

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

**Church Council Meeting, September 14, 2021**

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

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

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Leeper opened with prayer.

**Agenda Approval:** Ron James made a motion to approve the agenda with the addition of an update on the audit, Jeremy Heyer an update on security cameras and a concern from Melanie Johanningmeier concerning the choir wearing masks. Judy Hughes second the motion. Motion Carries.

**Agenda Addition:** Update on an audit for the church, security cameras at entrances, and mask wearing pertaining to choir.

**Previous Month Minutes:** Ron James made a motion to approve the August 10, 2021, minutes, Judy Hughes second the motion. Motion Carries.

**Financial Report:**

Linda Hughes reviewed the financials for the year to date. She made some corrections on the reports and re-submitted them. Simply giving has continued to be steady but the regular weekly offering including loose change has been dropping. Linda mentioned there was a problem with the software, when someone donated to the preschool it shows as a negative in expenses. She is working with the software company to correct this issue. Year to date budget with spending has been given to each board as needed. Linda felt we need to add a line item for Pavement and Roof as these will be more major expenses. Judy Hughes made a motion to approve the financial report, Kathy Rogotzke second the motion. Motion carries.

**Monthly Benevolence:** Linda Hughes reported she had submitted a check to the Food Bank for the assistance with egg purchases as was decided at the previous month designation. Suggestion for this month's benevolence to be given to the Ministerium to help those in need with household utility assistance. Josh Johnson made a motion for this donation, Ron James second the motion. Motion carries.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Russ reported that he has had lots of positivity and happy faces as the congregation worked together for God's Work, Our Hands. Suggestion was made to make this an annual event for mission outreach. The Blessings Box is being used regularly and there has been a large number of items that have been taken and used from the box. Congregation will continue to monitor and hopefully keep it stocked adequately with donations. Pastor Russ requested 3 days for vacation from September 24-26. Judy Hughes made a motion to approve this vacation time, Judy Hughes second the motion. Motion Carries. Lifeline is still moving forward with the upgrade, and we are now waiting on the installation date. Pastor Russ mentioned you could just feel the joy in the air last Sunday with attendance at approximately 200 parishioners. He continues to receive inquires as to when we will return to 2 services. At this time the council is questioning if two services are needed with the attendance we are currently experiencing. Concern was raised about the Covid 19 numbers raising in our community. It was decided to collect more data before making a final decision. Kathy Rogotzke made a motion to stay at the one service at this time, Ron James second the motion. Motion Carries. It was decided to revisit the numbers in January to see if numbers have increased enough for the need to have 2 services.

**Board Reports:**

**Parish Ed:** Kathy Waldorf reported they still have numerous teachers needed for Sunday School. Vacation Bible School had a great attendance of around 68 children participating. They are organizing for Rally Sunday and the after-school program which will resume on October 6, 2021.

**Stewardship:** Judy Hughes reported funds had been given for the bible school attendees to attend cost free. The confirmands fee for confirmation has also been paid through the Cans for Kids fund.

**Deacons:** Carol Brahn reported the Deacons have discussed Consecration Sunday and were wondering if we should be having greeters on Sunday mornings at the doors and since we have combined the two services that name tags may be appropriate to get to know everyone.

**Family:** Reported that coffee and treats after church have been well received and people are starting to volunteer to bring the treats and serve.

**Finance:** Discussion about bills needing to be paid by Linda but need approval before meeting date of council. Scholarship Funds were discussed, and Monty Waldorf and Richard Olesen will be on a committee for that issue. Linda will take the budgeted money as well as cash donations to pay out the Epic Scholarships.

**Bldg. & Grounds:** Stucco and grout work has begun on the building. The need for security cameras at the doors of the church were discussed. A security camera could be placed at each door for a cost of \$4000 total. Work was done on the church bus. They also would like to explore plans to remodel to include a Welcome Center. Funds would come from the Sylvester funds.

**Communication:** Nothing to report

**Youth:** Nothing to report

**Preschool:** Has had two parent meetings and two open houses.

**Sound & Video:** Josh Johnson made a motion to approve \$4000.00 for the installation of new security cameras at each entrance to the building. Carol Brahn second the motion. Motion Carries.

