

Congregational Council
St. John's Lutheran Church
April 23, 2024

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, Michelle Kramer-Prevost, Elaine Nesbit

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

Not present: Eric Johnsrud

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

Opening: Dan Franklin opened us in prayer.

1. Motion to approve the March 19, 2024 Council Minutes made by Andrea Hoff, seconded by Alli Walters. The motion passed unanimously.
2. Financial Report by Judd Lohmann, Treasurer
 - a. Offering is below budget (16K for March and 31K YTD). Not a serious concern at this point. Offering is higher than at this time last year. Special offerings such as for CAC have been higher as well. Income from special funds has not yet been released. We will continue to monitor.
 - b. Discussed the seasonal fluctuations; giving is reasonably stable over the year.
 - c. Motion to approve the financial report was made by Michelle Kramer Prevost, Cheryl Buck seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Council Updates and Action Items
 - a. Chair for **Evangelism Board** is being sought. Cheryl Buck is sitting in as chair today. Stewardship also has an opening.
 - b. **Sustaining Grace** Update: Information meetings went extremely well. The campaign received a lot of pledge cards last Sunday. \$100,000 matching grant offer was discussed. There will be an ambassador meeting tomorrow. The pledge goal date is May 15. It is a three year campaign in which there will be ongoing communication and celebration of milestones.
 - c. A few **St. John's Foundation** board members plan to meet with a couple of council members including Judd Lohmann and Michelle Kremer-Prevost regarding the release of funds process, as both the Foundation and the Council have new treasurers.

- d. Stewardship 2024 dates:
 - Ministry Fair – Wed 9/18 and Sun 9/22
 - Stewardship Sunday – 11/17
4. Pastor's Report (included in materials for the meeting)
 - a. Need for more frequent cleaning as our building use is increased. We currently have a three-fourths time staff member for both cleaning and many repairs.
 - b. Discussed the desire for our congregation to support Northfield Retirement Center (ELCA), especially during current challenges.
 5. Board Reports (included in materials submitted)
 - a. Children's Education and Ministry Board
 - i. VBS is hosted at St. John's this year in conjunction with Bethel and St. Peter. It will be June 10-13 from 9-11am MTWR
 - b. Adult Ministry
 - i. Finding Our Way event went well.
 - ii. Debby Nitz update on the archives - she would like to pull together a group to help make decisions about the archives.
 - c. Property and Grounds
 - i. The weather looks questionable for Saturday's Clean Up Day. We might need to change to May 4 date. Leah will send out communication to everyone.
 - ii. Furniture in the courtyard needs attention.
 6. New Business/Old Business
 - a. Bishop's statement : ELCA Conference of Bishops statement of March 3, 2024, calling for a bilateral ceasefire in Gaza.
 - i. The statement was communicated to the congregation via email. Dan Franklin reported that over twenty congregants had expressed support and none had expressed disapproval.
 - ii. Pr. Pam shared that the Bishops (group of 50-60) had come to a consensus on this matter rather than voting; all members agreed; statement was thoughtfully crafted.
 - iii. Andrea made a motion that the council affirm the ELCA Conference Bishop's statement calling for a bilateral ceasefire in Gaza. Tamara Jackson seconded the motion. Questions and comments followed, especially concerns about whether it is in the council members purview to choose to affirm the statement. The motion passed, seven in favor, four abstained.
 - iv. Discussion followed about how to let the congregation know about the decision to affirm. Dan Franklin will put an explanation in the Voice that includes that this was discussed in detail at two council meetings. It was suggested that he bring it up in introductions on Board Night.

7. A brief discussion on Chapter 2 of When the Church Stops Working and how it relates to our process this evening.

Future dates:

May Board Night: May 14, 2024

May Church Council Meeting: May 28, 2024 We will discuss Chapter 3 of When Church Stops Working

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer and was adjourned at 8:34pm.

Respectfully submitted by Elaine Nesbit