

Congregational meeting to approve 2015 Budget

12/21/2014, after 2nd service

Called to order by President Heather Heckel

Quorum assumed

Pastor Moehring led the congregation in prayer and announced the retirement of Katy Vess as church secretary effective 2/28/2015

Council member nomination

Patty Franz was a late council nomination, and needs to be voted in by the congregation. She was nominated, the motion seconded and approved. The vote was unanimous.

There is still one empty seat on council.

Budget discussions

This is a difficult budget because it includes significant salary reductions. At the open discussion during the Sunday school hour, a recommendation was made to revisit the budget midway through the year, and consider revising if more funds become available.

Council has made decision about how any extra funds would be allocated. Budget revisions would be brought to the congregation if they exceed 10% of the existing budget, if less than 10% of the existing budget, council has authority to modify the budget.

IF there is a surplus; salaries would be increased in the form of bonuses.

There was a discussion of the reporting of the weekly expenses as reported in the bulletin each week. It had to be different due to the Pray it Forward campaign, and the departure of Pastor Hunsinger. We will be returning to the reporting of comparing the offerings with year-to-date budget.

Bob Light commented that this is a really difficult budget and due to the uncertainty in income that we pick a date of 4/15/15 to review expenses and offerings. Heather replied that council examines offering and budget at each council meeting.

Faye Coppage commented that this budget once again shows a reduction in our benevolence giving. Would any increase in offerings be directed towards benevolence? Council has prioritized what giving areas can be increased if more donations are received and benevolence increases are included, along with bonus increases to staff compensation.

Paul Quel told the congregation, that since July and the completion of the Pray it Forward campaign, we have been sending \$500 per month for benevolence, even though that amount was not in the 2014 budget.

Pastor Moehring told the congregation that the budget reflects both the energy and light of the congregation. The decrease in benevolence means we are giving less as a congregation? We are not alone in this situation. It's all around us. But there is hope, good things are happening at this congregation, we are a place of joy and sharing the good news.

Kathi Charlson asked if the \$500 per month benevolence was outside of the 2014 budget. Yes, it was part of the Pray it Forward campaign, and not included in the original budget. The budget was not amended, the Pray it Forward campaign was used to build our surplus and the increase our benevolence giving. How the funds were distributed will be shown in the annual report.

A motion was made to vote to approve the budget as written. There were no nay votes, 2 abstentions, and the motion passed.

The new council president for 2015 is Jim Ingraham, the vice president is Jim Schnellenberger.

Ernie Foltz reminded the congregation that the Kroger rewards program is different this year, but that the church will be receiving about \$1,000 for the past 3 months.

Mason Carbaugh thanked the congregation for their care and support.

The congregation is reminded that they are always welcome at council meetings. The meeting minutes are posted on the christlutheran.org website as soon as they are approved by council. The financial information is also posted on the christlutheran.org website.

Meeting adjourned