

Church Council Minutes December 12, 2023

Present: Deb, Pastor Ale, Evie, Orrin, Connie

Absent: Ashley, Joel, Lois

Council Vice-President Orrin called the meeting to order at 6:45pm. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer. No items were voted on for lack of a quorum.

A. Consent Agenda

Voting for approval of November and December Minutes/Financial Reports will occur at the January 2023 meeting. There have been fewer donations thus far this year to the General Fund, i.e. \$243,000 in 2022 versus \$210,000 in 2023. Larger donations have been made to Dedicated Funds, i.e. Sewer, Debt Reduction. More was spent from Dedicated Funds when a transfer was made to MIF to reduce our debt. Evie recommended that the Worship Instruments (\$-\$836.49) account be combined with Choir (\$1,943.57) account to cover the deficit. The matter was tabled until next Council.

B. Additions to the Agenda

- 1) No additions were made.

C. Old Business

- 1) Nominations for Open Council Positions: We are blessed to have volunteers who have expressed interest in serving on Council, although Property Management needs more members. Volunteers will be approached about formally adding their names for approval at the Annual Meeting.
- 2) Annual Reports/Budgets Due: Committees are encouraged to submit their annual report to Lois at their earliest convenience in anticipation of the January 28, 2024 Annual Meeting.

D. New Business

- 1) Pastor's Report: Pastor was notified by Water to Thrive that a well will be installed in Uganda because of the contributions given by Breckenridge Lutheran Church. Pastor confirmed what will be written on the plaque dedicating the well from our congregation. Enough funds were given for a second well; Pastor will contact WTT requesting that it be installed in Ethiopia. Blue Christmas will be held at noon December 21st at Evergreen United Methodist in Wahpeton. We will host the Northwest MN Synod meeting Thursday, December 14th. The usual Sunday morning service will be held December 24th at 9:30 am. The Christmas Eve service will be held at 4 pm. Bible Study will resume after Easter. The local Food Pantry is looking for volunteers to assist with various tasks. Please call them if you can lend a hand.
- 2) Vice President's Report: A piece of equipment was purchased to assist with the broadcasting of church services. After New Year's, there will be a meeting of the volunteers to formulate a template for operating procedures and a work schedule.
- 3) Property Update: The sprayed insulation job has been completed. The committee submitted their budget which includes increased rates for phone, garbage, and natural gas.
- 4) Mission Update: Several church members participated in posting what they were thankful for in November, a beautiful physical reminder of our blessings. 43 boxes were donated to Operation Christmas Child in November. December's Mission is gift cards for food, groceries, hardware, etc. for needy Wilkin County families. For each \$25 card received, Lois will paste a snowflake on her office door; let's snow her in! January's mission will be a trip to the Fargodome to volunteer at Feed My Starving Children. This is an awesome experience! Congregations from all over the region meet to work at a station filling meal bags. No

- experience needed, and a whole lot of fun is guaranteed! Contact Lexi Hought if interested. February's Mission will be Someplace Safe.
- 5) Youth Education Report: The children's Christmas program will be held Sunday December 17th. Contact Lexi if you are interested in participating in the Feed My Starving Children event.
 - 6) Financial Update: No further information.
 - 7) Worship Update: No further information.
- E. Church Pulse: Council discussed the importance of being a friend to one another. If you haven't seen someone at church for a while, give them a call and let them know they are missed.
- F. Closing Prayer: Pastor Tulu lead Council in the Lord's Prayer.
- G. Adjournment: Council adjourned at 8:36pm. Next Council meeting will be 6:30 pm Tuesday, January9, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Jensen
Secretary