

**Council  
&  
Board Minutes**

**January 2024**

**St John Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Council meeting minutes: January 16, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Church Council was called to order at 6:09 pm on January 16, 2024 by Josh Johnson. Due to winter weather conditions, this meeting was rescheduled from January 9, 2024.

Present: Pastor Russ Leeper, Shirley Holm, Cherie Schafer, Justin Chase, Judy Hughes, Jake Gassman, Julie Begemann, Janet Petefish, Rhonda Schmidtke-Business Manager, Kim Watkins-Vice President, Sarah Kendall-Secretary and Josh Johnson-President.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Leeper

Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda: Petefish/Holm. All approved.

Previous month's council minutes: Motion to approve minutes: Gassman/Begemann.

All approved.

Pastor's report: Attendance at the Christmas Eve services was increased from last year.

The After School Program is going well and will be held during Lent this year. Beth will be leading VBS this year.

Finance: Financial reports were distributed to the council. Motion to approve the financial reports: Schafer/Watkins. All approved.

The 2024 budget was provided to the council for review. The 2024 budget will be voted on at the upcoming annual meeting.

Monthly Benevolence: Motion to give the monthly benevolence of \$1229.69 to Coats for Kids. Watkins/Gassman. All approved.

Board reports:

Parish Education: The large group Lent event will be on Feb 18, at 10:00 am in the Parish Hall with the activity of Calvary Hill grass. February is soap month for Sunday School. VBS will be held June 10-13 from 5:30 to 7:30pm with the theme of Scuba: diving into friendship with God.

Stewardship: Kars for Kids fulfilled a request for funds for the After School Program and the third floor.

Nominating Committee: Council discussed and reviewed progress towards finding replacements for upcoming board vacancies.

Personnel & Executive Committee: Pastor Leeper presented information about the financial cost of hiring a single full time youth and family coordinator, two part time youth and family coordinators, a ½ time pastor and a ⅔ time pastor.

Constitution and Bylaws review: Council refined areas in the bylaws that needed additional review. A final review of the bylaws was then done. Motion to close the council review of the constitution and bylaws and propose the council's recommendation of changes to the congregation. Holm/Watkins. All approved.

Voting by the congregation in regards to adopting the constitution and bylaws will be done at a future meeting.

Next Council Meeting: The annual meeting of the congregation, Sunday, January 28, 2024 after service in the Parish Hall. The next regular meeting of the church council will be Tuesday, February 13 at 6:00pm in the Parish Hall.

Adjourn: Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 pm: Gassman/Hughes. All approved.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Sarah Kendall-council secretary

## **Stewardship Board Meeting Minutes, January 16, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Kathy Waldorf, Dave Lindaman, Yolanda VanAusdall, Sandy Hicks, Pastor Russ Leeper, Council Representative Judy Hughes and Council member Sarah Kendall

Our meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Leeper.

Sarah Kendall spoke on the After School Programs budget and needs: Sarah Kendall presented expenses for the After School Program: 30 Bibles, Bean bag chairs, two more elementary GO! Curriculum units due to After School Program now being held during Lent, and Art room dry erase board for a total of \$1,108.87. Expenses for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor: DVD Player and a Dry erase board for main room for a total of \$414.81. These 2 expenses come to a total of \$1,523.05. A motion was made by Dave Lindaman and seconded by Yolanda VanAusdall to cover these expenses; motion was carried. The Afternoon program next year will be called Impact. Long term plan is to repaint the art room with a large cross using St. Johns colors from our emblem.

Kans for Kids: I checked with Rhonda Schmidtke on the balance on this account, it is \$4,076.71 with the \$1,523.05 still to come out of the account. Since Dave would no longer be on the board, Yolanda VanAusdall volunteered to talk to Paul about taking the in for recycling. If Paul is agreeable, he will visit with Dave regarding the process. An update will be provided at the next board meeting. It would be good to have more volunteers to help with this fundraising project for the church.

Next meeting: February 20, 2024, at 2pm. If this time will not work for our new members, we may need to change the time to make it later in the day.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Waldorf

## **St John Lutheran Church Finance Board Meeting Minutes:**

### **January 9, 2024**

Present: Jeremy Heyer, Ryan Venz, Karol Carpenter, Sharon Tieskotter, Kim Watkins council representatives, Rhonda Schmidtke business manager, Pastor Russ Leeper.

Chairman Jeremy called the meeting to order at 5:14 PM, in the chapel room at the church.

Pastor Russ Leeper opened with a prayer.

