

Lutheran Church of the Cross
Council Meeting Minutes
“Making Jesus Known by Sharing Our Gifts”
March 8, 2022, at 6:30 PM

Call to Order

President Cherie Krueger called the meeting to order at 6:37 PM.

In attendance Pastor Lisa Ahlness, Deacon Janie Hague, Administrative Assistant Connie Werner, President Cherie Krueger, Vice President Mike Human, Secretary Kari Harris, Ron Borth, Mike Geiermann, Sarah Dahl, Janice Martin, and Treasurer Art Wheeler.

Devotions

Pastor Lisa led the Council in opening prayer.

Approval of February Minutes

Ron moves/Jan seconds, approved.

Missouri Slope

President Cherie invites guest Paul Gerholt to update the Council on the Missouri Slop Care Center Love Your Neighbor Campaign at LCC to finance finish and furnishing the north campus chapel. The campaign was organized by Pastor Lisa, Paul, Stacy Krumweide, and Doug Johnson. There is a \$25,000 match available, and a goal has been set to raise \$25,000 for a total of \$50,000 over 5 years. The campaign runs from April 3- May 8th. Campaign mailers go out to congregation members April 4th inviting pledges. Palms and Pancakes breakfast will be held April 10th. There will be various Temple Talks and Videos.

Treasurer’s Report

Mike H moves/Ron seconds acceptance of report. Approved.

Liability Insurance: Art provides an update on Underwriter’s Insurance which covers everything but the building. Cost is \$1865 for April 2022 to April 2023. This is \$932.50 x 3 installments. Bain Insurance has reviewed the quote and recommends that LCC accept.

Ron moves to accept the offer/Mike H seconds. Approved.

Other: Quick Books: on page 9 and 10: is the council satisfied with the Excel format? Yes.

Ron asks about the 3% interest on the promissory notes planned for June 2023.

Sarah asks about possibility of obtaining a higher rate of interest on checking and savings. Art will check with Bravera Bank.

Pastor’s Report

Pastor Lisa reports she has been preaching and continuing her usual weekly/monthly activities. She notes that emails can be added to receive the Bible study information for the Wired Word. She has been working on Endowment, ELCA gift planning, and meeting with Ken Will regarding the Foundation. LCC with host the Easter vigil on Saturday with 3 other churches. Holy week is coming in April, and the

Legacy Education Series continues after church on select Sundays. Pastor continues to serve on the Board of Camp of the Cross and attended the Foundation/annual meeting. Other events and activities were the healing service, the Missouri Slope Campaign, and the Council Retreat.

Deacon's Report

Deacon Janie is working on Lent activities (God is Still with Us theme), and as an ELCA Synod coach with 2 series (How to Lead When We Don't Know Where We Are Going and Growing Young). She reports there was a lot of good feedback for the Healing Service and the discussion group and some interest in having a Healing Service more often. There were 4 youth at group this month and 3 skiing. A youth Group study series will begin, and there is information in the bulletin. LCC will take place in the Palm Sunday Scavenger Hunt (drive by style) on a walk-through Holy week. There are "Mock-Ins" (mini lock in) scheduled jointly with other churches for March 25th for middle school and April 29th for 8-12 grades. March 19th is service project day for all ages of either working at Harmony Stables or Ministry on the Margins at 10 AM, with lunch and debriefing at the church at 12PM. While meeting with other Youth Directors, most all note that there has been decreased attendance. Directors are looking to use joint activities to increase participation. Deacon Janie has also been gathering Deacons for a monthly meeting.

Family Coordinator

A committee was formed at this meeting to meet regarding the charitable gift received by LCC for family activities. Pastor Lisa, Deacon Janie, Art Wheeler and Kari Harris will meet regarding this to generate suggestions for the Council.

Worship Coordinator

There have been no applications, but there have been some leads. This position may need to be split into 2 positions: Coordinator and another accompanist, if the coordinator is not able to fill that need. Council should direct persons interested in either position to the church.

Organizational Charts

Council members shared contact information regarding everyone's new portfolio assignments.

New Business

Buildings and Grounds

Ron asks if there are funds available for lawn service in the fall and area of sidewalk that needs repair. Council reports that Baron Blanchard has been graciously mowing the yard. Ken Will has been treating for weeds. There will likely be a clean up day on May 11th with the Confirmation kids.

Discussion was made of the sidewalk around the church as well as behind it. It was discussed that buildings and grounds could get 3 estimates for the work and Mike H brought up the issue of releasing our easement on the west sidewalk as it no longer leads to the parsonage.