**Covid 19:** After discussion on the current status of covid 19 it was decided to keep the church operating in the same manner as it currently is operating. Masks will be encouraged for non-vaccinated or anyone who feels more comfortable with a mask. The children will continue to be allowed to go to the front for the children's sermon. People are encouraged to social distance if that is their personal preference. Carol Brahn made a motion to continue practicing the current Covid 19 guidelines that church has been using, Ron James second the motion. Motion Carries.

**Visitation Pastor:** Tabled for now

**Audit:** Tabled for now.

**Nominating Committee:** Names were suggested and will be contacted to serve on this committee.

**New Council Member:** Names were suggested for future council members.

**Next Council Meeting:** Tuesday October 12, 2021, at 6:00 PM in the Parish Hall.

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

Closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted

Connie Swant

Council Secretary, Pro-temp

**St John Finance Board Minutes September 2021**

No minutes for this month.

## **St John Buildings & Grounds September 7, 2021; Parish Hall**

**Members in attendance:** Rusty Rogotzke, Mike Quade, Tyler Kubik, Jeremy Heyer, Ana Blickenderfer, Jamie Carolan, Pastor Leeper, Greg Heidebrink (guest)

Welcome from Jeremy Heyer with Chairman Begemann absent.

Opening prayer from Pastor Leeper.

Rusty motioned to approve the agenda, Mike second, motion passed.

Motion made by Mike to approve the August 2021 minutes, second by Ana, motion passed.

### **Old Business:**

1. Welcome Center – Greg Heidebrink attended at Committee request to review ideas and thoughts for installing a Welcome Center in the Narthex. Greg had previously worked on this. Committee and Greg went to the Narthex and discussed ideas. Southwest wall with the monitor, was discussed to repaint or different wall covering. Put a welcome sign and shelf/cabinetry for coffee and treats. Goal is to keep people in the Narthex after church, feeling is that people will not walk down to the Parish Hall. Next was to move the glass display case to the southwest wall, replacing the rotating cabinet. In its place, narrow cabinets for sign-ups and an information board. Southwest wall, try to remove the built-in info/bulletin board. Greg to sketch ideas.
2. Parking Lot & curbing cement – No update, still planning to be done this Fall when DeBoest has time.
3. Facia Board – Craig absent, no update on replacing the facia board.
4. Canopy Stucco repair – Stucco repair company coming to St John on Monday 9/13 to get started.
5. Parsonage under-cabinet lights (kitchen) – Jeremy has been to the parsonage and has pictures of existing lights. Working on sourcing appropriate replacements.
6. Exterior Paint @ Parsonage – No update.
7. Security Cameras – Requests from Staff and others to get cameras functioning. This is a project that we do not have entirely budgeted for, but it needs to be completed. Jeremy to discuss with Dennis Sande and/or Greg Buenger to add to the Council Mtg for 9/14.
8. Food Pantry – Ana reported that it is almost completed and confirmed it will be done by Sunday for installation.
9. Bus Inspection – Ana reported that Adam has the bus and is almost done with it. He has found an issue with the drag link and battery rack. Both being repaired/replaced. He found the brake lines are extremely rusted and recommended that they be replaced before the bus is taken out of town. Fuel line will need to be replaced soon too. Jeremy raised concern that the speedometer is inaccurate as well. When driving 65 mph on the freeway, speedometer shows 55 mph. Slower speed, less discrepancy and faster, more discrepancy. Adam to look at the speedometer and Board approved work on replacing the brake lines. Ana said he will have it done before the After School Program starts.

### **New Business:**

1. Use of Building... River City Chorus on Tuesday 9/21/21 - approved
2. Use of Bus... nothing new. Inspection and repairs covered in Old Business.
3. Sanctuary Window Covering – Discuss options to cover the window behind the screen. Projector screen is transparent and stained-glass window lets in light that obscures the image on the screen. We had put a shaped fiberglass piece over the window with Velcro strips. It's falling, so Jamie secured it with some brad nails. Discussed an automatic shade, but Committee agreed to keep the fiberglass for now.
4. Outside Cross – Sylvester family would like to fund this project. We used to have three wooden crosses out front and want to rebuild. Jamie to come up with plans for building and installing something out of steel that can tilt down.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer at 6:10pm

