

**Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Congregational Meeting  
May 21, 2023**

The meeting was called to order in the Fellowship Hall at 12:30 PM by Scott Bosecker, Church Council President. Pastor Wiese offered the opening prayer. Pastor Wiese then recognized Larry Peterson's contribution to the just finished Sunday worship services and thanked David Beecher for his support during this transition. April Peterson was identified and membership that had not yet met April were encouraged to say hello. Pastor Wiese briefly reiterated the need for membership participation in the ongoing search to fill open staff positions.

The necessary quorum was 54. There were over 70 members in attendance including 8 on Zoom. Voting requirements were reviewed as well as Roberts Rules of Order. The procedure for voting by video was explained.

It was moved by John Musil and seconded by Linda Volckmann to approve the Congregational Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2023. There was no discussion. Motion carried unanimously.

The election of Representatives to the ELCA Southeast Synod was held. It was moved by Jason Hausner and seconded by Ben McCumber to elect Scott & Jo Bosecker to be those representatives. There was no discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mark Bunker, treasurer, presented a snapshot of the congregation's financial situation and rationale for the budget that would be presented to the congregation for their approval.

Mark began by thanking our Accountant and the Finance Committee for the work they have done.

Our giving is 6-1/2% higher this year than the previous year. Expenses were reported to be up 4.5% over the previous year. Mark predicted that at the end of this Fiscal Year the church would either break even or incur a very slight loss.

Mark gave a quick history of the financials for the past few years and how the government Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) had helped us to endure the economic stresses of the past few years. A quick review of the current Balance Sheet was presented.

Mark then described the process and timeline used to construct the proposed budget. Mark then indicated that a 5.3% increase in giving had been forecast and that there were also unrealized investment gains that could also be utilized to support the budget. Forecast expenses were then reviewed; among other things, it was noted that the proposed budget included a 5% raise for the staff.

A question regarding the status of the Sanctuary Renewal Project was taken from the floor. Mark Bunker gave some details on possible money available to support the Sanctuary Renewal Project and Pastor Wiese gave a "big picture" review of this project.

Three phases are envisioned:

Phase A – Floor layout of the sanctuary in general

Phase B – Furnishings for the chancel area

Phase C – Update the wall behind the chancel area

Going forward, it was expected that the new Director of Worship & Music and musicians would be providing input; Don Livingston and Lezlie Klein were also identified as being in project leadership roles.

It was noted that a big goal of updating and improving the sanctuary lighting had been accomplished!

A question was asked about the status of the congregation's application for the Employee Retention Tax Credit (ERTC). Mark gave a brief overview of this government program, that additional paperwork had been received the previous week for us to review and that the potential benefit to Christ Our Shepherd could exceed \$100,000. Mark also noted that this "potential income" was not included in the proposed budget.

At this point Mark concluded his presentation. Mark and the financial team received a round of appreciative applause for their work on the budget.

At this point the following motion was read by President Scott Bosecker:

The Christ Our Shepherd Congregational Council moves that the fiscal year 2024 budget be approved as presented.

Linda Volckmann seconded the motion.

There was no discussion. The motion passed with no known dissent.

President Scott Bosecker asked the members if there was any new business.

There not being any new business, Pastor Beecher was asked to close the meeting.

Pastor Beecher shared her personal reflections on the events of the day. She too mentioned the ongoing search for open staff and preschool positions and requested the assistance of the congregation. Pastor Beecher then led us in prayer.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted.

Scott Bosecker