Sound system

A request by Robin was made to bring in the company that set up the sound system in our sanctuary for re-evaluation and re-training session. A cost estimate was not presented at this time. If this needs to be

performed immediately/before Holy Week a motion was made to approve \$500 towards this activity by Kari and seconded by Ron. Approved.

Council Website Message

There is a place on the Church website for a message from the Council or President (currently there is an older version of the Church/CDC statement regarding masks and social distancing). There was discussion and review of the updated CDC COVID recommendations. Since Burleigh County is medium to low risk now, there is no mask recommendation indoors for healthy people. This item would fall under the Congregational Operations/Communications and social media. Mike H will contact Tom Harris to post on website a statement that LCC will follow CDC recommendations so that it will not need to be updated when there are changes to recommendations.

Worship and music committee update

A request was made to be able to have the children be invited back up to the front of the Church for the Children's sermon. The consensus is to resume the children coming forward for children's sermon, passing the offering baskets and to resume normal communion in April.

Sitting area outside to the South of the front door of the Church

There was a memorial given (\$3600) to LCC for this project some time ago. The sitting area was designed by Brett Gurholt and was set up to look like a cross. There is a piece of wood from a large tree that had been removed from the property and has been in storage, that will serve as the bench. Council (Mike H, Cherie) will ask Brett to a meeting to re-start this project.

Cleaners

The staff report that our current cleaners (J&M) are not doing a thorough job and have not been putting in the agreed upon number of hours/people. They recommend that we look for other options. Janie has a lead on someone who has cleaned churches before. She and Mike H will meet with this individual tomorrow.

Thank-you gift for Robin as she finishes her time as Worship coordinator

Cherie asks for ideas for Robin, as her going away Sunday celebration is April 24th (her last day is May 1), which is only a few days after the next council meeting.

Next meeting will be April 21st at 6:30 PM— this date is changed due to fact that 2nd Thursday is Maundy Thursday.

Please see the following addendum page for email communication summaries and votes.

Email communications following the 3/8/22 meeting

Cleaner: Janie and Mike met with Doug Sprynczynatyk. Deacon Janie was pleased with the meeting and Doug pointed out some routine service that had not been completed, such as fire suppression unit, and estimated it would take him an average of 3 hrs 2x/wk to complete the work requested. Art W. calculated some numbers on adding Doug as an employee (taxes, withholding, FICA etc), not a contractor, as Doug does not have his own business. (3/10/22)

$\$20/\text{hr} \times 6 \text{ hrs/wk} = \$120 \text{ per wk} \times 41 \text{ wks} = \$4920 \times .0765$ is an add'l \$377 in SS & Med.

$\$23/\text{hr} \times 6 \text{ hrs/wk} = \$138 \text{ per wk} \times 41 \text{ wks} = \$5658 \times .0765$ is an add'l \$433 in SS & Med.

$\$25/\text{hr} \times 6 \text{ hrs/wk} = \$150 \text{ per wk} \times 41 \text{ wks} = \$6620 \times .0765$ is an add'l \$470 in SS & Med.

J & M will have rec'd \$1575 by Mar. 14. That leaves \$6425 in the fiscal year budget of \$8,000 for Custodians.

On behalf of Buildings and Grounds, Mike H asked the council to consider starting pay at \$23/hr with a \$2/hr increase to \$25/hr in July with satisfactory performance (3/10/22).

On March 15th, **Mike H moves:** That the LCC Church Council terminate the contract with Janitorial Service with J&M Cleaning Service and make the following offer to Doug Sprinzynatic: Starting pay at \$23/hour with a \$2/hour increase to \$25 per hour beginning July 1, 2022, which is the end of an approximate 3.5-month probation period (June 30th 2022) contingent on satisfactory performance during the probation period. **Sarah Dahl seconds the motion. By email, the motion passes 5 votes to 1.**

President Cherie reviewed J&M's contract and did not see any requirement for advance notice. She will draw up a termination notice for J&M Cleaners.

Auto Owners premium

An email was sent by Treasurer Art W to the Council regarding payment of the Auto Owners company insurance premium on the church building. He requested council approval to pay the premium early to save \$813 dollars. The payment would be \$7,843 which is included in the 2022 budget. Sufficient council members replied in the affirmative, and this payment was sent.

Robins gift

Kari motioned and Ron seconded that Robins church computer and/or a gift card be given to her as a gift. 7 votes in favor to approve the motion (April 7th).