Minutes submitted by Jeremy Heyer on 9/14/21

## **Board of Deacons, September 8, 2021**

**Present:** Scott Hansen, Kip Hauser, Liz Hamm, Kim Watkins, Carol Brahn (liaison), Ryan Venz, Melanie Johanningmeier, Diane Sande, Pastor Russ Leeper

Opening Prayer – Pastor Leeper

1. A sign-up sheet was emailed out and passed around at the meeting for September, October, November, and December worship services.
2. Discussion was held on when to go back to 2 services. Prior to COVID-19, attendance was 300+/-.  
Livestream is very close to being completed. We will continue to monitor attendance and the new CDC guidelines to determine when the right time will be to go back to 2 services.
3. Kim and Liz will be completing their terms this year. We brainstormed names of possible replacements:
  - a. Linda Johnson
  - b. Brent Hinz
  - c. Julie DeBower
  - d. Wayne McClintock
  - e. Carol Bauer
4. Deacons/Servers are being asked to meet in the Sacristy prior to the church service start to pray and discuss details of the worship.
5. Building and Grounds and the Communication boards are discussing the possibility of a “Welcome Center” in the Narthex. It was discussed about the idea of having a greeter, nametags, etc. to make it easier for new members. We want to always be a welcoming congregation and go above and beyond to make sure we are happy to see them at our church.

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next Meeting: Sunday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM in the Chapel.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ryan R. Venz

## **Family Board, September 15, 2021**

### **Old Business:**

- Still have a spot open on the board. Let Laurie know if you have any suggestions.
- Rally Sunday went well- Laurie made the perfect number of cinnamon rolls and we also had bars and cookies from Family Board Members
- Passed our idea on to Janet for the sesquicentennial: Family oriented game/project.

### **New Business:**

- Keeping ministry support at \$550 per year
- 25 cent Store will be held December 5 from 11am-1pm. Doors will open to St. John members at 11:00, general public at 11:30.
- Need to put in bulletin that we are accepting donations for the 25-cent store
  - Talked about putting a flyer in the blessing box outside of church when it gets closer: can talk to the building and grounds about it if we need help.

-Decided to move board meetings to the 4th Sunday of the month so. next meeting is October 24 at 11am in the fireside room

## **Stewardship Board, September 21, 2021**

PRESENT: Bev Selvig, Kathy Crooks, Diane Loudermilk, Dave Lindaman, Sandie Quade, Pastor Russ, Judy Hughes, Pastor Mark Anderson

Meeting began with Pastor Mark leading discussion regarding Consecration Sunday.

### **KANS FOR KIDS:**

Sandie reported the balance of Kans for Kids is \$3,324.66, plus 4 loads still needing payment. Dave said he also dropped off 1000 cans, tagged for Kans for Kids, which we will also need payment.

After discussion the following was agreed upon. (Sandie to fill out request forms and distribute copies)

1. \$100 to be transferred to “Coats for Kids” account, to be used to buy socks, mittens, hats, boots, snow pants or coats. Copies to Laurie Jansen and Lisa Kreger who are in charge of Coats for Kids. Kathy Crooks to put write up in bulletin and Newsletter.
2. \$100 to be transferred to the “After School Fun Program” so registration will be FREE. Registration fee is \$10 each. This is for 4-year-olds through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. Copy to Laurie Heidebrink. Laurie is to let us know when there are more than 10 kids registered so we can discuss adding more money for registration. This also includes kids that are not St. John kids. Kathy Crooks to put write up in bulletin and Newsletter.
3. \$200 to be transferred to the “Wednesday night Meal” account. All kids, Pre-school through graduation, will be able to eat FREE. This also includes friends of our St. John kids. Shirley Ripley said that the charge for kids is \$2 per plate. Copy to Shirley. Once 100 kids have received the FREE meal, Stewardship should be notified, so we can discuss adding more funding. Kathy Crooks to put a write up in the bulletin and Newsletter.

We also continued our discussion of donating to the Bible Camp Scholarship fund. Linda had told Sandie that 2 kids had gone to camp this year. The Bible Camp Scholarship fund had reimbursed each \$125. She said that the balance in that fund is \$2022.80. It was decided that we would not donate money to the fund at this time.

