



**Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Council**  
**Meeting of May 20, 2019**

**Attendees:** Pastor Fritz Wiese, Pastor Miriam Beecher, Don Livingston, Bernice Huie, Holly Monahan, Kevin Hawkins, Marty Hagberg, Dewey Patrick, Molly Breckling, Eric Jakubowski, Robbi Martin, Michael Oliver, Andrea Williams

**Opening Comments Don Livingston.** Don went over the night's agenda.

**Devotion Eric Jakubowski.** Eric is a retired Marine fighter pilot. He spoke of deeply personal and life-altering events when he felt God's presence, during the big moments as well as the small. Years ago, his brother, a Navy pilot was killed. His death brought condolences and a poem, "Safely Home". The poem reminded him that God is there to comfort and console us. Ten years later and while he was deployed, his wife delivered twin sons prematurely. His son, Joshua Nathan died; Justin Thomas survived. God was there for them. Later, Eric took his young family for a visit with his parents before their move to a new home in Hawaii. Upon their arrival in Hawaii, his dad called to let them know their home burned down. The fire started the evening they left. Eric said a series of events and God's intervention, insured that they were not there when the fire started. His parents were safe. They were safe. God was with them.

**Questions from Council on Financial Documents by Kevin Hawkins: Operating Fund Analysis:**

- Offerings in April were \$74,000, which was \$9,000 below budget, breaking a string of solid offering numbers.
- Year-to-date total income ticked down to 96% of budget, driven by a shortfall from offerings of \$44,000, partially offset by investment income and special gifts.
- On the expense side, we were \$8,000 or 9% better than budget in April, primarily due to a facility maintenance holiday. Year-to-date expenses are 6% below budget.
- Net income for April was a loss of \$3,600, which was \$2,200 better than budget.
- Year to date net income of \$5,400 is ahead of budget by \$21,600.
- We are on track to lose ~\$16,000 for the year, which is 58% less than the budgeted deficit. That would leave the carryover reserve at ~\$40,000.
- Kevin also said that insurance went up; there are also maintenance and VBS expenses upcoming.
- Kevin added that investments were a little better than and there was a special gift.

**Comments:** Robbi said Don and Kevin did an excellent job at the congregational budget meeting.

**Pastor Fritz Update:** See attachment.

- Pastor Fritz reviewed the way we commune and cited the ELCA's, The Use of Means of Grace.
- He said that Becky Lee has had a great start. She is promoting and selling the newly designed COS t-shirts and magnetic name tags.
- He said the Congregational meeting was well done.

**Discussion:** Robbi reviewed the Atlanta Bar Church situation and that more churches are interested in supporting them. Currently, ABC is not meeting. Marty asked that when ABC restarts, will they need to ask us to be their Fiscal Agent again. They will need to do so. Don asked about Pastor Fritz's upcoming Sabbatical. Pastor Fritz will be hiking and visiting friends in Colorado the second week of June. During the second week of July, he will be at the Chautauqua Institute, in southwestern New York state.

**Pastor Miriam Update:**

- Pastor Miriam discussed the Children's Musical May 5 and Graduation Sunday May 12.
- Sarah Circle again served the Seniors breakfast and gave them handmade blankets. (This will be the last year that blankets are given; the volunteer who made them is unable to continue.)
- The church staff retreat was good with people relating to each other and hearing different perspectives. She said they discussed, "How do we lift up God language and have people hear it. How do we keep God's love and energy forefront?"

- The Foundry has not yet signed a contract for next year. It may be that the two-person adult rule may be a monetary concern for them.
- She recounted recent weddings and funerals.

**Discussion:** Don asked about the church's policy on premarital counseling and if it entails the use of the Myers-Briggs personality questionnaire. Pastor Miriam said couples are asked to read it and discuss it. She said that if a couple receives certified pre-marital counseling, the state of Georgia discounts the cost of the marriage license.

