

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

**Church Council Meeting, January 12, 2021 via Teleconference**

Meeting was called to order by President Greg Buenger via remote call in for council members due to the guidelines involving the Coronavirus regulations at 6:00 PM.

**Present via call:** Carol Brahn, Doug Holm, Ron James, Janet Petefish, Dennis Sande, Shannon Venz, Kathy Waldorf, Linda Hughes Business Manager, Executive council members Greg Buenger, Josh Johnson, Karol Carpenter and Pastor Russ Leeper.

Pastor Leeper opened with prayer.

Ron James made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of discussing the Church 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Blanket Ministry, and the Constitution on the recommendation of Janet Petefish. Dennis Sande second the motion. Motion Carries.

December 8, 2020 Council Minutes were reviewed by council, Carol Brahn made a motion to approve, Janet Petefish second the motion. Motion Carries.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Russ reported that there was a lot of extra work to prepare for the Christmas season services but things went well. The drive through Communion on Christmas Eve was well attended and much appreciated. Pastor Anita continues with her duties and has been very helpful in relieving some of the workload for Pastor Russ.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Financial Report:**

Linda Hughes reviewed the financials for the year end. We ended the year in the positive. This was achieved by the Payroll Protection Plan grant as well as the generosity of our members. Also, a committee has been working with the Preschool to have a more balanced budget. Dennis Sande made a motion to approve the December Financials, Ron James second the motion. Motion Carries.

**Monthly Benevolence:**

Kathy Waldorf made a motion to send the monthly benevolence to the Ministerium Fund through Trinity Methodist Church. Ron James second the motion. Motion Carries.

**Board Reports:** Building and Grounds, Communications, Deacons, and Family Boards all reported there was nothing new to report. Finance reported that the year-end report included a generous donation from the Sylvester family and the money will be switched to a taxable account to get a higher interest rate. Ron James reported that Finance has met with St John Preschool and have come up with a more balanced budget. They will continue to work with Whitney and the Preschool. Parish Ed had nothing new to report. Stewardship has requested permission to have a drive through meal on February 14<sup>th</sup>. It will be discussed later in the meeting. Youth Board also asked to be able to do a drive through hot chocolate with a cookie to give to parishioners. This also will be discussed later in the meeting.

**Sound & Video:**

Linda reviewed the Sound and Video fundraiser which has ended. The initial estimate was actually higher than the final cost. There is still over \$17,000 out in pledges but we have covered the majority of the cost with the pledges that were secured already. Linda noted that the year-end giving statements will include the pledges if anyone is interested who has not met their initial pledge.

**2021 Boards:**

President Greg Buenger noted that we still have 2 positions to fill on the Family Board as well as 1 position for the Building and Grounds. Janet Petefish made a motion to approve the nomination list as is this evening, Ron James second the motion. Motion carries. We will continue to work on filling the open positions on those two boards.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Membership:**

Paul and Sheryl Veen have requested a transfer of their membership from St John's to Messiah Lutheran. Janet Petefish made a motion to allow this transfer, Carol Brahn second the motion. Motion Carries.

