

**Christ Lutheran Church  
Congregational Council  
Minutes  
Wednesday, August 16, 2017**

✓ Pastor Kniseley		✓ Bill Mottett
✓ Darren D'Ateno	✓ Jim Schnellenberger	✓ Carol Jones
✓ Lucas Cochran	✓ Sandra Boclair	
<b>Non-voting:</b>	✓ Paul Quel	✓ Nancy LaVier
<b>Excused Absence:</b> Jim Ingraham, Mat Lewis, Cathleen Jacobson		
<b>Guests:</b>		

✓ Present ( 6 members of Council present)

7:00 PM Call to Order (Jim S)

Devotions (Pastor Kniseley) – comes from the Stewardship committee of the synod from Isiah

Stephanie Hamlett presented for the ELCA VA Synod. The VA Synod Forwarding Faith Presentation pamphlet was published in March. Funding amounts listed in the pamphlet do not reflect current funding. The intent is to have a dedicated endowment fund for continuing leadership and instruction and to support continuing youth independent of annual benevolence contributions It is a 3-5 year campaign to raise funds for the endowment. The VA Synod requests that the church appoint a congregational leader, who will lead the church through a 3-6 week period to inform them about the Forwarding Faith campaign. The timing is up to Christ Lutheran as well as the decision to participate and the goal amount to raise. The goal of the Forwarding Faith campaign is to raise \$ 5,000,000.00 for the dedicated endowment. Currently \$2.5 million has been raised.

The Council has some question about the program. How much are other **Richmond area** churches donating based on demographics? Have any Christ Lutheran members contributed independent of the planned congregation campaign? If so, how much has been contributed?

Any decision on our participation and the establishment of our funding goal will be added to the agenda and decided at the September Council meeting.

Congregation Comments – no congregants were present

Review of Minutes (July) – approved electronically

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Financial Report (Paul) We finished July with a year-to-date deficit of almost \$9,000.00. Although certainly not satisfactory, this was an improvement over June's \$11.5k deficit, especially when one considers that July's expenses were 2k greater than June's. Our prorated offerings have been 33% above the pledge but only 81% of our budget. Fortunately our expenses have been only 85% of budget. As the rest of the year goes by the gap between actual expenses and the budget will narrow making it important to maintain/increase offerings.

Pastor's Report (Pastor) – Pastor distributed the Intentional Interim report

**1. Suggested time-line for Interim:**

- August-December 2017 – Few changes; Pastor learns how Christ Lutheran does things; Congregation learns how to do ministry after long leadership of Pastor Moehring; Strategic Plan is finalized by Council.
- November/December 2017 -Transition Team is selected by Intentional Interim Pastor and Council.
- January 2018 – Transition Team begins their work; Mission Site Profile serves as the basis for their report to the Council; Congregation members are solicited for their thinking; Elements of the Strategic Plan are implemented by Council and Intentional Interim Pastor.
- July 2018 – Mission Site Profile is finalized by the Council and forwarded to the Bishop; a Call Committee is selected.
- August 2018 – Call Committee begins their work.

2. Housing Allowance Designation for IRS. I request that you put into the Council Meeting Minutes that my housing allowance for 2017 be \$2,000 per month. This covers mortgage, insurance, and utilities.

Sandra made a motion to approve Pastor's request for his housing allowance. The motion was seconded and approved. (Yes 6 , No 0)

**3. Faith Formation:**

Sunday School (age 3 through grade 6) Probably Learning Stations in the Fellowship Hall, perhaps every other week.

Middle School and High School – Class taught by David Ingraham

Adults – Class as usual

Confirmation and Youth Group – Sunday evenings; Orientation on Sept. 17, 2017

Village Night – Jennifer John is soliciting input, and will be holding a planning meeting on August 23, 2017, 6 p.m.