Sharon Tieskotter made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 12, 2023, meeting, Ryan Venz second the motion. Motion Carried.

Sharon Tieskotter made a motion to approve the agenda for the January 9, 2024 meeting, Ryan Venz second the motion. Motion Carried.

Karol Carpenter made a motion to approve the disbursements with Sharon Tieskotter second the motion. Motion Carried.

#### **Old Business**

##### **Capital Improvements Projects:**

- A. **Lift Project:** The new flooring has still not been laid so the final costs for the Lift may not be available by the Congregational Meeting. Also, Rhonda is working on moving some of the expenses incurred for the Lift to the Lift total cost. This was brought to the attention when Rhonda mentioned she had debited the Technology account for the cost of moving technology for the Lift.
- B. **Narthex Air Conditioner Replacement:** The Narthex air conditioner is still being worked upon. It may be spring before completion.
- C. **3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Renovation:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> floor has been cleaned out and Sarah Kendall has begun to purchase new items for the After School program. Discussion was given with a handout passed around as to expenses currently being used for ministry to youth. Ryan Venz suggested that First Citizens Bank has a First Citizens Charitable Foundation that may be able to be secured for the updates to the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor. Information has been shared with Sarah Kendall to apply for this donation.
- D. **Parking Lot Update:** The Parking lot has received funds for the restoration and additional funds have been included into the Ministry Support Plan for 2024. At this time no decision has been made as to moving forward with this project.

##### **Ministry Support Plan 2024**

The Ministry Support Plan was reviewed and discussed, in light of the work load Rhonda has been experiencing the Finance Board has decided to add an assistant for Rhonda to the MSP. It was decided to add a line item of \$2500 for an assistant at 12 hours per month. Ryan Venz made a motion to approve and forward to the church council the 2024 Ministry Support Plan, Sharon Tieskotter second the motion. Motion Carries.

#### **New Business:**

- A. Rhonda Schmidtke presented the Financials through November 2023. She has not closed the books for December so those figures will be approved at the February 2024 meeting. At this time Rhonda has not had time to secure a new credit card for the church. Ryan Venz made a motion to approve the November 2023 financials, Sharon Tieskotter second the motion. Motion Carries.

- B. Finance Board also proposes to the council the retention of 2023 Finance Board members.
- C. Since the Benevolence designation for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter was not on the agenda the finance board will determine that designation at the February meeting.

**Council Report:**

Kim Watkins reported that most all the council issues have been discussed previously in the meeting. It was noted that the Kans for Kids account has been very supportive financially for funding of youth programs.

Ryan Venz made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Sharon Tieskotter second the motion. Motion Carries. Next meeting will be Tuesday February 13, 2024 at 5:00 in the chapel.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer  
Karol Carpenter, Finance Secretary

## Youth Board Minutes

January 3, 2024

6:00 PM, Fireside Room

Present: Ann Prichard, Dennis Sande, Lydia Johnson, and Council Liasons Justin Chase and Kathy Rogotske, Pastor Russ and guest Kim Watkins.

The meeting began with a prayer led by Pastor Russ at 6:02 PM.

### Old Business:

1. Annual Meeting Breakfast. Kathy Crooks will order eggs for 140 people, as well as coffee, milk, and juice. Cinnamon and caramel rolls will be provided, and Kim Watkins will make biscuits and gravy. Church members will be invited to bring something to share: muffins, fruit, coffee cake, yogurt, etc. Ann will email Toni information to put in the bulletin. Students will be asked during confirmation class to volunteer to help. Lydia and Ann will supervise youth on the third floor during the annual meeting.

### New Business:

1. Palm Sunday breakfast. Kathy Crooks will order food, and the youth and their parents will work the event as a fundraiser for mission trips and camps. This is the largest fundraiser of the year for youth.
2. Youth gathering. Unfortunately, it is the week of the Floyd County Fair and only one youth has expressed interest.
3. Mission Trip. Kim Watkins volunteered to lead a mission trip the third week of June 2024. The destination will be a city in the Midwest: Milwaukee, Kansas City, or Minneapolis. Activities will include volunteering in a soup kitchen, leading a children's program, and potentially participating in a Habitat for Humanity-type program. A van will be rented and they will stay in Vrbo or Airbnbs. The cost for 5 days plus travel time will be \$350.
4. New members. Lydia and Ann are going off the board in 2024, but there are 2 adult and 2 youth names for the nominating committee.

The meeting ended at 7:04 PM. The next meeting will be February 6 at 5 PM in the Fireside Room.