

**Christ Lutheran Church
 Congregational Council Minutes
 December 12, 2016
 7:00 PM**

Eric Moehring	Jim Ingraham <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Carol Jones <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cathleen Jacobson <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Darren D'Ateno	Jim Schnellenberger <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sandra Bocclair <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Judy Garnett	
Absent:	Jim Pickels	
Non-voting:	Paul Quel	Diane Kellogg
Guests: (incoming council members)		
Bill Mottett	Matt Lewis	

Denotes approval of meeting minutes
 Call to Order (Jim I)

Devotions (Sandra)

Congregation Comments - None

Financial Report (Paul) November, offerings were exceptionally low, we ended November with a deficit of \$7,000. If December 2016 equals December 2015, we will end up in the red, if we equal December 2014, we will be in the black. We need a monthly offering of ~\$9000/week to maintain our budget. The negative balance for Angel tree is only a cash flow issue.

Pastor's Report

Baptized Junior Rasnake on Saturday.

Faith Formation, Sunday will start back up on January 8th for adults, a middle school class, and looking for a volunteer to lead the pre-k through 5th grade class.

October Blood drive has been changed from the 14th to the 7th. Would like to make this a big day, and invite the neighborhood.

Vacation schedule posted.

Epiphany January 4, 2017, Edith and Betty are coordinating the meal. We need people to setup and breakdown the fellowship hall tables. We will have intinction communion that evening.

Pastor would like an outreach activity to fill the void left by the YMCA, perhaps ESL training or some similar activity. Would also like to build on Faith Formation with

perhaps small groups, and family ministry programs for families with younger children. Parents of young children are having trouble seeing a need for such activities. Council needs to support these activities to make sure they happen.

Community outreach in terms of worship. Community demographics, what kind of outreach can we do in terms of worship. Ideas...Indian community, other groups? Adding a service? Something outside of Sunday morning worship (which satisfies us). Maybe Sunday evening, Friday night, Wednesday evening, an alternate Sunday morning service? CLC is one of the strongest congregations in the Lakeside area. Question? How is that so? Answer: we are currently stable, we have youth groups, we have two services.

Another idea: Advertise in the "Where to worship" column in the Saturday paper, possibly one time a month, and in different areas. Previous alternative services (Sunday evening) were not well-advertised. Council needs to be behind these activities. Discussion: understanding the neighborhood demographics will help us try and meet the needs of the neighborhood. Perhaps evangelism and worship committees can meet together to discuss these issues.

President's Report (Jim Ingraham)

Nancy LaVier will be taking over as council secretary in January.

Martina Cathey will be taking maternity leave. December 18 will be her last day but she is planning on returning. However, after December 18 staffed nursery service will not be available until further notice.

Start planning for annual reports as soon as possible. Mid-late January will be the due date, for distribution at the annual meeting near the end of February.

1/22/17 Installation of church council. 2/11 Council retreat.

Requested ideas on How to address the issue of unsupervised youth wandering around the building during church services and faith formation/Sunday School hour. Youth should be in one of the activities being offered and should not be "hanging out" in the new library or the hallways. Council members asked to monitor these activities.

Ministry Updates

- CARITAS--
- Faith Formation (Pastor) See Pastors report
- Finance (Jim I) Committee met last Monday night, reviewed financial information and discussed the financial situation. While it is not where we would want it to be right now, it is by no means catastrophic. The 2016 budget is a balanced budget, and we did not plan on having a surplus. (we don't know yet, it depends on

December offerings). The financial issues are related to contributions; we have done a very good job controlling expenses.

- The committee discussed Christmas appreciation gifts for paid staff. The committee recommends that this year we give slightly different amounts from last year.
- Finance recommends the church office be closed on 12/26 but open the remainder of the week, and open on January 2nd (following Henrico County Schools).
- IT & Communications (Carol) Carol is still trying to get the Verizon billing corrected. Some of the features we are being charged for cannot be utilized until we upgrade our phone systems. Posting minutes on Google docs will continue although some were not in favor of using the Google docs application.
- Evangelism (Sandra) No meeting last month, new activities will commence after the new year.
- Stewardship (Cathleen) Cindy Williamson reports \$194,546 pledges for 2017, estimating that pledge as able will be ~\$88,000. 63 pledge units with firm pledges. Total estimated offerings around \$283,000. Generally, our actual contributions exceed the pledged amounts. The 2017 approved budget is \$319,000, which puts us in the ballpark.
- Property (Paul) The dehumidifiers are supposed to be installed in the basement on 12/21. Last Tuesday (the really rainy day), the organ tuners reported water on one of the choir pews, Paul could not locate a source; the next day he found water damage in the wood area underneath windows. One stained glass window is lacking the lead. This pew seat has been wet before. Thursday or Friday night, Richard Tripp found the ladies room toilet full of soiled paper towels. Jim S said The library will be finished by Christmas; new television should be installed by next Sunday. Last part will be curtains and blinds. Carpet will be shampooed (Casa de Dios has volunteered for shampooing). \$5600 has been spent on this project. \$2,000 has been authorized for water damage abatement in the basement. The project won't be worked on until after the beginning of the new year. If the project is indeed finished, that we return the funds back. Future work would be confined to outside the library and some more grading, etc. The drainpipes will be buried during a cleanup day, over a period of time.
- Vision (Jim Schnellenberger): The statement, what we want to be, where we want to go, what we want to be doing. We reveal Gods love. Another part of this is long term planning, we want to generate a 5-year plan that is updated annually so incoming council members know what has been addressed and can act on those plans. Every ministry should be a part of the 5-year plan, and assess if it is in line with our 5-year plan. Are we accomplishing our goals and objectives? Council should do the next long range planning at the next retreat. We are required by the constitution to perform long term planning. We will need to start a

dialog with the congregation similar to the one at the start of the vision process. Especially impacted would be youth programs, faith formation, property, staffing. Jim has put a short write-up of the 5-year plan in the newsletter, and will meet with the congregation on January 8th after the second service, and Tuesday, January 10th at 6:30 pm to have a dialog. To assist The vision committee, Jim will invite some senior, talented, knowledgeable, invested people to help continue the dialog.

New Business

Discussed Finance recommendations for annual staff Christmas appreciation gifts. Unanimous vote to approve recommended amounts.

Holiday Church office closings and Paid Holidays discussed. Close 12/26, open remainder of the week. Due in part to CARITAS, needing coverage in the office during the week. Motion made: office closed, and paid holidays for office staff on 12/26 and 1/2 vote: unanimous approval.

Upcoming Events

- CARITAS (Dec 23-Dec 31)
- Doorkeepers January (Open: ushers Close: Carol Jones)
- Devotions (Jim I)
- Next Council Meeting: January 9 (new officers elected)
- Council Installation: January 22
- Council Retreat: February 11

Closing Comments for the Good of the Church