

**Christ Lutheran Church
Council Minutes
October 21, 2013**

Present: Pastor Kristin Hunsinger, Council President Heather Heckel, Vice President Tinky Keen, Treasurer Paul Quel, Secretary Stephanie Feaser, Council Members: Dennis Burns, Chad Foltz, Ernie Foltz, Ferrell Newman, Sarah Vaughan

Incoming Council Members Present: Faith Hobson, Jim Ingraham

Absent: John Jung, Diane Kellogg, Bruce Matson, George Springer, Pastor Eric Moehring (on sabbatical)

Sarah opened the meeting with devotions.
Minutes from September were approved.

Pastor Eric's Report: (On Sabbatical – no report)

Pastor Kristin's Report:

- Sunday School classes continue and new ones are being looked into.
- Children's Sunday School has created a new blog.
- We have had two evening services so far with about 16 per Sunday.
- Trunk-or-Treat this Saturday and all are welcome to attend.

Ministry Team Reports:

- Evangelism –written report including prayer walk in May, Christmas door hangers, caroling, etc.
- Stewardship - Upcoming meeting on Nov. 7 will access results of the 5-week stewardship campaign. 95 members attended the finale, Celebration Sunday, and 56 stayed for luncheon.
- Reminder about the Congregational Retreat on November. 23 signed up so far.
- Kroger card program has given \$1,965.49 to the church so far.

Treasurer's Report: (written report):

September numbers were worse than August, which typically does not happen. October will probably have an even higher deficit. All bills will get paid, but that is being accomplished using other funds even beyond reserve fund, such as the sabbatical fund, village night's fund, and the Boldin bequest. Even though the endowment and reserve fund were replenished for a while, they will be raided again this month. Using designated funds puts us on sticky legal grounds. We need to restore the designated funds by end of year. The Boldin bequest (\$7,500) will probably be needed for operating costs this year.

Pledge numbers – 51 pledges received from Celebration Sunday at \$203,261. Last year we received 93 pledges at \$265,000 for Celebration Sunday (which was two weeks early this year).

Thrivent - In October and November, Thrivent is doubling your choice dollar donations to your charity. On November 10 & 17, Thrivent announcements will be made to the congregation.

Old Business:

Bequest and Gift Acceptance Policies – Documents provided by Ellen Henlicky from Synod gave written guidelines about why to establish these policies, sample policies, sample language. Discussion followed. Do we need written policies? If so, will we need a committee to draft our policies. We could consider deciding on a case-by-case basis as donations are made, since donations have been few and far between in the past. Or we could designate certain percentages, using Synod's example, 10% to tithe, 10% to the Property Fund, and the rest, 80% to the life and mission of the congregation as determined by a designated committee. We could just let the individuals giving the bequest, set limits or conditions, if

they want to and not have a formal policy. In addition, do we want to encourage the giving of bequests and gifts to church perhaps during a time separate from stewardship, such as in the spring?

Constitutional Updates – Note: Items marked (*) are mandatory as worded and must be included. We must update our constitution or synod will not approve it. Former documents filed with Synod will be cannon. We discussed unstarred amendments today, then will need to get synod approval, and then get the congregation to vote. Items discussed include:

C5.05 – exclude endowment policy for now as we can reevaluate every 3 years from now on

C9 03cC4 – accept amended wording

C9 20-21 – not in our constitution – ecumenical pastor ministry – we could have a non-Lutheran minister who would still use Lutheran format – agreed to include this

C 10.02 – wording change – approved

C10 03 – wording change – add electronic means to notify – add 2013 amendment text

C12 .02 – wording added – you keep serving if no one else nominated for 2 terms max.

We don't use written ballot – make a motion with slate of 6 officers for 6 positions, no voting.
Pastor Kristin will inquire about this policy.

C 12 .13 – Not equivalent to our C 12.13 – remote communication for meetings – decided to add as C12.13 and renumber as needed.

C13.01 – Executive Committee – issue of senior pastor versus co-pastors. Decided to replace senior pastor with pastor(s)

C13.04 – Staff Support Committee – Diane Kellogg and Bill Franz are working on this section

Fall Council Objectives:

- 1) **Stewardship** – Discuss what went well this year with the 5 Sunday plan and what we should do differently next year. Consider separate Bequest campaign in the spring.
- 2) **Communications/Social Media Ministry** – Heather is requesting more assistance with keeping up with updating the website, social media, calendars, etc. Consider a help wanted ad in the newsletter with specifics of what type of assistance and qualifications are needed.
- 3) **Reimagining Ministry Teams post Ministry Fair** – What else can we do to get more and different people involved in sharing their time and talents? Should events with limited participation be eliminated, such as the Easter egg hunt or perhaps VBS?
- 4) **Planning for Next Year and Beyond** (events, fundraising, budgets, and long range planning) – Budget issues trump everything else. We need good information on pledge estimates, decision making on what we need to do as a congregation next year to stay afloat, and tell the congregation of our plans by December. We can already anticipate having less money to work with next year, and we will need creative solutions to alleviate budget woes. Heather called for everyone on Council to come prepared to share some radical ideas to save money, cut costs, and balance the budget for the upcoming year.

Meeting closed with remarks for the good of the church.

Next Meeting: **Monday, November 11**

Submitted by Stephanie Feaser, Council Secretary