

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Council Minutes June 26, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Scott Bosecker at 6:30 PM in the Conference Room. Those present were: Pastor Wiese, Pastor Beecher, Scott Bosecker, Bill Grabill, Shelly Jones, and Carol Jensen-Linton, with Patrick Bauer by Zoom.

Devotion

Patrick gave the devotion based on his experience at the Luther Ranch Family Camp with his 3 children. They had a wonderful time creek stumping and looking at mussels. He shared a blog post about Sea Shells by Trevin Wax that was inspiring.

Opening Comments

Scott gave an update to our ERTC and his conversation with Mark Reese. Our application has been submitted. Should we be completely successful in this endeavor, COSLC will receive a check for \$134,895.25. We would owe Reese & company 20% of that amount (approximately \$27,000). COSLC would net approximately \$108,000. Mark Reese has indicated his other clients have been receiving their checks in 6 to 8 months.

Scott updated council about the moving expenses for Larry Peterson. COSLC agreed to pay him up to \$8000. It turns out that the IRS considers that taxable income which reduced the amount to \$5700. A couple in the congregation had offered to help with expenses associated with Larry moving here. They personally gifted Larry with the balance that was due to him.

Scott is in the process of creating a brief survey about how people learned about COSLC and what attracted them. This would be given to members who have joined in the last 5 years. Scott is looking at this fall to send it out.

Scott reported on the ELCA Southeast Synod Assembly that he attended with his wife, Jo.

Pastors Reports

Pastor Wiese

- **Hope Jesus would be enthused about COS the last couple of weeks.**
In Acts 1, Jesus asks his followers to be witnesses for him locally, regionally, and globally. Here's what we have been doing:
Locally: working with ecumenical partners (St. Andrew's Episcopal and Mormons) to feed kids each Monday through Summer Sack Lunch Program.
Regionally: Ingrid Hudson took 5 COS families to Lutheranch last week. Shelly took a bunch of COS MS and HS students to Lutheridge last week. Today, we welcome 33 local kids to church camp with 5 bubbly Lutheran college kids via Lutheroad! (You'll hear more about these ministries in worship on July 16).
Globally: while chaos in Haiti prevents us from visiting, we love knowing a church camp is being held this summer for Haitian kids because of our Hoops for Haiti fund-raising. Furthermore, we're proud of our own Mark and Juliet Cutler who are serving a short-term mission trip in Tanzania with a girls' school.
- **Transition for COS Preschool.** Thanks to Pastor Miriam for taking lead on this.
- **Ongoing: New Leaders for Stewardship Team.** Active visitor Tyler Shores and council member Jason Hausner join Kevin Hawkins, Andrea Fisher and myself for this year's stewardship program. In Stewardship for All Seasons, we join with other larger ELCA congregations as we lean into best practices.
- **Larry Peterson continues to integrate well as our new Director of Worship & Music Ministry.**
- **Search Process for Director of Youth & Family.** Ben McCumber on board as chair of team, which has another meeting this Sunday.

- **Ongoing: Sanctuary Renewal Update—Good News.** Had first meeting last week with Don Livingston (has agreed to help coordinate contract and financial issues as project unfolds) and Leslie Klein (has agreed to serve as point person for re-launching renewal process and determining final decisions about Phase 1 proposal - flooring, seating, chancel, music area). Now that Larry is on board, it's a good time to pick up planning since he can interject his convictions for worship space.
- **COS Trip to Israel!** June 4-13 of 2023. What a powerful faith journey on so many fronts.
- **"Most Welcoming Church We've Ever Experienced."** I'll try to send you via email the video testimony given by a visiting couple this past weekend.
- **Neat Small Groups at COS.** One example: Speedbumps, gathering monthly to talk about how faith intersects with challenging social issues of day like sexuality, climate, and more.

Pastor Beecher

- She has had extensive meetings with current COSLP staff about the current status and ideas for the future. We need to review what programming we offer and what we charge. If COSLP offered more, raising tuition would absolutely be warranted and understood. It was felt that this may increase enrollment if we offered more and would be inline with what other preschools do and charge.
- The search team for the Director of Youth and Family continues.
- Lutheridge was spectacular!
- Lutheroad has a great bunch of kids and counselors.
- Club SciKidz went well as did Ladies Night Out.
- Pre-school Director search continues. Penny has agreed to serve as interim until December.

Treasurer's Report/Budget

Mark was not in attendance. Our income was down in May but our YTD is on track.

Our new account with the Delta Community Credit Union is coming along. Checks are being ordered.

Personnel Committee Updates

Director of Youth & Family – they are in the process of interviewing.

Preschool Director – see Pastor Miriam's report.

Finance Committee Update

They reviewed the policy that if less than 10% has been spent in most restricted accounts during a fiscal year, then 10% of that account would be put into the operating budget of the church. It was noted that there are a few exceptions to this policy.

FMT Update

The floating dock at Palmetto Road looks good and is portable so it can be moved to different locations on the pond.

Administration Items

- May minutes – It was moved by Fritz and seconded by Bill to accept the minutes as submitted. Motion carried.
- Facilities Contracts – 2 were presented:
Peachtree Tamil School – Council felt they needed more information than what was presented. It was moved by Bill and seconded by Shelly to table this issue for 1 week to obtain the information and then it would be voted upon electronically. Motion carried.

Classical Conversation – Council felt they needed more information than what was presented. It was moved by Bill and seconded by Shelly to table this issue for 1 week to obtain the information and then it would be voted upon electronically. Motion carried.

- Thank You notes will be sent to the following:
Ellen Pfundt / summer lunch program
Gail and Fred Herber / summer lunch program
Heike Dubacher / summer lunch program
Susie Lucsco / summer lunch program
Pat Beall / summer lunch program
Eric Jakubowski / yard work and dock
- Survey – see Scott’s report (Attached).
- 2023 Devotional Assignments – Shelly Jones will do July 24.
- Next Council meeting is July 24, 2023.

Open discussion Committee/Team Updates/Other

Thrivent Choice was discussed: COS needs to let Thrivent know if we transition banking totally from Wells Fargo to Delta Community Credit Union (DCCU).

Closing Prayer & Adjournment

It was moved by Bill and seconded by Miriam to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 PM. Motion carried. The meeting was closed by all with the Lord’s Prayer spoken in unison.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Jensen-Linton
Secretary

Survey Questions:

How did you first learn of Christ Our Shepherd?

1. Search Engine (Google, Bing, etc.)
2. Social media
3. YouTube algorithm (or similar) suggestion
4. Friend/Colleague/Family recommendation
5. Saw sign on property as you passed by (Includes Palmetto Road)
6. Saw/heard story about us on conventional media (radio/TV/newspaper)
7. Other (please describe)

Were you looking specifically for a Lutheran church?

1. Yes
2. No

Were you looking for a traditional service or a contemporary service?

1. Traditional
2. Contemporary
3. Wasn't a factor that influenced the decision

Were you looking for a church that offered a nursery?

1. Yes
2. No
3. Wasn't a factor that influenced the decision

What age group are you in?

1. 16-29
2. 30-45
3. 46-59
4. 60-99

How far do you drive to attend a church service?

1. 0-5 miles
2. 5-10 miles
3. 10-20 miles
4. Greater than 20 miles