

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2021 @ 6:30pm

Members present: Jennifer Bufkin, Terry Cotton, Jim Farrell, Sarah Sedlacek (via Zoom), Carol Bunge, Sylvester Heeler, Marilyn Hunt, Debbie Taylor, Brenda Bass, Kristy Langdon, Jim Pierce, Cyndee Simpson, Pastor Keith Hohly

Members absent: None

Meeting called to order by Jim P. at 6:30pm.

Sarah S. shared devotions with the theme of focusing our eyes and thoughts on the peace that we are promised by God, especially as we live through and deal with all levels of stress.

January devotions: Debbie T.

November Council meeting minutes were reviewed as emailed and printed. *Kris L. made the motion to accept the minutes as printed. Debbie T. seconded. Motion carried.*

November Treasurer's report was presented by Cyndee S. Discussion and questions were answered. Pastor Sami's moving expenses are on this year's budget. *Debbie T. made the motion to accept the treasurer's report as presented. Marilyn H. seconded. Motion carried.*

Pastor Keith presented his report as printed. Pastor Keith's last official Sunday as transition minister with First Lutheran will be on January 2, 2022. We will have a formal farewell for him on that Sunday. Jim P. extends a formal thank you to him on behalf of the congregation and the council for serving these past two years as our transition minister and taking us through this time of change.

Pastor Keith reports that new members were received on November 7, 2021. *Jennifer B. made the motion to officially receive new members: Judith Bunker, Sharon Gray and Ray Otto. Kris L. seconded. Motion carried.*

Council members feel the weekly letter being written by Pastor Keith has been very helpful and informational and would like to see something like this continue. Jim P. also states that the weekly staff meeting currently being held will also continue in the new year.

Old Business:

--Jim P. reports that Pastor Sami's current time line for arrival is that the movers will pack her up on December 29-30 and then Pastor Sami will leave on December 31 and arrive in town on January 1, 2022.

--One Time Event Guidelines: Marilyn H. will be emailing these out to council members after they are finalized.

--Church Signage: Jim P. reports that new church signs have been placed on two corners. Many thanks to Dave Newman for completing this project.

--Constitution and By-laws: Jim P. states this committee has been meeting and will meet one more time to review and make recommendations for changes. Several questions are being asked of the council: Current percentage for quorum at congregational meetings is 15% which means about 21 people need to be present. Discussion about changing this percentage and other possibilities. Another question is if pastor of congregation should be a voting member of council. It is beneficial to have an odd number of people serving on council when voting to take place. It was decided to have pastor have a vote and then to leave one of the seats on council empty in January.

--Sanctuary Sound System: Dave Newman, Kris L. and Jeff Langdon have been working with Lanham Music to obtain an estimate to have the sound system updated. Estimate received is \$8337.34 as printed. The Foundation has been approached with the possibility of assisting with this expense. Jim P. will also write a letter to the membership reminding them to turn in pledges and offering up other opportunities to give financially to the building fund and the sound system. Discussion about funding this expense.

Carol B. made the motion to fund the new sound system with Lanham Music with requesting 1/3 from The Foundation, 1/3 from donations, and 1/3 from Memorial fund. Kris L. seconded.

Jim F. made an amended motion: to fund the new sound system from Lanham Music with 50% from The Foundation and 50% from donations and other funds. Carol B. seconded. Motion carried.

--Office Furniture: Sylvester H. worked with Pastor Sami and obtained a new desk and table and chairs for pastor's office. These pieces of furniture will need to be put together and moved in the week following Christmas. Thank you to Sylvester H. for finding these items.

--Christmas Eve Services: Services will be held at 5:00 and 7:30pm. It was decided to post services on Facebook page and not to utilize the News Press this year.

--Tolo estate gift: this item is tabled until Pastor Sami arrives.

New Business:

--Annual Congregational Meeting: Generally two dates are set in order to adjust accordingly if weather is bad. *Debbie T. made the motion to hold congregational meeting on January 23, 2022 after worship and to have January 30, 2022 as the snow date for the meeting. Kris L. seconded. Motion carried.*

--Christmas gifts for staff: It was decided to give staff a \$100 Visa card to express thanks and appreciation for this past year of service. This expense to be taken out of Memorial fund. Those to be gifted are: Cyndee Simpson, Misty Coyle, Sharon Gray, Sharmyn Thompson, Nila Schneider. *Carol B. made the motion to give \$100 Visa cards to the above named staff. Kris seconded. Motion carried.*

--Synod Benevolence: Jim P. presented that at the end of each year we need to ensure that our budgeted amount for synod benevolence matches what we budgeted. There will be one more noisy offering this year. *Carol B. made the motion to write a check at the end of this year from Memorial fund to bring our gift to Synod Benevolence up to \$3000.00. Jennifer B. seconded. Motion carried.*

--2022 Budget: Cyndee S. went over preliminary budget since receiving initial pledge cards and numbers from this past year. Budget will be finalized at January council meeting.

--Hunger Fund grants: Jim P. states that each year The Foundation has \$6000.00 that needs to be gifted to local agencies that service the hungry. After discussion, *Sylvester H. made the motion to disperse the grant money in the following way:*

<i>Open Door Food Kitchen:</i>	<i>\$1000.00</i>
<i>Nutrition Center:</i>	<i>1000.00</i>
<i>Food Kitchen Designated fund:</i>	<i>1000.00</i>
<i>Salvation Army:</i>	<i>1000.00</i>
<i>Patee Park Baptist Church:</i>	<i>1000.00</i>
<i>Food 4 Kids:</i>	<i>1000.00</i>

Terry C. seconded. Motion carried.

--Foundation Board Members: Jim P. states that each year Council votes on one member to serve and approves another name for the ballot at congregational meeting. *Debbie T. made the motion to reappoint Dan Chladek to serve on the Foundation and to have Deann Young's name on the ballot for re-election. Marilyn seconded. Motion carried.*

--Computer for pastor: Jim P. has been working on obtaining a new computer and other equipment needed for Pastor Sami when she arrives. The cost has been approximately \$1000 and he has been able to obtain equipment with grants and donations.

--Jim P. updated council members on the fact that he and Pastor Keith will be meeting with all staff members and completing job descriptions and evaluations.

--Sarah S. gave council an update on COVID situation. She strongly recommends that we continue to wear masks on Sunday mornings as we continue to sing.

--Jim F. shares information with council as a reminder that the Altar Guild pays for all the communion supplies and these costs have gone up due to the individual packets that we have been using for the past year.

--Council members: discussion about asking members to serve on council as we have three people whose terms are up. Jennifer B. and Sarah S. are open to staying on Council.

Pastor Keith ended the meeting in prayer.
Meeting adjourned at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Bass, Secretary