

HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
December 12, 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.

Action Items:

1. Staff compensation will be a topic for the January 2024 council meeting.
2. Budget hearing will be on Sunday, January 21 at 11:00am to provide a preview before the annual meeting.
3. Annual meeting will be Sunday, January 28 at 11:30
4. Sound System: Microphones, pastors headsets and speakers are not functioning well. We expect to have a bid in January 2024 to replace these items.

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

Call to Order: 6:04pm

Opening Devotion/Prayer Diane Jowell presented a prayer from a newsletter publication. Although the prayer is a Lenten season prayer, it resonates all year long. Lines from the prayer included the following: “Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them. Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude. Fast from gossip; Feast on purposeful silence. Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that sustains. Fast from worry; Feast in faith.” (author unknown)

Book Discussion: Kicking Habits by Thomas G. Bandy Chapter 8 “Congregational Spirituality.” The author continues his efforts to motivate a congregation to move from complacent recitation of the liturgy and passive listening to the message and to move toward talking about spiritual transformation and listening for God. He asks the question: How can our experience with Jesus in worship change lifestyles and motivate serious growth?

Council’s discussion of this chapter included the freshness and variety that has been a part of Holy Shepherd Lutheran Church for many years, such as varying the lectionary calendar, using a variety of creeds and wording, using different Bible translations and interpretations, alternating praise team and choir, using piano, keyboard, guitar, brass, and string in addition to organ music.

Reports:

Pastor Julie- Vision Team has completed its work with a draft vision statement: “Trusting God and Loving the World.”

Pastor Kim- has identified her areas of responsibility within the categories of Preaching/Worship Leadership; Member Care; Faith Formation; Community Connection; and Communication/Media.

Treasurer Report Summary:

1. Giving through November 2023 was (\$57,400) under our 2023 budget, but \$26,300 over our giving through November 2022.
2. Expenses through November 2023 were (\$51,600) under our 2023 budget and (\$30,200) under our expenses through November 2022.
3. Bottom Line: Our actual loss through November 2023 of approx. (\$5,900) was \$56,400 less than our loss of approx (\$62,300) through November 2022! This is worth celebrating!

Comments on the Balance Sheet:

1. We still have Cash Balances of approx. \$124,000 in excess of our Liabilities and Reserve requirement as of November 30, 2023. Our cash balances were increased by a special gift of \$15,049 in October for Property & Grounds.

Continuing Business:

1. Council Positions: vacancies are president, vice president, and secretary.

Note to our congregation: Please prayerfully consider taking a role and leading us in continuing our growth into the future. *You may nominate yourself or someone else. Speak to a pastor or a council member regarding your questions or nominations.*

New Business:

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Closing Prayer: Diane Jowell

Adjournment: 7:56 pm

Next Meeting: January 9, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Approval of minutes: December 15, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Ekberg, Secretary