

Council Minutes

December 18, 2023, 6:00 pm

Attending: Dan Strehlow, Deborah Dreher, Natalie Carda, Marjorie Peterson, Pam Hoffman, Abby Mattimiro, Pastor Geier and Lois Twedt

Call to Order by President Dan Strehlow at 5:57 p.m.

Secretary's Report, Lois Twedt

Deborah made a motion to accept the Secretary's Report. Pam seconded the motion. The Secretary's Report was approved.

Treasurer Deborah Dreher

No Council Action Required

Review of November 2023 Financial Reports: Comparing Actual Giving to Budget, Giving is under Budget by 12.7% and Expenses are 30 % under Budget. Our overall financial situation is still favorable. Net Income is \$80,988. Historically, we receive higher than normal weekly offerings during the month of December. For the first two weeks of December 2023, that appears to be happening again!

The congregation Budget Review session will be held after worship on Sunday, January 28, 2024.

A motion was made by Natalie and seconded by Abby to accept the November Treasurer's Financial Report. The motion passed.

Vice President Sadie Reiners

No Council Action Required

- The Coffee Maker at the welcome center was repaired by Paul Swanstrom.
- Restroom handle repair was done by Steve Wolverton.
- Kitchen fan cleaning was done by Bill Pavlish.
- Shovels and salt were placed in vestibule by Bill Pavlish.
- A quote of \$3,000 was received to clean the sanctuary seats, all folding chairs plus the narthex chairs. This project will happen after the first of the year.
- Latest issue is the decision to sign an annual contract with Plunkett Pest Control which means there would be quarterly oversight of all mice bait boxes and a deterrent put around the foundation for ants. ELC staff is aware of this and agrees to the safeguards of such treatments. Annual contract fee for this service is \$950. The committee delayed entering into this service due to cost but a recent influx of mice in an ELC classroom plus sightings of mice visits in other parts of the building has helped us make the decision to go ahead with a contract.
- A lift was rented in late November for the purpose of installing halogen bulbs in the chancel or front part of the sanctuary where the ceiling is the highest. This type of bulb offers more light as opposed to LED

bulbs. The current cans or fixtures will not accommodate LED bulbs successfully. Steve Wolverton, Bruce Arndtson, Bill Pavlish, Denny Kohn and Wayne Fahlstrom helped get the 3 1/2 hour job done.

Serving Ministry Report--Pam Hoffman

No Council Action Required

Fellowship Ministry

Christmas cards (29) were addressed and sent to those who may be having a tough year due to health, death in the family or home bound.

St Philip's notecards will be sent to recent confirmands on their Affirmation of Baptism.

Philadazzle was well received. 76 attended and enjoyed dinner and music by the Eagan Men's Chorus. Troop 23 scouts served the meal and cleaned up.

Birthday cards continue to be sent to staff members.

Stewardship

The Stewardship Ministry Team carried through its theme "Community Grows Here" by the introduction of the mural in Sept. titled, "For Unto Us is Born A Child". Fifty-nine members completed the painting in under one month.

Stewardship temple talks were done in Sept. Oct. and Nov. by Al Todnem, Tom Bullington and Carlos Villavicencio.

Stewardship mailings were compiled and mailed out to 300 households in mid-November. The enclosed brochure depicted the theme "Community Grows Here" along with a pledge card, pastor's letter and return envelope.

A complimentary Pancake /Sausage breakfast was served on Stewardship Sunday, Dec. 10 with 120 members attending. There is no report at this time as to pledge envelopes received..

Members have until the end of December to return their envelope. Last year 110 pledge cards were returned. It is hoped that there will be an increase in that return this year. All those giving through Simply Giving are not included in this number.

HR Report—Natalie Carda

No Council Action Required

There was no report from the HR team.

Worship Ministry Report— Marjorie Peterson

No Council Action Required.

Service de-brief:

Attendance at services is now averaging 150. There were 55 in attendance at the Thanksgiving ecumenical service and \$900 was brought in for local charities.

Due to requests, John Diischer will be asked to increase the timer by a few seconds for the announcements on screen.

Christmas planning:

Dec. 21 - Blue Christmas service

Dec. 23 - Flower set up, candle and communion prep

Dec. 24 - A map will be provided for positions of communion servers at the 3:00 pm service. Flowers may be taken home after the 5:00 pm service.

Music scheduling was done.