### **Covid-19:**

- ✓ In Person Services: After discussion Ron James made a motion to resume in house church beginning Sunday January 31, 2021, there will not be a registration to attend due to lower attendance but social distancing along with mask usage will be necessary. Kathy Waldorf second the motion. Motion Carries.
- ✓ Sunday School: It was discussed, and a motion was made by Ron James to allow Laurie Heidebrink to resume Sunday School in the church when she has secured the needed staff and materials. Carol Brahn second this motion. Motion Carries. Guidelines have already been devised as to this process when things resume.
- ✓ Confirmation: It was also discussed to resume Confirmation classes. It was decided to table this decision until February to give Laurie Heidebrink time to get Sunday School reopened. Typically, there is no confirmation during Lent so this will also be discussed at a later date.
- ✓ Wedding-Funerals-Baptisms: Will continue as they have been with a limited attendance and social distancing. It is noted that the in-house maximum in church continue to be 50 people in order to practice the social distancing practice. Ron James made a motion to keep the guidelines as they currently stand for numbers. Carol Brahn second the motion. Motion Carries.
- ✓ Board Meetings: Will continue to use the Zoom for their meetings.
- ✓ Building Use: Stewardship has requested to be allowed to do a drive-up meal on February 14, 2021. They have secured a cater to prepare the food off site and then would use the youth to dish up the food and deliver to each vehicle. This would be set up in the Narthex for easy delivery to vehicles. Ron James made a motion to approve this, Dennis Sande second the motion. Motion Carries. Youth Board would also like to do a drive up to include hot chocolate and a cookie at the next drive-up communion. Cookies will be prepared also off site and be individually wrapped. Janet Petefish made a motion to approve with Doug Holm seconding the motion. Motion Carries.

### **Additional Agenda Items:**

- ✓ Constitution: Janet Petefish stated that a committee needs to be formed to update our Church Constitution. This has been something that has been consistently mentioned that needs to happen.
- ✓ Blanket Ministry: Janet Petefish would like to have an account set up for Blanket Ministry. There has been one donation also received toward this ministry so Linda Hughes will set up a specific account for this for the materials.
- ✓ 150-year St John's Celebration: Janet Petefish would like a committee set up for this event. It will be posted in the E-Skinny if anyone is interested in serving on this committee.

### **Annual Meeting**

Due to Covid-19 we will be unable to have the regularly scheduled annual meeting for St John Lutheran Church in January to approve the new council and also to present a call to Pastor Anita Nuetzman. Under the guidelines for the call for Pastor Anita a Synod representative must be present at this call, the Synod has announced that they will not have a representative available until the end of February due to their COVID-19 restrictions of being present. We will revisit this discussion in February. It was noted that Kathy Hoeft has been working on the Annual Report and it will be made available to the congregation on the website for the church as well as physical copies in the church office.

**Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday February 6, 2021 at 6:00 PM and will meet by Zoom.

**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 7, 2021**

*"God's Love in Action" managing our financial well-being*

Zoom Finance Meeting called to order by Tami Quade at 5:30 PM.

Attendance: Ron James, Gloria Carr, Greig Grimm, Tammy Quade, Al Brandau, Linda Hughes, and Russ Leeper

**Started at 5:31** with Tammy saying opening prayer.

**Approval of Agenda:** Al Motioned, Greig 2<sup>nd</sup>, motion carried.

**Minutes from December Board Meeting:** Greig motioned to approve, Al second, motion carried.

### **Guest Speaker: Dave Slotter from Ameriprise Financial**

Regarding the Sylvester Estate donation, suggested for the time being we could roll it from a tax exempt modified to a taxable to get a higher yield now. Since the Church is already a tax-exempt entity, we didn't need to leave it there and this was a better investment until other options are looked into further. All payouts will continue to rollover to cash payout to be utilized as needed. Al motioned to approve, Greig 2<sup>nd</sup> motion carried. Dave is to get the finance board more information in writing so they can suggest a few options to the council on the next step.

### **Bills /Financial Update/Approve Bills**

Linda gave us a financial breakdown no unusual bills for the month of January, Gloria motioned to approve to pay bills, Al 2<sup>nd</sup> motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

- 1) A few members of the finance board are going to set up a meeting with Whitney for the preschool. She did submit an updated budget and we agreed it looked great. Just wanting to sit down with her to make sure she has the support she needs from the group.

### **New Business:**

- 1) December Benevolence- Food Bank is to receive \$754.67, Floyd County Friends of Cancer is to receive \$1000 and \$750 to the Ministerial fund. Gloria motioned, Greig second, motion carried.
- 2) Reviewed and made a few changes to the 2020 Financial Annual Report, added December's benevolence discretions to report. Tammy to submit.
- 3) Zoom meetings currently under Tammy's account, she is willing to extend her account to the new chairperson until May, then hopefully meetings will be back to in person.
- 4) New members will be called and given next meeting date by Tammy; roles of members will be chosen in February.
- 5) Kurt had mentioned a new Covid Grant possible for 2021, Linda was to listen for news on that. Last Grant information was sent to us via the Synod.  
No other topics were discussed.

