

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

Church Council Meeting, January 10, 2023

Opening Prayer: Pastor Russ Leeper

Present: Pastor Russ Leeper, Judy Hughes, Julie Begemann, Kathy Rogotzke, Jake Gassman, Janet Petefish, Kurt Hoeft, Ron Hoffman, Karol Carpenter, Josh Johnson, Doug Holm, Kim Watkins & Ron James. Absent: Dennis Sande

Agenda: Motion to approve agenda as written by Kurt H., seconded by Julie B. - motion passed.

Council Minutes: Motion to accept December council minutes by Ron J. and seconded by Kim W. – motion passed.

Pastor's Report:

- There have been between 125 and 155 views of our services including 20-25 live views of our church service. Christmas Eve there were 318 views. There were also over 100 views of a funeral service which was about the same as was in attendance.
- We also have had new people coming and checking the box on the attendance sheets that indicate they are interested in joining.
- Susan Leeper was in attendance to promote a program called “Grief Share” for our church. She explained how the program works and how much it would cost. She also stated that there are already people who have agreed to facilitate the meetings.

Financial Report: The financial information was accepted after a discussion of current budget information and some issues with moving from one business manager to another. Motion to accept by Kathy R., second by Kim W. – motion passed.

Budget: The proposed budget was presented. The new budget included an increase \$20,000, a reduction of custodial assistance, and cutting the church secretary to half time. This will be presented at the annual meeting. A motion to accept the proposal was made by Ron J. and seconded by Kathy R. – motion passed.

Personnel: A motion to cut the secretary's position to half time was made by Jake G. and seconded by Julie B. – motion passed.

Personnel Committee: There was a discussion of the Collaborative Learning Program and how it would be funded. Since it is a program, the church is implementing, it was decided that the Wolfe estate and the Kroneman account would pay for the program. A motion to use these funds was made by Kathy R. and seconded by Kurt H. – motion passed.

Monthly Benevolence: It was decided to provide the new Grief Share program these funds. A motion to accept this suggestion was given by Ron J. and seconded by Janet P. - motion passed.

Board Reports:

Deacons: They are, “moving along and making sure everything gets covered.”

Building and Grounds: Decided that having one door for the lift entrance was best. They also report a gift that would cover the installation of a handicapped entrance for the Narthex.

Family: Will meet the following day.

Youth: Working on a breakfast and winter activities.

Parish: Should be getting the vacation bible schoolbooks soon.

Nominating Committee: Doug reported that he needed more information to continue. He will get with Josh J. later.

Adjournment: The Lord's Prayer was recited then Ron J. moved and Judy H. seconded the motion to adjourn – motion passed.

Next Meeting: The next meeting will be on February 14, 2023, at **7:00 p.m.**

**Respectfully Submitted,
Ron Hoffman, Council Secretary**

St John Finance Board Minutes January 10, 2023

Present: Bruce Boerschel, Alan Brandau, Karol Carpenter, Greig Grimm, Jeremy Heyer, Ron James Council Representative, Rhonda Schmidtke, Business Manager, and Pastor Russ Leeper.

Chairman Greig Grimm called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM, in the chapel room at the church.

Pastor Russ Leeper opened with a prayer.

Jeremy Heyer made a motion to approve the agenda Al Brandau second the motion. Motion Carried.

Jeremy Heyer made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 13, 2022, meeting, Bruce Boerschel second the motion. Motion Carried.

Bills and Financial Update

Bills and Financials were reviewed, Ron James questioned if the books had been closed for the year and Rhonda Schmidtke noted she was not comfortable closing the books quite yet as she is still learning the position and what the procedures needed to be completed to close the books. Everyone agreed that she has done an excellent job in learning the position and it will just take time. Karol Carpenter volunteered if she had any questions to please just call her. It was noted that there was a \$532.00 credit to the credit card that Rhonda Schmidtke was not sure what it was. Our church credit card has a cash back feature that Karol Carpenter had applied to the December balance. Bruce Boerschel made a motion to approve the financials including the December bills, Al Brandau second the motion. Motion carried.

