

**St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Council & Board Minutes**

**Church Council Meeting, January 11, 2022**

Meeting was called to order by President Greg Buenger at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall Chapel of the church.

**Present:** Carol Brahn, Kathy Waldorf, Connie Swant, Doug Holm, Ron James, Judy Hughes, Dennis Sande, Kathy Rogotzke, Jake Gassman, Linda Hughes Business Manager, Executive council members Greg Buenger, Josh Johnson, Karol Carpenter and Pastor Russ Leeper.

Opening Prayer: Pastor Leeper opened with prayer.

**Agenda Approval:**

Carol Brahn made a motion to approve the agenda, Connie Swant second the motion. Motion Carries.

**Previous Month Minutes:**

Ron James made a motion to approve the corrected November 9, 2021, minutes and the December 14, 2021, minutes. Judy Hughes second the motion. Motion Carries.

**Pastor's Report:**

Pastor Russ reported the Sunday School program was enjoyed during December, the attendance for Christmas Eve was over 500 people in attendance and there were around 244 views on YouTube. The Sunday live feed consistently has between 200-300 live viewers.

On a sad note, we have had 5 funerals since around Thanksgiving. We mourn the loss for those families but rejoice in the new family joining our church family.

**Financial Report:**

Linda Hughes reviewed the December 2021 financials; we ended the fiscal year in the black due to the continued financial support of the congregation and the mindful spending of the staff and boards. Linda noted how the Sunday School offering was an increase this year due to a member donating a significant amount directly to Sunday School. Also noted on the income side was the interest and dividends were higher due to the Sylvester benevolence interest. She also requested for us to use \$125 from Benevolence to material for the blankets for the residents of the hospital. This was designated to be paid in November, but Linda forgot and paid the entire amount to the Lutheran Disaster Relief fund. Kathy Rogotzke made a motion to approve the December financials, Dennis Sande second the motion. Motion Carries.

**Monthly Benevolence:**

As decided prior in the meeting we will use \$125 for the Blankets. Kathy Rogotzke made a motion to also purchase mittens for the Blessing box and then donate the remaining balance to the Ministerium Fund for heat assistance. Josh Johnson second the motion. Motion Carries.

**Annual Meeting:**

President Greg Buenger reminded the congregational annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday January 23, 2022. The signs have been posted as per required. Also, the youth will be having a meal during the meeting and the 150-year anniversary committee has planned a red Jello contest which is significant for Lutherans. Members will bring their favorite red Jello and they will be tasted by the congregation and voted upon with prizes being awarded in various categories.

**2022 MSP for the SJCP:**

Time was spent discussing the SJCP financials, as previously noted they do not have a balanced budget for the next fiscal year. With the declining enrollment and the new proposals for free preschools this may be an ongoing trend. It was decided to include the current budget that director Whitney Franke has submitted for the Annual Report. Josh Johnson and Pastor Russ will be attending the next preschool board meeting and addressing this issue looking into the future and what are the options for the preschool.

**Nominating Committee:**

President Greg Buenger reported that all boards are filled with the exception of one more member needed for Parish Ed. It was decided that if an additional member has not been found the council will ask the congregation to allow the council to fill the position when an additional member agrees to fill position.

**Boards:**

- Parish Education: They will be adding 2 new members and are still searching for a SS teacher to help Lydia Johnson.
- Stewardship: Thanked the 3 new members going on the board.
- Deacons: They will be meeting the next night.
- Family Board: Nothing to report
- Finance: They will be meeting Thursday night.
- Bldg. & Grds: They are still looking at doing concrete work in the parking lot as well as fascia board replacement, paint in sanctuary, paint on parsonage outside, convert from flat roof on part of church and the installation of security cameras.
- Youth: Working on brunch for the annual meeting, having an envelope fundraiser for 2 trips and printing up T-shirts for youth.
- SJCP: Discussed earlier in meeting.

**Business:**

- Kathy Waldorf mentioned she had been approached by a parishioner who was concerned there was a strange person walking around the church on Sunday January 26<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Russ and an usher met with the individual and they were looking for donations. They did not feel the person was a threat. Pastor Russ reminded us that the church is a public facility that is open to all.
- President Greg Buenger took a moment to thank the off going council members for their service and was also noted by council how appreciative they were for Greg's leadership these last 2 years.

Next council Meeting: Tuesday February 8, 2022, at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

Adjourn: Kathy Waldorf made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Carol Brahn second the motion. Motion Carries.

