

**HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
*October 10, 2023 @ 6:00pm Admin Building*

***Mission Statement: Worshiping and growing together in Christ serving and reaching out joyfully to all.***

***Vision Statement: As disciples of Jesus, Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church believes we are called to be in relationship with God, with God's people and with God's world everyday.***

**Decisions Made:**

- Council passed a motion to accept the gift of a new organ.

**Present:** Lisa Grimm, president; Diane Jowell, vice president; Scott Ikenberry, treasurer; Judy Ekberg, secretary; Melinda Powelson, personnel chair; Susan Linner, At large; Taz Walkowich, At large; Pastor Julie Brooks; Pastor Kim Gonia.

**Call to Order:** 6:02 pm

**Opening Devotion/Prayer:** President Lisa Grimm presented a summary of the recent presentation “Fear, Doubt and Contemplation” by Brian McLaren. He outlines four stages of faith, where doubt occurs between stages and propels one to the next stage: 1. *Simplicity*, when we believe what we’re taught in church; 2. *Complexity*, when we begin to question; 3. *Perplexity*, we see things from a different perspective; 4. *Harmony/Solidarity*, in this stage one sees things from Love. He believes it’s important to incorporate contemplation/centering prayer.

**Book Discussion:** We discussed Chapter 6 “The Thriving Church Organization” from the book Kicking Habits written by Thomas G. Bandy. The thriving church features spiritual awakening, sharing one’s experience of the transforming power of God, as well as being gifted, called and sent. How does this capture our imaginations for Holy Shepherd? Ideas included events that are already happening or could happen: small group discussions, groups with a sense of purpose, such as Busy Bees, mission team, subgroups of mission team, Eiber school, West Latino ministry, immigration, sharing individual stories, monthly dinner groups, progressive dinners, ministry fair to spark interest and connections, and centering prayer group.

**Reports:**

Pastor Julie - The office staff and council president attended a presentation by Brian McLaren at the Center for Contemplative Living. His description of the stages of faith summarized by Lisa at the beginning of today’s council meeting was particularly helpful.

Pastor Kim - Immediately following the Children’s Message on Sunday mornings, we now have “Children’s Church” when the children may accompany an adult for an extended learning activity. Also, “Faith Talk,” an opportunity for older children to explore faith and questions, will occur after each worship service.

Pastor Kim will be traveling during the last two weeks of October, participating in an ecumenical trip to Greece and Rome.

**Treasurer Report:** Summary of the income statements:

1. Giving through August 2023 was (\$57,600) under our 2023 Budget, but \$8,300 over our giving through August 2022.
2. Expenses through August 2023 were (\$30,000) under our 2023 Budget and (\$17,800) under our expenses through August 2022.
3. Bottom Line: Our actual loss through August 2023 of approx (\$27,200) was \$26,100 less than our loss of approx (\$53,300) through August 2022

**Continuing Business:**

1. Stewardship - Council president Lisa Grimm will give a Temple Talk on November 12 about Stewardship. Melanie Durham, office manager, will have a table set up for individuals to enroll in the Simply Giving program.
2. The Vision Team has been meeting with Pastor Julie and exploring the “why” of church. They are thinking about Holy Shepherd’s sense of passion and giftedness. They are also reading Kicking Habits.
3. Council positions that are available for new nominees are president, vice president, and secretary. More detailed information will be published in the weekly Happenings.

**New Business:**

1. The Missions Team is sponsoring a blood drive at Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church on Monday, October 30, 2023. Please sign up to participate.
2. Future blood drive dates will be Sunday, March 3, 2024 and Sunday, June 30, 2024.
3. A generous gift of a new church organ has been offered to Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church. Discussion ensued. Taz Walkowich made a motion to accept the gift of a new organ. The motion was seconded by Diane Jowell. The motion passed. DECISION MADE: Council accepted the gift of a new church organ.

**Closing Prayer:** Melinda Powelson

**Adjournment:** 8:04 pm

**Next Meeting:** November 14, 2023 at 6:00pm in the Admin Building

**Impact Statement:** How does this council’s discussion impact our part of the world?

Council’s discussion was a rich exchange of reactions and ideas based on the review of Brian McLaren’s presentation and reading about “the thriving church.” We shared ideas to infuse creativity and vigor into small group discussions church-wide, thus growing together and prompting us to reach out joyfully to all.

**Approval of minutes:** October 12, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Ekberg, Secretary