

**Congregational Council**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church | Northfield, MN**

April 27, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

Meeting via Zoom due to COVID-19

**Present:** Pr. Pam Fickenschner, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Ruth Dahl, Jane Rizzo, Suzy Taggart, Rod Christensen, Rachel Brownlee, Mark Gleason, Gene Bakko, Carolyn Nitz, Kristy Harms, Marilyn Calcutt, Rob Nutt, Paul Beck, Suzanne Pfau

**Not Present:** –

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

1. Opening Prayer - led by Jane Rizzo
2. Financial Report
  - a. We continue to be ahead for the year.
3. Pastors' Report
  - a. The drive-through Easter event was very well attended and received.
  - b. May 2 is Senior Recognition Sunday.
4. Council Action Items & Updates
  - a. Mark Gleason gave an update about the St. John's Hall acoustic/audio project. There are a couple of options that were presented: acoustic tiles (permanent), clouds (rectangular panels suspended from the ceiling). There may be a wide variety of costs associated with the different solutions. The consultant feels confident that they will find a solution that will be effective.
  - b. Pr. Pam gave an update about ushers. Many ushers will feel comfortable coming back once they are fully vaccinated.
  - c. Pr. Pam shared a letter going out to the congregation communicating the stages of reopening. There are not set and scheduled dates for reopening to those who have not yet been vaccinated, but many felt it was helpful to see the steps laid out.
  - d. Pr. Jonathan shared that he has submitted his application for his sabbatical.
  - e. Racial Justice Task Force is looking at new ways in which we can spread this work through our congregation (outside of book clubs, adult forums, etc.). Reconciling In Christ churches are required to have an intentional statement centered around equality and antiracism work. Invite the Racial Justice Task Force to lead the statement during a Sunday service, and follow up with an action item for the annual meeting. Pr. Pam will be asking the Racial Justice Task Force to begin working through a statement over the next few months.
5. Consent Agenda Items

- a. Kristy Harms made the motion to approve the March council minutes, with the change that we approved the February Financial Report (not the March Financial Report). Jane Rizzo seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
  - b. Rod Christensen made the motion to approve the March Financial Report. Paul Beck seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
  - c. Rod Christensen made the motion to approve Jonathan's sabbatical plan beginning approximately July 2022. Kristy Harms seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
6. A closing prayer was offered by Ruth Dahl.
7. Meeting was concluded. Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.