Business

- A. Chairman Greig Grimm asked for an update to the progress for the Student Intern. Pastor Russ shared the program is Collaborative Learning Program through the Wartburg Seminary and that a student has agreed to this internship. She will continue to be a fulltime online student but will do a 20 hour per week internship under Pastor Russ's guidance. This will begin in February. After a two-year internship she will be an ordained deacon, the difference between the deacon and pastor is the deacon does not preside with the sacrament of communion.
- B. Outgoing board members Greig Grimm and Al Brandau were thanked for their time spent on the board.
- C. Suggestions were discussed for the 8% Quarterly Benevolence given. It was suggested to go for the Veterans group but at this time more information is needed as to how the funds would be used. Rhonda Schmidtke will check into this. It was then suggested to give to the hot lunch program for the kid's accounts. Each student has an account that they pay money into for the lunch program. Frequently these accounts go in the negative due to families not having funds available to pay. Bruce Boerschel made a motion to send the full amount of \$2828.84 to the School Lunch Program to assist with the accounts of kids who are in the negative balance. Karol Carpenter second the motion. Motion Carried.

Next Meeting Tuesday February 14, 2023, at 5:00 PM at the church.

Al Brandau made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Bruce Boerschel second the motion. Motion Carries.

Respectfully Submitted
Karol Carpenter
Finance Board

Board of Deacons, January 8, 2023

Members present – Julie DeBower, Scott Hansen, Kip Hauser, Lorie Hoeft, Diane Sande, Ryan Venz, Pastor Russ Leeper

Meeting called to order by Ryan Venz

Pastor Russ opened with prayer.

Old Business:

- Ryan has submitted the Deacon annual report to Kathy.
- Susanne Hawke & Wayne McClintock are going to be presented at the annual meeting to take the place of Scott Hansen & Ryan Venz on Board of Deacons.
- Ryan is finding readers for the month of February & Julie said she would find readers for the month of March.
- We filled communion positions for Sunday, February 5th: Diane, Kip, Lorie, & Julie.

New Business:

- Kathy provided an attendance sheet for 2022 to Ryan.
- Ash Wednesday is February 22nd, and this will also be 5th grade 1st communion.

Other Business:

- Ryan thanked Diane for being a greeter. Ryan also thanked everyone for all their hard work throughout the year.
- There was discussion about getting high school students to be greeters and readers.
- The Christmas decorations are now being stored in the closet in the annex.

Next meeting: Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. in the chapel.

Closed the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Lorie Hoeft

Family Board, January 11, 2023

Laurie opened with prayer.

Old Business:

1. Members going off the board – Jenisha Garden & Sue McDonald – Thank you!
2. Board Chair- tabled until next time, and Tina – will plan to be secretary. Still need a board chairperson.
3. Passion Play-the MN church stopped doing it about 10 years. Look into others in the future.

New Business:

1. Lent event February 26, 2023, at 10:am during Sunday School
2. Potential Project- a prayer pot. Laurie will look into options and ideas.
 - a. Who is available to help? Tina
3. Hockey Game- look into dates. The hockey season lasts until April.
4. Ladies' Luncheon: Date- March 26th, 2023, Theme- Birds, Under His Wing
 - a. Who is available to help? Tina
5. A guy's game night- for both men and the boys in their life- card theme, little decorations, games, rummy, 500, UNO, Checkers, Yahtzee, and younger games too.
 - a. Date – maybe February 26th or March 5th – try the 26th since we already have another event on the 26th.
 - b. Potential menu: rolls, chili, and chicken noodle soup
6. New members: Carly Marten and Carolyn Marth
7. Other – Easter egg hunt possibly do it the 8th of April

Closed with Lord's Prayer

St. John Parish Education Minutes, January 8, 2023

Present: Lisa Hinz, Shannon Venz, Tammy Quade, Jake Gassman (Council), Laurie Heidebrink

Old Business:

1. Sunday School –
 - a. Teachers – good
 - b. Materials - curriculum for 2nd semester in classrooms
 - c. Calendar – resumed January 8th.
 - i. 5th Grade making banners January 15th and 22nd.
 - ii. Pastor/Student/Parent 1st Communion classes on 2-5-23 and 2-12-23
 - iii. Bake bread with 5th Grade on 2-19-23
 - iv. Large group Lent Event on 2-26-23 – discussed making this intergenerational
2. After School Program: 22 Students currently enrolled
 - a. Could use more helpers.

