

**Congregational Council**  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
October 25, 2022| 7:00 p.m.

**Members:** Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Paul Beck, Marilyn Calcutt, Rod Christensen, Mark Gleason, Candace Godfrey, Trish Goodrich, Kristy Harms, Tamara Jackman, Dennis Rinehart, Jane Rizzo, Kathleen Shea, Jerry Ugland, Steve Taggert

**Present:** Pr. Pam Fickenscher, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Rod Christensen, Kristy Harms, Marilyn Calcutt, Jerry Ugland, Paul Beck, Jane Rizzo, Steve Taggert, Trish Goodrich, Kathy Shea, Candace Godfrey, Dennis Rinehart, Tamara Jackman

**Not Present:** Mark Gleason

Meeting was called to order at 7:03pm

1. Opening devotion and prayer led by Tamara Jackman.
2. Motion to approve the September 27, 2022 Minutes made by Kristy Harms. Seconded by Jane Rizzo. **Council notes corrections needed to the following:**
  - a. Financial Report
    - i. *"Utilities will increase by \$8-15K in ~~2023~~ 2022"*
  - b. Council Updates / B. CYAN:
    - i. *"Council approved \$5000 in ~~2022~~ 2021 and \$5000 for ~~2023~~ 2022, the ~~2023~~ 2022 amount to be raised by the Youth Board. Youth Board will need to assess its ability to raise the funds. Jane Rizzo recommended that the Church make the ~~2023~~ 2022 payment to CYAN, and that the Youth Board reimburse the Church as it raises the funds."*
  - c. Corrections agreed upon consensus. The motion passes unanimously.
3. Financial Report - Jane Rizzo
  - a. Offering has been tracking very close to budget. We have expenses that we know will be over (utilities estimate of \$12-15K over, change to continuing ed of \$5K that we discussed in the spring, fewer mission dollars coming in to meet our budgeted expectation of \$4K)
  - b. We have some savings that can help to cover the expenses (insurance \$3k, likely \$5k in other BMB lines, likely \$8k in other board savings). Overall we should be fine, but it's tighter than is comfortable
  - c. One thing to consider would be sending a message as part of the November statements that reminds people to keep up with their pledges
  - d. Jane is not asking anyone to change their budgeting spending at this point, but please be conservative; don't change programming plans, but don't try to use it up if you don't need to
  - e. Next few months will show how close we are to meeting our offering goals
  - f. Pam's notes: Sept was quiet, October will be more of a telling month with offerings that tend to fluctuate; the death of several significant donors make an impact; we can write a more detail letter with November statements encouraging congregation to give as generously as they can

4. Kathy Shea moved to approve the September financial report. Paul Beck seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.
5. Council Updates & Action Items
  - a. None
6. Pastor's Report – included in the materials for this Council meeting
  - a. Pr. Jonathan - CYAN update:
    - i. We are no longer responsible for the \$5K commitment we pledged to this program; the fellowship is ending a year early; the ripple effect of structural changes with Lead for America and their fellowship (see notes in pastor's report)
  - b. Pr. Pam - happy to have Jonathan back! These six weeks are the busiest of the year
7. Board Reports: included in the materials for the Council meeting. Additional notes:
  - a. **Faith & Health** - 988 National Suicide & Crisis hotline was implemented this past summer; they want to do some promotion of that at church
  - b. **Evangelism & Communications** - Mark not here; Pam updated the Council on the acoustics project - supply chain issues might slow project down; contract signed
  - c. **Benevolence** - highlighted funds being distributed to Greenvale School for treats/snacks for families that cannot afford them; as well as Lutheran Disaster Response
  - d. **Worship & Arts** - decluttering project is a priority; particularly with banners and quilts, they want to make sure they don't get thrown out and get to the right groups
  - e. **Stewardship** - update on Art exhibit
  - f. **Children's Ministry** - upcoming Trunk or Treat event on Sunday; Christmas program practice starting
  - g. **Adult Ministry** - 58 people attended at the first Out & About event; well received; next one is January 23rd
  - h. **Properties & Grounds** - Fall Clean Up coming up soon; worked on budget items; two applicants interested in Tim Byer's position; Security: do staff members see a need for updated or upgraded security? Security cameras - necessary? Not at this time; New lighting in parking lot a nice addition
8. New Business
  - a. Next steps for Planning our Future conversations
    - i. Two planning sessions so far, one remaining. The online submission form is also an option for people; Rod will compile notes that summarize common themes, concerns and opportunities; will include individual ideas too. He will bring this summary back to Council for next month's meeting; might be good for the new Council's retreat
  - b. Budget - early thoughts and priorities

- i. In the last few years St. John's has not been in the position where we were short in meeting our budget; however, inflation is a different problem for us in both directions - expenses up and offering down; we ought to think about the possibility that writing the budget next year might require choices we haven't had to make
- ii. There are three significant segments of the budget: how much we spend on our property, how much we give away, and how much we spend on our staff; this is where we have the ability to make a significant shift if we have to. The other option is to spend down any significant reserves that we have.
- iii. For the budget committee, it would be helpful to hear from Council members: when those hard choices come, what are the choices we are willing to consider? What do we really want to protect in that process? We won't know until the end of the fiscal year where we stand; having that conversation now is more useful than waiting until Jan 3rd.
- iv. Another consideration: how often do we have capital campaigns?
- v. St John's has a culture of wanting to maintain benevolent gifts, perhaps more so than investing in our property; all of those recipients are also experiencing inflation; their needs are not being met
- vi. Parking lot will need a general resurfacing necessary at some point soon
- vii. Other notes:

c. Miscellaneous

- i. Date for January Board Retreat not yet set; Kathy and Pam to discuss and report back.
- ii. Annual Meeting scheduled for January 29th
- iii. Nominating Committee: most of the chair positions are filled
- iv. Boards should turn budgets into Leah by next Friday 11/4

**Future dates**

1. Boards: **Tuesday, November 1, 2022**  
Please send notes of your Board meetings to Trish Goodrich within a week so she can have them prepared for Council meetings
2. Council: **Tuesday, November 15, 2022 | 7:00 p.m.** Prayer led by Mark Gleason.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12pm.

Other Notes: none.

Respectfully submitted by Trish Goodrich