

**Congregational Council**  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
11/19/24

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

**Present:** Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Dan Franklin, Jill Enesvedt, Charlie Wilson (for Adult Ministry and Education), Michelle Kramer-Prevost, Elaine Nesbit, Dan Hanson, Eric Johnsrud, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Andrea Hoff, Judd Lohmann, Ellen Ellickson

**Not present:** Cheryl Buck, Tamara Jackson, Alli Walters Mode, Rob Quanbeck

**The meeting was called to order at 7:07.**

1. Opening: Dan Franklin opened us in prayer.
2. Motion to approve the October 22 Council Minutes made by Eric Johnsrud; the motion was seconded by Jill Enesvedt; the motion carried.
3. Financial Report by Judd Lohmann, Treasurer (see Addendum B and finance reports)
  - a. Finances are looking good. Last month's income was on target. The discrepancy was due to no requests for the release of funds from the Foundation.
  - b. The switchover to an interest bearing account has been profitable.
  - c. Operating expenses are over due to an extra paycheck date. Youth Ministry and Education and Business Management had additional expenses last month.
4. Board Reports
  - a. **Worship and Arts:** Request for release of \$1074 from designated Music Fund of the Foundation Fund for ten additional chairs to match current chairs. Michelle made the motion; Jill seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
  - b. **Property and Grounds:**
    - i. Addendum A - Project updates
      1. Tiling in Sunday School Rooms:  
Specialized Floor coverings bid \$51,372.68
        - a. Motion to approve the cost of flooring made by Eric Johnsrud; seconded by Judd Lohmann; motion carried.
      2. Bathroom in Youth Undercroft is complete.
      3. LED lighting in progress
      4. Lighting in St. John's Hall (Edwin's Brothers) Needs schematics. See Steve Harner.

5. Tuck pointing project in process, no bid received yet.
  6. Fall Clean Up Day was a success.
  - c. **Stewardship Board:** Ministry Fair doesn't seem to be drawing volunteers. Discussion followed. Changes to the Ministry Fair will be considered next year.
  - d. **Benevolence:**
    - i. Designated mission this month is ELCA World Hunger. Pr. Pam will be speaking about that as a part of her presentation about the Colombia trip this Sunday. The goal for donation is \$5000.
    - ii. Following the election there has been an uptick in requests from outside groups in need. Help is requested in different ways. The Benevolence board will vet the groups for now. They will share information with the council and congregation.
  - e. **Adult Ministry and Education:** (Charlie Wilson reporting for Rob Quanbeck)
    - i. Questions about anti-racism program cost. Clarification followed. The 10,000 price tag is for the total cost to be shared between churches. The cost is not affected by the number of participants.
    - ii. Problems with the forum venues were presented. People can't see the screen or hear - too far from the front.
    - iii. Archives have been put on the responsibility of the Adult Ministry Board: We need professional help and funds to protect the archives.
  - f. **Faith and Health:**
    - i. Staff celebration is first on the agenda this Sunday before Pr. Pam's presentation.
    - ii. Adult Forum on Advanced Care Planning on Dec 8 between services in the sanctuary or St. John's Hall, presented by Susan Lohmann. Another presentation will be on January 8, Wednesday evening.
    - iii. PBS Documentary on medical aid in dying was recommended: When My Time Comes.
  - g. **Business Management:**
    - i. We are presently working through our budget.
    - ii. Each board should be working through their budget. When complete, turn it in to Leah or Judd. The Budget Committee will review soon. First budget committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, Dec 4, 7:30pm.
5. Pastors' Reports
- a. Pr. Pam: (available on CCB)
    - i. Four staff members have had family emergencies in the last weeks. Grateful for others who have helped out.
    - ii. Celebrating staff anniversaries this Sunday: Julie (20 years) Sally (5 years)
    - iii. Cooperating with other ELCA churches in town, e.g., Joint Thanksgiving services at St. Peters this year.

- iv. It has been good to connect with other Northfield area churches.
  - b. Pr. Jonathan:
    - i. Confirmation J-Term Classes for youth offered jointly with other local churches. A chance to see their peers from school who also attend church/share spirituality; Now offering month long classes, e.g., knitting, yoga. 112 participants.
6. New Business
- a. Significant money leftover from the Foundation fund.
  - b. Motion to provide up to \$1500 to participate in Anti-racism program “Just Move” made by Judd Lohmann; seconded by Eric Johnsrud. Motion passed unanimously.
  - c. Nominating update: We are where we should be at this time. We are needing two chair positions, (Children’s and Youth). Conversation followed regarding the number of people on boards, the struggle to elicit board chairs, the number of boards, timing of meetings (together vs. independently), etc.
7. Old Business
- a. Insurance issue:
    - i. Judd will contact the insurance representative from Church Mutual to better understand the contract. He will first discuss with the executive board. The deductible will go up considerably, and we will decide whether we want to take out insurance on the deductible.
    - ii. Financial thought to consider: In a few months we will no longer have a mortgage.

**Book Discussion next month Chapter of 8 (final chapter) of When Church Stops Working.**

**Future dates:**

**Next Board Night:** December 10, 2024, 7pm

**Next Church Council Meeting:** December 17, 2024, 7pm

**The meeting was closed by consensus at 8:20pm.**

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Nesbit