Rally Sunday/Register for Classes – September 24, 2017, between services

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4. Reformation 500

During the month of October, we can have a fine time celebrating Reformation 500 at Christ Lutheran. Linda Pickels will have a display. The Sunday school and Confirmation Classes will study the Reformation. Every worship service will contain sermons, children's messages and hymns relating to the Reformation. We hope the adult classes will also use this theme. If we want to purchase bumper stickers and magnets with the Reformation 500 theme, do we have funds available? We hope to have one worship service on October 29 (Reformation Sunday), followed by a meal (chili cook-off).

Carol made a motion to go the single service on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> followed by the chili cook-off. The motion carried ( Y- 6 N-0)

5. EICA Video

I plan to use the excellent and short video (6 minutes) on the changing face of the ELCA that was presented at the Virginia Synod Assembly. This comes as a request from Kayley Greenday. This will be shown this Sunday, August 20.

President's Report (Jim S) substituting for Jim Ingraham – no report

**Ministry Updates**

- Faith Formation- no report at this time.
- Finance- no report at this time, a budget will be worked on between now thru October, to be presented to the Congregation on November 12 along with the election of Council meeting.

Jim S made a motion and it was seconded to hold the Congregational meeting along with the election of new Council members immediately after the 10:30 service. The motion was approved. (Y-6 N-0)

- Stewardship- no report at this time.
- Evangelism- National night out was not attended by members of the community as it was last year, but was well attended by church members and provided an opportunity for good fellowship.
- IT/ Communications – web site is getting a face lift. The work is focused on making it more organized and more like a magazine. The goal is to have it finished by Labor Day.

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- Property- the holes in the front of the church will be filled by Sunday. Humidity in the basement is still not satisfactory and JES was contacted about the work they had done. The company is trying to correct the situation from what was done. There is a leak in the ceiling near the altar. It has been there a while. No solution has been found at this time for the leak.
- Worship planning - Three services on Christmas was suggested but by Council from the July council meeting but the worship planning committee suggest only two – morning service at 9:30a.m.and evening service at 5:00 p.m. This two service option was recommended as a one- time only occurrence as a courtesy to Pastor Kniseley so he would not be away from his home and family in Fredericksburg for the entirety of Christmas Eve.
- Vision- Lucas has a person who will paint murals on the walls in the child designated library/classroom space. Donations for books/toys will be solicited. Budget of \$700.00 will be necessary to supply furniture that is undamaged and to solicit donations of toys, books, etc.
- Nursery clean-up –no cleaning notice has been put up yet. No vacuum cleaner has been purchased yet.

**New Business**

- Transition Team (Pastor Jim K)
- Girl Scout troop would like to use the education rooms on Oct. 21 (Carol J) to help Brownie troops get their badges. Carol is asking permission to use the facility for the OCT 21. Carol made a motion to allow the Girls Scouts to use the facilities on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October – it was seconded and carried ( Y-6, N-0)
- Home School Science Fair (Jim S) – no report; no detailed information provided by original requester.
- Strategic Plan (Jim S)- Jim distributed a table of contents to each council member present. . The strategic plan is a 39 page document with 2 enclosures and an Appendix. This document will be given to the transition team. Jim stated that he needs 3 members of the congregation to read the document and make any comments. Please have comments by Sept. 11 our next council members. Darren, Sandra and Pastor volunteered to review and make comments on the document.
- Augsburg / Spark - The Essential Lutheran Handbook 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Pocket Edition (Jim S) A copy of this is not needed at this time.

**Upcoming Events**

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- Doorkeepers (September Jim Ingraham)
- Devotions (Mat Lewis)
- Next Council Meeting: September 11 ( Monday)
- Closing Comments for the Good of the Church

Carol is thankful and blessed by the response of the Spanish community to the outreach of the ESL classes. Darren is uplifting Pastor for what he has done and his positive demeanor and this was echoed by Sandra and Bill.

Things are calm and the people of the congregation are more optimistic. Pastor Kniseley wants to uplift Sandra for her perseverance and overcoming her illness. Jim S. wants to lift up the youth who went on the mission trip. They learned something and gained confidence and demonstrated some of their gifts. Some came back changed in a truly positive way, which is wonderful. Pastor is lifting up Frank Greenday during his visit to Duke to seek treatment for his illness.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:35.