

**Minutes**  
**St. John's Lutheran Church Congregation**  
Tuesday, December 20, 2016 + 7:00 p.m.

Present: Brent Nystrom, Ruthie Neuger, Bill Malecha, Andrea Hoff, Dan Van Tassel, Pr. Jonathan Davis, Jane Rinehart, Lynette Marks, Pr. Pam Fichenscher, Alyssa Ness, Todd Menssen, Joe Gasior

Guests: Julie Brehmer, Mike Skunes

Absent: Jennie Sorensen, Bill Carlson

Meeting called to order at 7:05 pm.

1. **Opening Prayer** – Brent Nystrom led us in prayer

**2. Future dates**

- a. Council – **January 10, 2017**, 7:00pm; Andrea Hoff, prayer
- b. Boards – **January 24, 2017**, Opening Session for new board members with a training portion early, then regular board meetings to follow.
- c. Annual Meeting – **Sunday, January 22, 2017**
- d. Council Retreat – Proposed date: Saturday February 11, 2017. The Youth Fund Raiser is scheduled for the next day. It may be necessary to find another date for the Council Retreat.
- e. Youth Fundraiser – **Sunday, February 12, 2017**

Reminder: Please call or e-mail your board members prior to the board meeting and remind them.

**3. Consent Agenda Items for Council**

- a. Treasurer's Report for November 2016.
  - i. Reports from Treasurer reviewed.
  - ii. November offerings were lower than forecast and lower than historic giving trends for this month.
- b. Minutes from the November 29, 2016 meeting
  - i. Modify Future Dates section to remove reference to Annual Meeting Budget Preview.

Kristy Harms moved to approve the Consent Agenda Items. Andrea Hoff seconded motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Pastors' Report**

It's five (5) days before Christmas.

- a. RIC. Both Pam and Jonathan have been engaged with the RIC process as the spectrum survey for the congregation is wrapping up. Their activity is meant to assure that everyone is heard and seen as St. John's Council makes this decision.
- b. Staff. Program staff is planning a retreat in January or February to conduct visioning around hopes for future ministry with children, youth and families. Historic patterns may not fit today and the future and the staff will be investing energy and time in thinking about how we can have a more integrated approach to programming.
- c. Stewardship.

December 20, 2016 St. John's Council Minutes

- i. Stewardship goal was reached with more than 280 pledge cards turned in.
- ii. Bernie and Leah are working to clean up record keeping to assure the best data for 2017 budget planning.
- iii. Growth at St. John's will continue as we articulate what St. John's is all about, and the importance of spiritual giving.

## 5. Mission and Visioning Discussion

As we look ahead toward next year, the Education based boards (Children, Youth, Adult) have met jointly in recent months to discuss their ministry to St. John's and their overlaps, successes and challenges. We posed the homework questions about being spiritually fed (recently and into the future) to engage the Council in the same discussion.

- a. Sharing of homework answers
  - i. What fed you spiritually this past year?
    - Sermons/preaching
    - Music programs (Choirs and other groups)
    - "Speed network" exercise to get acquainted with a wider number of congregants
    - Worship service – use of hymnal, liturgical basis, traditional format
    - Adult forum – Martin Luther King presentation
    - LWR projects
    - Community feeling – representation of all age groups
    - Special programs – Pub theology, Austin Hartke, Alan Storey
    - VBS, Sunday School, behind-the-scenes relationships for Wednesday meals
  - ii. What would you like to see in the future? What would make you uncomfortable/what would be a stretch?
    - Bible study
    - Progressive dinner (using model in place at St. John's in previous years)
    -
- b. Discussion of sharing and the thinking/process for each of the these boards moving into 2017 programming.
- c. Any follow up or next steps
- d. Youth Fundraiser – Sunday February 12, 2017. Relational experiences as auction items have been most successful. Silent Auction donation forms distributed to Council members.

## 6. Council Action Items and Updates

- a. Reconciling in Christ (RIC) update and brief discussion of process pre and post the January Council meeting
  - i. Voting is completed. Ballots will continue to be accepted until the vote is tallied.
  - ii. Brent and Ruthie will count the ballots and provide the results to the Council before the next Council meeting in January.
  - iii. Council decision will be communicated to the congregation before the Annual meeting. Council discussed communication method. Electronic communication may not reach all members. A letter mailed to congregation may be warranted.
- b. 2017 Budget Process – Brief update from Ruthie
- c. St. John's Foundation Allocations for 2016 – See remaining balances for Calendar Year 2016
  - i. Music Fund – Nathan Proctor has requested \$760.51 for music Intern program for 2016.

- ii. Youth Fund Proposal – the full balance in the fund will be requested to fulfill the proposed request for easels/white boards for various locations throughout St. John’s
- iii. Building and Property Fund proposal – the full balance in the fund will be requested to offset previously authorized repairs/maintenance that resulted in a budget deficit.
- iv. Remaining Saint John’s Fund proposal – the full remaining balance will be requested for application to seminarian scholarship disbursements.

ASL Services	392.26	10/25/2016	Community Social Fund
Music Intern Program	760.51	12/20/2016	Music Fund/pending
ELCA Scholarship Fund	2,115.20	12/20/2016	ELCA Scholarship Fund
	439.31		Media Fund
	500.00		Youth Fund
Parish monitors	3,560.69	11/29/2016	St. John’s Fund
Portable White Board for Fellowship Hall			
Portable Easels for Youth & Children			
Markers and erasers for white boards	\$541.19	12/20/2016	Youth Fund
	924.15		St. John’s Fund
Seminarian Support	19.38	12/20/2016	Soli Seminary Fund
Offset of Deficit for Deferred Maintenance authorized by St. John’s Council	1,547.31	12/20/2016	Building & Property Fund

**Total requested** \$10,800.00

Motion: Jonathan moved to accept the proposed disbursements. Kristy seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

**7. Other business**

- a. Motion on disbursement of remaining undesignated funds. Proposal to apply undesignated memorial funds to facilities and equipment expenditures forwarded to Council.

Motion made. Seconded by Andrea Hoff. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **Prayer** – A closing prayer was offered by Brent Nystrom and he led the Council in the Lord’s Prayer.

9. Meeting concluded at 9:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristy Harms