Other items:

Marjorie Peterson's term on council will be up in February. No one from this team has volunteered, so the nominating committee will secure someone for this position. Becky Raimaan will continue to serve as this team's chair.

Plans were made to organize the Children's Busy Bags.

Pastor Geier asked us to consider the continuation for the use of the Revised Common Lectionary.

Looking ahead:

Feb. 14 - Ash Wednesday

March 31- Easter Sunday

Learning Ministries Report –Abby Mattimiro

No Council Action Required

Preschool:

No report

ASG:

Old Business: from last month, updated:

Dec 3: Chuck Clanton on non-monetary giving

Dec 10: Stewardship Sunday – breakfast associated with that, no Adult Forum

Dec 17: Sunday School Program, ? Something on Christmas, maybe from Wired Word?? See if Kathy Ludke wants to do something Christmasy if WW doesn't seem to go that route. Doug Schultz to lead Wired Word if Kathy doesn't want to do something and he will be responsible for touching bases with Kathy.

Dec 24: Christmas Eve, no Adult Forum

Dec 31: Wired Word led by Jennie Thomas

New Business:

Jan plan:

Jan 7: Wired Word led by Chuck Clanton

Jan 14: Lisa Bergert on Domestic Violence

Jan 21: Pastor – “talk back” on the sermon

Jan 28: Budget review

Lisa: Has ideas of things she might be able to talk about:

Domestic Violence—prevalence, way to break the silence

How to help someone

Homelessness—Hastings/HS Students

Other ideas:

1. Gun Control

2. Indigenous reparations

3. Last Sunday in Jan for budget review.

4. Possible Narrative Lectionary in fall or not.

5. Pastor would like to do one Adult Forum session a month

Faith Formation:

No report

Communication/Marketing/Tech Report – Warren Thomas

No Council Action Required

Nothing new to report.

Pastor Geier – December 2023 Council Report

- I have tried to attend or at least be in touch with our ministry teams and think that they all have been doing an admirable job in their respective spheres of ministry even though some are in critical need of additional members.
- I have attended several school events to support our young members and connect with their parents including:
 - o Middle school orchestra on November 21st
 - o 5th & 6th grade band concert on December 4th
 - o 5th grade vocal music concert and 6th grade vocal music concert on December 7th
 - o HS Band and Orchestra Holiday concert on December 12th
 - o JV Basketball game on December 14th.
 - o 7th grade vocal music concert and 8th grade vocal music concert on December 14th
 - o HS Holiday vocal concert on December 16th
- I attended the Hastings Ministerial Association on November 22nd St. Philip's hosted this group on December 13th.
- I attended our synod candidacy meeting on November 30th.
- The Philadazzle on December 3rd was a success.
- I led our preschool chapel on November 28th & 29th, and on December 13th & 14th.
- I attended our synod's south conference meeting on December 14th.
- I have visited our members who are homebound or in nursing homes.
- Team teaching confirmation with Carlos Villavicencio and Kristian Ronning continues to work well.
- I lead worship at Oak Ridge on November 29th and at Regina on December 6th.
- We need to determine the ministries that will receive our tithe from miscellaneous offerings and garage sale proceeds.
- We need to provide updated constitutional changes required by the ELCA to members prior to our annual meeting.

Thanks for your partnership in the Gospel.

Your Servant in Christ,

Gregory A. Geier, Pastor

Old Business

We will ask Ruby's Pantry Committee for a report in January.

New Business

Following discussion on Tithe offerings, garage sale and miscellaneous offerings, Deborah made a motion to name our 'local' organizations as Hastings Family Service and United Way Food for Kids. The motion was seconded by Natalie and passed. Abby moved to name 211 United Way which serves youth mental health and My Very Own Bed as our 'beyond' organizations. The motion was seconded by Natalie and approved by Council. Each organization will receive 25% of our donation.

Copies of updated constitution changes will be available at the Welcome Center and will be presented for approval at our annual meeting. The Church Wide Assembly passed these specific constitutional changes on to the Synod Assembly. St. Philip's will be compliant. None of the changes will affect how we are organized and function, or how we do ministry at St. Philip's.

Some members of the church have questioned the possibility of adding new staff. Various venues have been tried, unsuccessfully. Best chance is to hire are from within or someone that is familiar with St. Philips.

The Nominating Committee is still looking for someone to fill the Treasurer position.

The meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Lois Twedt, Secretary (Marjorie Peterson)