There was also discussion regarding giving each employee at the B&S Redemption a \$25 gift card from Kwik-Star. This would be a “tip” saying thank you for their work. (It’s not a pretty job.) Sandie will get with Stacy Lentz and report back at our next meeting.

Meeting closed with prayer by Pastor Russ

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, October 19, 2021, 2:30 p.m. at Sandie’s

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandie Quade  
Chair

## Youth Board Meeting Minutes, September 8, 2021

Present: Lydia Johnson, Jessie Holm, Ann Prichard, Sydney Hinz-Youth, Cooper Holm-Youth, Doug Holm-Council, Laurie Heidebrink

**PRAYER** at 5:03pm to open the meeting

### **Old Business**

1. Youth questionnaire – We will give out at Confirmation. We will send email to 5th through 12th.
  - a. (Lydia is going to make a google form & get it out to our board for approval).
    - i. *What is your name?*
    - ii. *What grade are you in?*
    - iii. *Tell about a time when you had fun at church.*
    - iv. *Which of these activities interest you?*
      1. *Ski trip to Welch Village in Minnesota*
      2. *Adventureland/Valley Fair trip*
      3. *A retreat*
      4. *Youth Bean Bag Tournament*
      5. *Gaga Ball*
    - b. *What are some suggestions you have for church activities for youth?*
    - c. *What day/time of the week would be best to participate in a church youth activity?*
    - d. *Would you be interested in being in a youth group?*
    - e. *If the church started a youth group, would you rather go Wednesday night or Sunday morning?*
    - f. *Would your parents be willing to help with a youth group?*
  - b. November 17, February 23 have been left open on the Confirmation schedule for the Youth board to plan large group nights. Please add these dates to calendars. Gaga Ball and Bean Bag Tournament were proposed as the activities for those two nights. Additional ideas needed for those kids who don't want to participate in group games.
  3. Burrito Breakfast– maybe 8-11:30am November 14<sup>th</sup>, maybe offer To-Go Boxes, Curbside Pickup, and Delivery?
  4. Cookies served after Christmas Program (December 12) due to program being from 9-10am this year, possibly bake cookies with youth on 11th

### **New Business**

1. St. John Youth t-shirts - tabling at this time.
2. Ministry Support Plan suggestion - our amount is \$500; we're going to ask for \$1000. That way if we plan a ski trip or an event like that, we will have money to help cover those who would like to go.

Closed the meeting at 5:49pm

In Christ,  
Jessie L. Holm

Next Meeting Date: Sunday, October 10, at 11am in the Fireside Room

## **St. John Parish Education Minutes, September 1, 2021**

Laurie opened with prayer

### **Old Business**

1. Sunday School
  - a. Teachers – we need to find teachers for 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>/4<sup>th</sup> grades.
  - b. Materials: curriculum ordered in August for fall semester (7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> change)
  - c. Calendar – SS starts September 19<sup>th</sup> at 10:05am
  - d. Superintendent – discussed who would pick up attendance envelopes, Linda, Rae Lynne and Mike can be available to take turns
2. VBS- ROCKY RAILWAY - July 26-29(Monday-Thursday) – 5:30-7:30pm
  - a. 58-64 attendees each day (=21 PreK + 37-43 Elem)
  - b. Went REALLY well!
  - c. Thanks to everyone who volunteered!

### **New Business**

1. Rally Sunday – Sunday, September 12
  - a. Family Bd will be providing refreshments
  - b. PE Responsible for taking registration forms for Sunday School and After School Programs
  - c. Registration table Linda and Rae Lynne
2. Confirmation Orientation: September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6pm
  - a. Need 3 helpers: Linda and Julie and Mike
3. After School Program begins October 6, 3:30-5pm
  - a. Laurie is Director, Kathy Waldorf will assist, list of subs for Kathy, MS & HS helpers
  - b. \$10 per student for 21 sessions
  - c. *3-2-1 Penguins!* for this year's videos
4. VBS 2022: Date: Discussed possibly holding in June since so many churches have switched to end of July and families are vacationing during “FAMILY WEEK”
  - a. Curriculum – Monumental is theme for *Group's Easy VBS* next year, may choose this one

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

Next meeting is Sunday, October 3, at 11:00am in the Fireside Room