

**Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church Council Minutes**  
**July 24, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Scott Bosecker at 6:35 PM in the Conference Room. Those present were: Pastor Wiese, Pastor Beecher, Scott Bosecker, Bill Grabill, Mike Earwood, Shelly Jones, Brad Harris, Steve Gunderson & Mark Bunker.

**Devotion**

Shelly Jones gave the devotion based on her trip to Alaska with her sister. She referred to the beauty that she saw and the quality time she was able to spend with her sister – all of these being gifts from God. Shelly ended the devotion with a prayer.

**Opening Comments**

Scott indicated that he had met with Linda Volckmann on June 27<sup>th</sup> to discuss the tabled Property Use Contracts from the last council meeting. COS staff then discussed the situation and the decision was made to move forward on these contracts in order to honor the promises made to the folks that were expecting to use our facilities. On July 2<sup>nd</sup> Scott sent out an email with a request for action from council members. The action requested was to vote to approve/disapprove the Classical Conversations Facilities Contract and vote to approve/disapprove the Tamil School Facilities Contract. All Council Members responded and the majority voted to approve both contracts. There were some comments in these email responses that generally indicated that rents and other issues need to be reviewed prior to additional Property Use Contracts being signed.

In the last few days of June, Scott was informed that the Commercial Refrigerator in the Church Kitchen needed to be replaced. At the time I spoke with her, Linda Volckmann had done some research and had 2 candidates to replace our old refrigerator. On June 28<sup>th</sup> it was decided to purchase a True T-49-HC Commercial Refrigerator. Scott sent an email to council members with the rationale for that decision and attached the CER for council's approval. Council response was received in a timely fashion and I was able to communicate to Linda Volckmann on the morning of June 29<sup>th</sup> that the Church Council had approved the CER.

Scott thanked the members of the Church Council for their prompt response to the above email business!

Scott indicated he had dropped off the Thank You Card - that council members had signed at the previous meeting – to the folks that had provided the donation that made up the Peterson Travel Expense shortfall.

Scott noted that, after a gentle reminder, Mark Reese (our ERTC Consultant) had sent us a signed hard copy of the Engagement Letter for his services.

Scott met Mark Bunker at Wells Fargo Bank and he, along with Bill Grabill & Shelly Jakubowski, went through the process of getting signature authority for COS's Wells Fargo Checking Account. Bill Grabill

and Scott also now have some account privileges. This was done to protect COS should Mark Bunker become unable to perform his duties for some reason.

Scott has been participating in the Director of Youth & Family Ministry Search Committee's efforts and have attended meetings and interviews regarding this search.

Scott attended "Financial Secretary Training" on July 10th. During Bill Volckmann's late summer absence, Pam Gould, John Musil and I will assist Joni Siepert in doing Financial Secretary work.

## **Pastors Reports**

### **Pastor Wiese**

- Pastor Wiese thanked Shelly for her devotional
- Pastor expressed gratitude for the strong financial finish we had in our fiscal year.
- Our facility has been well used this summer!
- Haitian youth camp is kicking off despite the turmoil in the country.
- Larry Peterson continues to receive complements and David Beecher is pitching in with M&M's.
- Stewardship planning is underway and we continue to learn new "best practices" that we plan to use in the upcoming Stewardship campaign.
- Youth & Family Ministry search continues with two candidates now being evaluated.
- Sanctuary Renewal is moving forward. 3 phases are anticipated. Funding is believed to be adequate to begin Phase 1. Phase 2 and 3 may require a capital campaign. Quotes for the various Phase 1 components are being requested. Timing for Phase 1 – Anticipate beginning the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2024. This will require some staff planning as the Sanctuary will be unavailable for several weeks as Phase 1 begins. Anticipate 4 to 6 weeks that the Sanctuary will be out of action. Expect updated numbers and information in late August to early September.

### **Pastor Beecher**

- Two baptisms and two funerals. Lots of visitors to the church.
- Over 220 folks at one of the funerals and COS people put on a "grand reception".
- Director of Youth & Family Ministry Search Team continues to evaluate two different candidates
- Preschool Director & other Preschool staffing search continues.
- We have about a dozen church members that are "shut-ins" and there was a discussion on how we serve these folks and what we might do moving forward.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Bottom line is that we are doing well.

June revenue was 45% over budget. June offerings were 4.4% over budget and almost 9.1% ahead of last year. A discussion followed into what might be driving these numbers.

Expenses were also high with insurance, a new commercial refrigerator & repairs to our freezer being paid in June.

For the year we finished much, much better than we expected.

## **Personnel Committee Updates**

A short discussion followed regarding the Preschool & search for a Preschool Director.

### **FMT Update**

Mike gave a progress report on the Palmetto Road Restroom project.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Fishing Derby participation was less than hoped for.

There is an Eagle Scout whose project will be providing plaques identifying indigenous plants along the Palmetto Road Nature Walk.

A discussion regarding the Boy Scouts providing some help with Palmetto Road maintenance. It was learned that Boy Scouts are limited on what, if any, power tools can be used.

Facility Contracts were discussed and cost per square foot is being investigated as a possible metric.

Additionally including electricity, janitorial, etc. into the cost calculations is being considered.

Preschool is currently using space at Palmetto Road to store some items they don't have room for in the Preschool spaces. Discussion followed regarding where those materials might be stored in the future should that Camp Store space be needed to support Palmetto Road itself.

A wood cross is being built at Palmetto Road.

The Alarm System and a pressure regulator that serves the preschool has some issues and those are being addressed.

Bill Grabill is researching the possible use of solar panels for COS in the future.

As with any building, there are several small maintenance items that need to be addressed and those are being documented so as to begin repairs/maintenance.

At this point Scott informed the council that potential additional costs had been identified in the Palmetto Road Bathroom project. The cost of a couple of unexpected inspections and the possibility of the county requiring two tanks for the septic system vs. the budgeted single tank system were the primary drivers of the potential overrun.

A lengthy discussion followed and it was decided to update the current CER to reflect the potential cost overruns and present these to Council for an email vote as soon as possible.

Scott mentioned that Linda Volckmann had asked if it was OK to respond to Club ScienceKidz request to use our facilities again next year. It was agreed that it was OK to start discussions but these discussions were subject to updated costs. Pastor Beecher also pointed out that the Sanctuary Renewal Project would also be causing some property use constraints and that needed to be accounted for as well.

### **Administrative Items**

A motion to approve the minutes from the June 26<sup>th</sup> Church Council Meeting was made and seconded. The minutes were approved by voice vote.

Shelly Jones was going to send Thank You Cards to Summer Sack Volunteers and also a card to Jonus Barbour for reading the prayers.

Scott mentioned he had attached Survey Questions to the documents he had sent out and he asked Council members to provide feedback on those questions.

Shelly Jones asked about the current Social Ministry Committee membership as she thought Jayne Troy was stepping away. Pastor Wiese indicated that Ellen Pfundt had taking over the Summer Sack program. Shelly indicated she would call Jayne to get clarification on who was doing what.

A motion to adjourn was presented by Brad Harris and seconded. The motion carried by voice vote. The council then said the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Bosecker  
Scribe