was receptive and the conversation about details will continue. Damian emphasized the importance of following up our Land Acknowledgment Statement with continued dialogue with and responsiveness to the Native communities.
3. Motion to approve the July 13, 2024 Council Minutes was made by Andrea Hoff; the motion was seconded by Daniel Hanson. The motion passed.
4. Financial Report by Judd Lohmann, Treasurer
 - a. Offerings have been below budget but higher than last year
 - b. Expenses tracking similarly to last year; higher personnel expenses in July due to the calendar having three paydays that month.
5. Council Updates and Action Items
 - a. Solar Panel Update:
 - i. Judd Lohmann has been in conversation with Church Mutual (which gave him confirmation that the solar panels are currently insured until they get back to us with the quote.) Continued delay in that quote and Judd is looking into another company.
 - ii. Some information was given that the deductible would shift dramatically from \$5,000 to 180,000. It appears that may be the case regardless of whether we had installed solar panels.

- iii. We need to document our information with Xcel energy before we actually own the panels.
 - iv. When it is official, we will celebrate.
 - b. Request for funds for archive project: Adult Ministries and Education Board does not have the specifics of what is needed financially. Request to be voted on in the future.
 - c. Cost of weddings (Business Management Board)
 - i. The staff suggested that we move from \$800-\$1000. Wedding fees researched. Business Management Board agreed. Wedding fee is inclusive and non-negotiable.
 - ii. Judd Lohmann motioned to raise the fee to \$1000; Jill Enesvedt seconded. Motion was carried. Judd raised the question of how it would be implemented and when. Suggested date: January 1, 2025. Judd will talk to Leah Garlie about implementing.
 - d. Nominating Committee: They will be contacting board chairs. Make sure to let them know about vacancies. Do not invite people for positions, but instead let the nominating committee know about vacancies and any suggestions. In the meantime, confirm terms with board members.
 - e. Certification available from Interfaith and Light to affirm our work toward protecting the environment. Motion by Andrea Hoff to apply to be a “cool” congregation. Motion seconded by Alli Walters Mode. Motion carried.
- 6. Pastors’ Reports
 - a. Pr. Pam: (included in materials sent by email)
 - i. We have continued to have many funerals. Nine this summer. Past year 27.
 - ii. God’s Work Our Hands; a little challenging to coordinate with other churches, but it went well and people enjoyed interacting with other churches. We will reevaluate the event for next year.
 - iii. Projects: staying on top of them. Reviewed the next projects coming up.
 - b. Pr. Jonathan
 - i. Appreciation of his time away.
 - ii. We will have a “Bible centric” fall: Bible 101 class offered; also, an adult forum on the book of Genesis led by Charlie Wilson and Maggie O’Dell.
- 7. Board Reports (included in materials on link sent out)
 - a. Jill (Stewardship board)
 - i. Nathan’s celebration was well attended.
 - ii. The next two anniversary celebrations will be for Julie and Sally on November 24.

- iii. Stewardship messaging is in the VOICE and bulletin.
- iv. Stewardship Sunday will be Nov 17 (pledge cards).
- v. The Ministry Fair is scheduled for September 22 and 25.
- b. Ellen Ellickson (Faith and Health) asked about rides to church. Pam pointed out that it is informal due to liability issues.
- c. Childrens Board gearing up for fall and setting dates:
 - i. Sept 15 Welcome Pancake Breakfast (need donations of food and help with cleanup)
 - ii. Sept 11 Orientation for Faith Formation (K-12)
- d. Andrea Hoff (Benevolence and Social Concerns Board)
 - i. Katie Larson, (mission partner from Colombia), asked for reimbursement for gas and lodging for her trip. We approved this and they have sufficient funds available. Andrea Hoff made the motion for \$250 of foundation funds to be released for Katie's reimbursement; the motion was seconded by Michelle Kramer-Prevost. The motion passed.
- e. Property and Grounds
 - i. The date for Fall Clean up is October 26.

8. New Business

- a. Michelle Kramer-Prevost recommended that the council chairs receive the "packet" information electronically rather than as a large packet of paper. The council chairs agreed, and it was decided that the printed documents will be the Agenda and Pastors Report. Elaine will send the link to the Minutes and Treasurers Report and the past month's Council Minutes.

Book Discussion: Chapter of When Church Stops Working. We will discuss Chapter 6 next week.

Dan Franklin closed the meeting by inviting the council to pray the Lord's prayer.

Future dates:

Next Board Night: September 10, 2024, 7pm

Next Church Council Meeting: September 24, 2024, 7pm

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Nesbit