

St. John's Lutheran Church, Council Meeting, December 12, 2023
Minutes Approved January 9, 2024

Belonging to Christ, we are a family of faith, **Encouraging** spiritual growth, and **Connecting** others to lasting hope.

Call to Order: Following a joint Council meeting with Gilman and Spring Lake, the St. John's meeting was called to order by Phil Hennemann at 6:47 p.m.

Opening Prayers/Devotions: Led by Pastor Bob at the joint council meeting.

Those present: Pastor Bob Friese, Phil Hennemann (President), Karen Gunderson (Vice President), Barb Esanbock (Secretary), Brian Sandness (Financial Secretary), Stacy Burr (Stewardship), Tom Boyer (Property), Ella Esanbock (Worship), Beth Keehr (Education), Melanie Wentlandt (Social Concerns)

Approval of Agenda: After an addition to Old Business, there was a motion by Karen Gunderson, seconded by Stacy Burr, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Secretary's Report: Motion by Karen Gunderson, second by Stacy Burr, to approve November minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Mel Wentlandt, second by Tom Boyer, to approve the report. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Items discussed included providing Christmas gifts to the Health Care Center, focusing more on hospitality, and having greeters for Wednesday night services. Pastor Bob also thanked the councils for working so well together.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STEWARDSHIP: Chair: Stacy Burr

- The bulletin board has been updated; discussion on a stewardship drive and a capital campaign.

PROPERTY: Chair: Tom Boyer

- The lights above the fireplace were replaced and Tom will also change the bulb by the coat racks.

WORSHIP: Chair: Ella Esanbock

- Nothing new to report.

EDUCATION: Chair, Beth Keehr

- The Sunday School program will be on December 17th. There will then be two weeks off, with Sunday School resuming on January 7th.

SOCIAL CONCERNS: Chair: Melanie Wentlandt

- The Giving Tree gift donations went well. One more family was added and the congregation was very generous with monetary donations.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Call Committee:** The ministry site profile should be completed by the end of January.
- **Work Groups:** Nothing new to report.
- **Christmas Decorating:** Phil thanked all who helped decorate and provided the delicious food.
- **2024 St. John's Council Elections:** Discussion on which positions will need to be filled.
- **Building Exterior Resurfacing:** Tom obtained an alternate quote from a second company. After reviewing and comparing quotes, and much discussion on the long-term benefits of each portion of the quote, there was a motion by Karen Gunderson, seconded by Tom Boyer, to proceed with the quote from Gausman Brother Construction to repair and restore the exterior of the church building, including options 2A (caulking and sealants) and 3A (gutters), for a total of \$163,825, to be completed in one phase. Motion carried.
- **Insurance:** Due to a significant increase in renewal premiums with our current carrier, Grinnell Mutual, Arneson Insurance Agency obtained a proposal from a different company. After comparing and discussing coverages and deductibles, there was a motion by Karen Gunderson, seconded by Tom Boyer, to proceed with the North Star Mutual quote of \$6,179 (an annual savings of \$633 over the Grinnell Mutual renewal premium.) Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS: None

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, January 9th, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURN: Motion by Tom Boyer, second by Barb Esanbock, to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Barb Esanbock, St. John's Council Secretary.