

**HOLY SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

December 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. in the Administration Building

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

Vision Statement: Trusting God + Loving the World

Decisions Made: No formal decisions were made.

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Present: Kathleen Clark, President; Michael Boehm, Vice President; Tom Teske, Secretary; Scott Ikeberry, Treasurer; Melinda Powelson, Personnel; Susan Linner, At Large Member; Pastor Julie Brooks; Pastor Kim Gonia.

Call to Order: 6:02

Opening Devotion/Prayer: Pastor Kim Gonia led a seasonal devotion and prayer.

Book Discussion: Pastor Julie led the discussion of the “Conclusion” in the book *Leading Faithful Innovation*. We were encouraged to focus on needs around us rather than needs of the congregation. We also are encouraged as groups or congregations to be in conversation with other groups or congregations.

REPORTS

Treasurer Report: Scott alerted the council to problems we’ve been experiencing with our credit card and our outdoor mailbox being broken into. He is counting on the usual big December offerings to catch up on the current budget shortfall (some \$77,000), with hopes that this might end the year around \$50,000. He will be giving a temple talk this Sunday (December 15th). His report is attached.

Pastor Kim: Kim spoke to us about the “Blue Christmas Service” planned for Friday, December 20th at 3 PM, noting that this season for some can be full of grief. She also reported that a new format for the Friday email is being worked on, using the Mail Chimp program. Her report is attached.

Pastor Julie: Julie reported that Christi Young has volunteered for the significant position of coordinator for Fellowship (including serving for the many funerals that we have been having recently). Her report is attached.

Continuing Business

- Regarding the Ruth Huebner Gift, the Property Committee has a wish list of possible projects, the major ideas of which will be presented to the Council.
- The Fellowship team has decided not to apply to the Trust Fund for a grant for the Sunday fellowship clean-up.
- Preparation for the January annual meeting will take place early in January, including the amendment to the constitution (C12.01) regarding voting membership for the pastors and the printing of the annual report.
- Regarding Community Outreach, a grant was received for digital ESL classes through the Jefferson County Library. Classes were held November 17th through December 8th. These classes provide free chrome books and internet access (one year) for people who attended all of the classes. Pam Klentz, Amy Evancheck, and Diane Klinkerfues organized activities and lunches for the children whose parents

attended these classes. Kevin Klinkerfues said that there could be more classes planned, but they would not be held on Sundays.

- The Social Activities Committee has planned for an Adult Christmas Party on Friday, December 13th from 1 to 3 p.m. In addition, a January lunch is planned in celebration of the Chinese New Year.
- There has been some limited response to the transportation offer. Mike continues to work on that.
- The February Council Retreat is scheduled for Saturday, February 22nd.

New Business:

- A lengthy discussion was held regarding the current financial position of the church, with significant funds set aside for special purposes, while there is a shortfall in budget expenses.
- The Sunday Adult Forum for January 12th will feature a presentation from the Immigration Team led by Chad Corman from Lutheran Family Services on ways that Holy Shepherd could possibly co-sponsor a refugee family through Lutheran Family Services.

Closing Prayer: Kim led us in prayer, followed by specific prayer requests from each of the Council members.

Adjournment: 7:40

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 14th, 6:00 PM.

Impact Statement: Significant areas of outreach include in relation to the ESL classes and potential work with a refugee family.

Approval of minutes:

COUNCIL CORNER:

At the Church Council meeting on Tuesday, December 10th, following a devotion and opening prayer from Pastor Kim, Pastor Julie led a discussion based on the Conclusion of the book we have been reading, *Leading Faithful Innovation*. Treasurer Scott Ikenberry called attention to some credit card concerns, the breaking into of our mailbox, and an approximately \$77,000 shortfall thus far in 2024. He will be offering a temple talk on December 15th. The Property Committee is preparing a wish list for potential uses of the Ruth Huebner Gift. Planning is beginning for the annual congregational meeting in January. Two significant outreach opportunities include a Jefferson County Library sponsored ESL class and the potential of co-sponsoring a refugee family with Lutheran Family Services (information on that will be shared in the January 12th Adult Forum). The Social Activities Committee has planned for an Adult Christmas Party on Friday, December 13th from 1 to 3 p.m. In addition, a January lunch is planned in celebration of the Chinese New Year.

Tom Teske, Secretary