**Next meeting date is February 11<sup>th</sup> at 5:45 via Zoom.**

**Closing Prayer-Our Father was led by Pastor Russ.**

**Faithfully submitted by Tammy Quade**

## **St John Buildings & Grounds January 5, 2021; Via Zoom**

**Present:** Jeromy Heyer, Greg Heidebrink, Jamie Carolan, Tyler Kubik, Pastor Russ, Craig Begemann.

Opening Prayer- Pastor Russ.

Agenda and Dec. minutes approved.

### **Old business**

1. Bus - Currently has winter blended fuel in it. Running well.
2. No building uses.
3. Snow Removal - Jason McDonald's normal fee for snow removal is 75.00/hr. He charges the church 50.00/hr. Jason currently removes snow & donates snow removal from sidewalks. For salting, Jason charges around 350.00-\$400 depending on salt volume of product used. Motion made and passed for Jason to clean snow and salt for 2021. Thank you, Jason, for low rate!!

### **New Business**

1. Third floor has a roof leak. Jamie put a bucket under leak and run a hose to a drain to temporarily remove water. Jamie asked if it is possible to add slope to roof edge? Jamie said he will look for a contractor to repair and give an estimate. Superior Lumber may know a contractor who works on flat roofs. Not sure if repair can be performed in winter?
2. New board members - Ed Platte and Rusty Rogotzke.

Next meeting – February 2nd. Time? Greg will contact new board members to see if 5 PM would work. Greg will report what time works.

Meeting adjourned.

## **Board of Deacons, January 10, 2021 via Zoom**

**Present:** Pastor Russ, Kim Watkins, Ryan Venz, Jodi Reetz, [Scott Hansen](#)

**Opening:** Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

**Communion Attendance:** Dec. 24th - 157

Jan. 3rd - 85

- **Home Communion:** Kim asked how we can help Pastor Anita with home communion. Pastor Russ indicated she still has help from the congregation members that do home communion.
- Welcome to New Board Members: Kip Hauser and Diane Sande / Jodi Reetz and Mike Tracey have finished their term.
- **Reopening:** Church Council is discussing as early as Jan. 17, but that may be pushed back due to numbers. Reopening will look similar to the last reopening except, there will be no need to preregister or a seating chart. This is not necessarily due to low attendance.

**Deacon Schedule: Jan. 17 - Kim**

**Jan. 24 - Scott**

**Jan. 31 - Liz???**

**Feb. 7 - Ryan will plan on in-person and drive thru. (10:00-11:30)**

**Next meeting:** Feb. 14 @ 10:00 AM via zoom.

**Closing:** Closed with the Lord's Prayer

## **Family Board, January 6, 2021 via Zoom**

Amy Kubik opened the meeting with a prayer.

Thank you to Sharon and Jaclyn for your service to our board. This month is their last month.

Amy is the current Board chair and talked about her duties in this position. Jenisha is the current Secretary and discussed her duties as well. In February we can vote in new volunteers to these positions if wanted.

New board members will start in February. We are also currently looking for another person to be on our Board, so if you have any more names to recommend, please let Amy and/or Laurie know.

- Lent Event will be February 21st. We are going to do a “Lent in a bag” activity. Laurie will look for items that we can put together to be sent home with Sunday School packets. In February we will discuss if we want to do this activity by Zoom or by Pre-Recorded directions.
- We normally host an Easter egg hunt the beginning of April. With Covid, we are not sure if we will be in person at church or not yet, so we will hold off on more discussion on this for next meeting.

We closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

**Next meeting is** Wednesday February 3rd @7:30 via Zoom. Be watching your email for the link a day or so before the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jenisha Garden

## **Youth Board Meeting Minutes, January 7, 2020 via Zoom**

Opened with prayer at 5:32 pm

Members present: Lee Hoeft, JoAnn Hervert, Jessie Holm, Annabel McDonald (Youth)

**THANK YOU TO LYNNE AND WENDY for your service during your three years on the board!**

### **Old Business**

1. Update on Parish Ed and Family Board activities that involve St. John youth
  - a. Parish Ed is still working on plans for when we can go to in-person Sunday School.
  - b. The Family Board is working on Lent Event ideas.
  - c. Confirmation Food Drive(thru)
    - i. A LOT was donated!! 700 items were taken to the Food Bank in Charles City! - Great job Confirmation Students!

### **New Business**

1. Board Chair - JoAnn Hervert will fill this position.
2. Board Secretary - Jessie Holm will fill this position.
3. Working on a Youth Event idea for the next drive through communion date of February 7th. The idea is hot cocoa and cookies.

Adjourned the meeting with the Lord’s Prayer at 5:55pm.

**Next Meeting Date:** Thursday, February 4, at 5:30pm via Zoom or email

## **Stewardship Board, January 10, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Kathy Crooks, Bev Selvig, Gaylen Hicok, Pastor Russ, Sandie Quade

Meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Russ.

### **Kans for Kids:**

After input by our Board, a Kan's for Kids Donation Request Form has been prepared. Copies will be available in the office to be used for any future requests.

Sandie will follow-up with Whitney regarding a picture of the Pre-school kids using the easels that were donated. Kathy Crooks will compose a short write-up to go in the Newsletter/Bulletin to keep our members updated as to how their can donations are helping our St. John youth.

Sandie reported the current balance is \$1804.66 with payment still needed for 3 loads she had dropped off on December 22, 29 and January 5.

### **Announcement of New Board Members:**

New 3-year members are Diane Loudermilk and Dave Lindaman.

Kathy Crooks agreed to substitute for James Grob in 2021 so he can focus on his health issues. James will return to complete his 3-year term in 2022.

Sandie will call to welcome Diane and Dave to the Stewardship Board and invite them to help at our Share the Love Drive-thru meal February 14, 2021, which will also be our "1<sup>st</sup> meeting" for 2021.

Diane Loudermilk: cell: 641-330-8105 email: [loudermilkdiane@yahoo.com](mailto:loudermilkdiane@yahoo.com)

Dave Lindaman: cell: 563-320-5726 email: [lindaman@fbcom.net](mailto:lindaman@fbcom.net)

### **Meeting Time Change:**

We changed our meeting time to the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of each month, beginning March 16, 2021, at Quade's West Wing at 2:30 p.m.

Our February meeting will be the Share the Love drive-thru February 14, 2021.

### **Giving:**

Kathy C. will write up a short note to remind members to check their giving. If they are on Simple Giving, it is easy to make changes by just calling any changes to Linda Hughes. Electronic Giving is also available.

### **Future Discussions:**

Congregational Food Drive: Suggestions were having this during Lent or Advent. We will discuss this at a later date.

### **Planning for Share the Love Drive-thru Meal:**

We continued to plan for Sunday, February 14, 2021, drive-thru meal. We originally talked about having this for the community, but then it was agreed to keep it to St. John members. Kathy Crooks will write something up for the bulletin and February Newsletter and Pastor Russ will make announcements during services.

Bev will ask Kathy Hoeft for names of shut-ins and will call to see who would like a meal. She and John will deliver the meals.

Down payment of \$2200 had been sent to Doug Hollar to save the date. Sandie advised Linda Hughes of this 12/22/2020.

Sandie will respond to Greg Buenger's email requesting info regarding our plans so he can bring it up to the Council for approval Tuesday, January 12, 2021.

Stewardship Board will continue planning for this event via email.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandie Quade, Stewardship Chair