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted  
Karol Carpenter  
Council Secretary

## **St John Finance Board Minutes January 13, 2022**

Kurt Hoeft, (Chairman), Greig Grimm, Richard Olesen, Monte Waldorf, Al Brandau, Ron James, Linda Hughes, Pastor Russ

Meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Kurt Hoeft

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Russ led the committee in opening prayer.

Al Brandau moved to approve agenda. Seconded by Monte Waldorf. Motion carried.

1. Richard Olesen moved to approve minutes from December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Seconded by Greig Grimm  
Motion carried

### **Business:**

Bills/Financial update : Linda Hughes went over Balance Sheet by Account from Jan 1 , 2021 through Dec 31, 2021. In checking/Savings discussed Peterson Estate. In investments we discussed where the Columbia Core account came from. It was recommended by Kurt Hoeft to have Jeremy Heyer explain Balance Sheet each year. Under Bills Linda pointed out increase in Mediacom bill for church phones and CID bill for new vacuum and Ice melt.

2. Baron Estate-Investment change: Received \$31,000 from estate. There were no restrictions and money was put into HiFi savings.
3. 2022 Ministry Support plan: Will discuss next month.
4. Life Insurance: Monte explained life insurance policy as a gift to church. Concern with this type of gift discussed.
5. Other:
  - a. Recommended board members be at budget meeting.
  - b. Benevolence: 1/3 to food box, 1/3 to Brothers Keepers, 1/3 to ELCA Good Gifts
6. Greig Grimm president 2022.

## **St. John Parish Education Minutes, January 9, 2022**

**Present:** Linda Johnson, Rae Lynne Chase, Lisa Hinz, Julie Taylor, Pastor Russ, Laurie Heidebrink

Pastor Russ opened with prayer

### **Old Business**

1. Sunday School
  - a. Teachers – still looking for co-teacher (with Lydia Johnson) for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> grade class.
  - b. Materials - curriculum for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester in classrooms
  - c. Calendar – resumed January 9<sup>th</sup>
    - Maybe PreK-2<sup>nd</sup> sing on 2-13-22
    - Pastor/Student/Parent 1<sup>st</sup> Communion classes on 2-13-22 and 2-20-22
    - Bake bread with 5<sup>th</sup> Grade on 2-27-22
    - Large group Lent Event on 3-6-22 – discussed making this intergenerational
  - d. Discussed 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade Sunday School classes (size, curriculum, needs, etc.)
2. After School Program
  - 16 Students currently enrolled

### **New Business**

1. Thank you to Michelle and Mike for being on Parish Ed for the past 3 years!
2. VBS – June 13-16, 2022, in the evenings
  - Discussed how this will overlap with T-Ball, decided to leave the dates because every date overlaps with something. Will move next year if conflicting with T-Ball is too big of a problem.
  - Group Easy VBS kit *Monumental* pre-ordered, will ship in February
  - Discussed who might volunteer for Station Leaders
3. Volunteers for Chair: tabled Secretary: Rae Lynne Chase volunteered

### **Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer**

Next meeting is Sunday, February 6, at 11:00am in the Fireside Room

## **St John Buildings & Grounds January 4, 2022**

**Members in attendance:** Craig Begemann, Ana Blickenderfer, Pastor Leeper, Jamie Carolan

Welcome by Craig and prayer from Pastor. Agenda and Minutes approval tabled until next meeting as we did not have a quorum.

### **Old Business:**

1. Welcome Center – No updates
2. Parking Lot curbing cement and sidewalk – It was discussed that we do this at the same time as the crosses and also fix the sidewalk at the parsonage. This would help us avoid a small load charge for concrete as the crosses will only take  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a yard. DeBoest Concrete did not make it during the extended warm weather.
3. Facia Board – Possible man lift from Ana sometime in the next few months.
4. Flat Roof replacement – Ana is still in communication with Jason from Alpha Roofing. Jamie to reach out to Midwest roofing about their opinion on the slope and possibly meeting with the board at the February meeting.
5. Sanctuary painting – Jamie to check with Johnson painting
6. Exterior Paint @ parsonage – No update
7. Security Cameras – Trent to start installing next 1-2 weeks
8. Outside crosses – In addition to concrete information listed above, we need to decide how to anchor the crosses into the ground. Jamie could build crosses this winter.
9. Parsonage roof – Craig to reach out to contractors again.
10. Vacuum purchase – Vacuum arrived but has been sent back as it was making a loud noise and needs to be fixed or replaced.
11. Pallet of Salt – Arrived and stored.
12. Kitchen Roasters – No update
13. Livestream system – Lifeline to come back this week to work on the system as the PowerPoint does not always properly connect with the OBS system.