## Old Business

**April Minutes** were circulated via email on April 29. The approval quorum was met on April 30.

### Stewardship Eric Jakubowski:

- Eric discussed several campaign options. A Stewardship letter could be tailored to a member's length of membership. This could include the history and growth of the church during their membership.
- Personal calls on people in their home may be a possibility but it could also be off putting in today's times.

**Discussion:** Marty asked Dewey if last year's one-on-one drive was successful. Dewey said Sue, Wayne, and Buddy were creative and managed contacting people using gift groups; the idea of a church member having somebody they know contact them was good. Dewey also said the campaign must start early and that Eric should do what he thinks is right.

### Input:

- The stewardship campaign could have different audiences with each one receiving a slightly different letter.
- A personal thank-you was mentioned.
- Mike suggested that Stewardship create something for people who have volunteered their time and talent.
- Dewey said there is a list of volunteers from Stewardship.
- Eric believes there is a need to create an overarching Stewardship theme and to make it a year-round event. Stewardship encompasses more than a resource drive. There is also stewardship of your family, body, and family. He thinks it should be tied in with the ministry of the month. Staff is discussing this idea. Eric has volunteered for another year with Stewardship.

## New Business Top 8 Priorities + Facilities

### Maximize Effectiveness of Church Leadership Dewey Patrick. Contemporary Service Worship Assistant position, William Porter

**Discussion:** The first candidate did not work out; several others were considered. Sandra Bohlken's brother, William Porter was approached. Don asked about the line of authority. Pastor Miriam confirmed that there will be a clear line of authority: William will report to David Beecher. Marty asked about the employment model. Kevin said the W-2 model would be used. Salary and payroll taxes were also discussed.

The Personnel Committee recommends the following motion for Council approval:

**Motion:** Consistent with our COSL Vision 2020 Action Plan – Contemporary Worship, COSL hire Mr. William Porter as 'Assistant to the Director of Contemporary Worship' 10 hours per week at \$23.00/hour.

The motion was made by Don and seconded by Mike.

**Decision:** The motion was approved unanimously.

### Worship Experience Contemporary. ABC update and Marketing Ideas. Robbi Martin.

- Robbi presented several ideas to increase COS awareness in the community: bumper stickers, welcome cards, text message reminders for the Wednesday Sermon series, reintroduction of emails with Daily devotions, social media.
- Social Media would include the COS website, Facebook, Instagram, and Google.
- There could be an outreach into the community with the introduction of *Beer & Hymns*. Pastor Fritz contacted both Grazing Here and Line Creek Brewing in PTC. They were very interested. The Atlanta Bar Church (ABC) model would be followed.
- Marketing, Motivate, and Money (the three M's) were discussed.
- Becky Lee and Shelly are discussing a Back to School festival using Instagram.

**Discussion:** Many of the council members liked the idea. Don shared some ideas for strength the communicate approach. He will follow- up with Robbi on specific ideas. Pastor Fritz said that we should accentuate where we are going. Increasing membership and attendance will help motivate others.

**Engage More in Key Local Service and Develop Committee. Don Livingston.**

**Communicating Social services for the summer.**

**Discussion:** Don discussed the local services the church sponsors during the summer: ask different members to share their ministry and how sharing money is transformed into a life-changing ministry. This should be the focus. A laundry-list approach would not be appealing. Pastor Fritz suggested a bimonthly Ministry Minute which would feature a summer ministry. For instance, in mid-August, there could be a Celebration of the Backpack and how 220 kids are taken care of every Monday.

**Closing Prayer:** The Lord's Prayer

**Next meeting agenda items:**

- **Attendance Recap & Metrics Discussion Don Livingston**
- **Improve Communication Platform & Processes Marty Hagberg**

**Next Council Meeting** – Monday, June 24, 2019

**Offering Count Schedule**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>COUNT SUPERVISOR</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>COUNT SUPERVISOR</b>
6/2/2019	Breckling	6/30/2019	Martin
6/9/2019	Jakubowski	7/7/2019	Williams
6/16/2019	Oliver	7/14/2019	Monahan
6/23/2019	Huie	7/21/2019	Patrick