New Business:

1. Thank you to Linda and Julie for being on Parish Ed for the past 3 years!
2. Annual Report – discussed Chair’s report.
3. VBS – June 26-29, 2023, in the evenings
 - a. Group Easy VBS kit *Stellar* pre-ordered, should arrive tomorrow.
 - b. Discussed talking to previous volunteers for Station Leaders
4. Volunteers for Chair: tabled Secretary: Tammy Quade volunteered

Next meeting is Sunday, February 12, at 8:00am in the Fireside Room

Youth Board Meeting Minutes, January 8, 2023

Present: Brandi Lantz, Sydney Hinz, Ann Prichard, Lydia Johnson, Jessie Holm, Laurie Heidebrink, Doug Holm (Council)

Old Business

- ❖ Possible fall and winter youth activities
 - Nerf and Turf Fun (have in parish hall, or possibly at the library)
 - Possible date(s) for this is May 3rd or 10th.
- ❖ Winter Pool Day
 - Tabling until next meeting
- ❖ Floyd Retreat at Cedar Springs Camp
 - When announced at Confirmation, only 2 girls asked to take the informational postcards home?
 - \$119 per kid (paintball is \$25 extra), \$59 per adult. We have to have 1 adult per 7 kids.
- ❖ Annual Meeting Breakfast
 - Doug & Cooper will come in at 8 to cook. 8:30 to 10:30 shift: Lydia, Sydney & Brandi. 10-12 shift: Jessie, Carson, Ann, Katie, Emma & Owen

New Business

- ❖ The Sunday Youth Group is having approximately 11 - 13 kids attend each week. Lydia reported it is going well.
 - A suggestion was made that while the 5th graders are working on their banners, that the 6th graders could join the Youth Group to get a ‘feel’ for it.
- ❖ Palm Sunday Breakfast is Sunday, April 2nd. This is a good fundraiser for the Youth to work at to earn money for their accounts.
- ❖ Members finishing their term today are Brandi Lantz & Jessie Holm. New members coming on are Sue McDonald and Dennis Sande.

Next Meeting Date: **Sunday, February 5th at 8am**

Stewardship Board, December 13, 2022

Present: Diane Loudermilk, Ina Heitz, Yolanda Van Ausdall, Gaylen Hicok, Pastor Russ and Council liaison Judy Hughes

The meeting opened with a prayer by Pastor Russ.

Diane reported that no request for money from the Kans for Kids account had been received at the time of the meeting. She also reported the current total in the account is \$4812.12.

Galen and Ina will be going off of the board at the end of January. New members will be Sandy Hicks and Nadonne Buseman.

Yolanda asked if the Time & Talent sheets compiled in November and shared with respective boards were effective in filling board positions for 2023. There was approximately a 10% response from the congregation. Pastor Russ shared that information from the sheets was used to recruit interested members for board positions. A positive outcome of the information sheets.

Galen asked whether shut-in's received a Christmas ornament. The ornaments were given to members after the Christmas Eve services and the New Year's Day service by the 150 Year Committee. Yolanda contacted Cherie Schafer with this question. Cherie's response to this question: Janet Petefish will put information regarding distributing more ornaments in the e-skinny and a "sales pitch" to be put in the bulletin or done verbally by Pastor Russ at the beginning of a service.

The next scheduled meeting is Feb 21 at 2 PM.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Yolanda Van Ausdall
Secretary