### **New Business:**

1. Use of building – none
2. Use of bus – none
3. Reviewed Buildings and Grounds 2021 Report, put together by Craig.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer at 5:44 pm

**Next Meeting February 1, 2022, at 5pm.**

Minutes submitted by Ana Blickenderfer 1/6/22

## **Family Board, January 21, 2022**

**Present:** Jenisha Garden., Amy Kubik., Tina Marth., Jodi Hammond-Milleson., Laurie Heidebrink., Pastor Russ

### **Old Business:**

1. The 25-cent store, discussed the lower turnout this year. Possibly because of the time change and/or the pandemic? Think it is a good idea to try it again next year. We need to decide where the money is going to go before the 25-cent store is held next year.

### **New Business:**

1. Jenisha agreed to be board chair again
2. Board secretary is currently Sonja. We will table this for next meeting to see if she wants to continue or if we will change to a different person
3. New members: Tina Marth, Jodi Hammond, and Vicki Hoffman will join the board in February
4. Lent Event will be held March 6 at 10am in the Parish Hall.
  - a. Calvary Hill grass scene was decided on for the activity. This will reach all ages and be for anyone to complete.
  - b. We will have stations to complete the calvary hill piece.
  - c. Board will provide goodies and refreshments during this time
  - d. Need to find boxes to use for people to bring the calvary hill project home in.
  - e. Laurie to send out email to Sunday school families asking parents to attend with their children
5. Ladies Luncheon: Tentatively March 27 at 11am in the parish Hall (another date suggested was May 1.)
  - a. Laurie will email board members to confirm the date.
  - b. Going to use the gardening program from 2020 that never happened.
  - c. Will need members to set up Saturday and work the event on Sunday
6. Easter Egg hunt: April 16 at 9am
  - a. Still need to plan what we are doing for “big” kids and “little” kids
7. Miscellaneous
  - a. Maybe we should rethink the name of the board? Fellowship board was suggested.
  - b. Plan a men's night/event?
  - c. How can we get the new members of the church more involved and connected?
  - d. Talked about previous EWOK nights and possibly doing that again
  - e. Talked about providing games on tables Wednesday night after supper

**Next meeting** is set for February 23 at 5pm in the Fireside room

## **Stewardship Board, January 18, 2022**

**PRESENT:** Kathy Crooks, Gaylen Hicok, Dave Lindaman, Pastor Russ, Judy Hughes, Sandie Quade

Our meeting began with a prayer by Pastor Russ.

Kans for Kids balance is \$3056.14. We have a check in the amount of \$343.20 for December cans that is being held until January 20, per request by B&S. They are waiting for payment from Pepsi. We also have 37 bags that were taken to B&S on Thursday, January 13. To make it simpler for B&S we have agreed to receive payments once a month. (All cans delivered in January will be paid in February; February cans will be paid in March, etc.) We usually bag cans on Thursday around 10:30. We also discussed keeping the congregation updated on how the money from Kans for Kids is being used to show God's Love in Action.

We also reviewed our responses to Josh Johnson regarding the Board Proposal Discussion Guide.

We discussed having an "All Aboard Meeting" in the near future. Sandie will email Josh Johnson to see if it would be possible to have this after the 6 p.m. Council Meeting on Tuesday, February 8. All the Boards would be able to become acquainted with their new members, plus introduce them to the rest of the Boards.

Pastor Russ confirmed that the following individuals will be joining the Stewardship Board for 2022. (Sandie will send them an email welcoming them.)

Ina Heitz – 1 yr. term (subbing for the final year of James Grob)

Yolanda Van Ausdall and Kathy Waldorf – 3 yr. term

We are pleased about having them join our Board. We extend a warm welcome and we are confident they will be a great addition to our Stewardship Team. We are looking forward to having them join our next meeting on Tuesday, February 15, at 2:30 p.m. at the church.

Leaving our Stewardship Board is Kathy Crooks, Bev Selvig and Sandie Quade. We enjoyed our term and enjoyed working with our Board members. We were also blessed to have Judy Hughes, who served as a liaison between Council at Large and our Board. We made a great team! Thank you all for your help and support.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, February 15, 2022, at 2:30 at the church.

We closed our meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitting my last minutes ☺☺☺

Sandie Quade

Chair