

Council Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2024

ATTENDANCE: K. Richter, A. Fonk, H. DeFranco, A. Schroeder, S. Raszkievicz, P. Mason, C. Johnson, L. Woller, Pastor K. Brown, M. Hylinski, Pastor D. Hartfield, D. Larsen

ABSENT: L. Zanin

Discussion Topics

1. **Call to order:** – Meeting opened at 6:34 PM
2. **Opening Prayer/Devotion:** Markie Hylinski
3. **Approval of Council Agenda for January 18, 2024** – Agenda approved with addition of “c” and “d” under New Business. P. Mason made motion to approve agenda, A. Schroeder seconded. All in favor.
4. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes from December 14, 2023** – Council Meeting minutes S. Raszkievicz made motion to approve meeting minutes, P. Mason seconded. All in favor.
5. **Treasurer’s report: Keith – December 2023** – See attached document.
6. **President’s report: Keith – No Updates**
7. **Pastor’s Reports**
 - a. Pastor Kathy
 - b. Pastor Debbie – See attached document.
8. **Document Policy updates – Keith.**
 - a. Disbursement (Finance): Completed and will come off the list after discussion at 1/27 Leadership Retreat.
 - b. Employee Handbook (Personnel): Leslie S. has the Personnel Ministry meeting to review.
 - c. Memorial Giving (Finance): This policy is outdated and needs to be updated to provide guidance.
 - d. SMLC Constitution and By-laws (Executive): No update.
9. **Old Business**
 - a. Call Committee: Keith
 - Candidate chose to not take the call.
 - Process of getting new names from Pastor Kristen.
 - b. Worship Discussion Sessions: Adam
 - No decisions made, due to influx SMLC is in.
 - Will have discussion with new pastor regarding worship days/times.
 - Next month will look at what will make worship improvements.
 - Possibly have a service based on older liturgy from 1958.
 - c. 150th Anniversary Planning Team: Chris
 - Logo created; banner currently being made with new logo.
 - Met twice, gone through archives in library.
 - Uncovered unbelievable items from previous anniversaries.
 - Ministries can go through items and use at temple talks throughout the year.
 - In need of people who are good at writing and help put book together from the past 25 years.
 - Pastor Debbie to reach out to member in Florida who has longevity at SMLC.

- This is also a good project for someone at Carthage.
- The library will be a historical area at SMLC.
- SMLC has 7 members that were persons of the year in Kenosha.
- Will invite people (previous pastors) to come back to SMLC and possible preach.
- There is an idea to have a church picnic in July.
- Keith has requested Chris to schedule a planning meeting and put a request out to the congregation during service this weekend. Looking to have this discussion/planning meeting the week of January 29th.

d. January Leadership meeting: Keith

- **Down/In & out, Ask, Thank, Tell**
- **Annual Financial Response**
 - 1 February plan
 - 2 Temple Talks (Finance and Stewardship)
 - 3 Ministry Fair
- **Temple Talk calendar**
 - 1 Refresh
- **Ministry Updates 2024 plans**
 - 1 Asking each ministry to provide a 5-minute update on 2024 goals.
- **Training**
 - 1 Disbursement of Funds
 - 2 Use of Lounge IT Equipment
- **Protecting Places of Worship**
- **150th Anniversary**
- **Wrap-Up**
- **Will meet at SMLC at 8am for carpooling.**

10. New Business

- Synod Assembly (May 17-18)
 - In Milwaukee, we can send 3+1 (30 and under).
- Greater Milwaukee Synod Mission Support
 - Received a deep dive of what all ELCA congregations gave in support/money etc.
 - See attached document.
- 2024 Together in Mission
 - Keith passed out document.
 - This is an event for anyone in the congregation (not just pastors or council).
 - The cost is \$25 and includes lunch.
 - Can only participate in 2 workshops.
 - People can carpool.
- Annual Meeting Discussion/Set Date
 - S. Raszkwicz made motion to have the annual meeting on **July 21, 2024**, C. Johnson seconded. All in favor.

11. Committee Report/Motions

Committee	Liaison	Notes	Motions
Audit	Keith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a few members of the finance committee that will be this ministry (Neil, Andrea Beer + one other). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Caring Ministries	Lana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saw her person and is doing well. • Meeting to be set. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endowment gave \$13,769.96 to Good Samaritan fund. 	
Church in Society	Patti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No updates did not meet. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Education	Stephanie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lenten book study will take place February 18-March 24 (Witness at the Cross book). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Finance	Keith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance going up. • Church policy will be increased 25% (\$5,000 over budget). • There are many changes regarding roofs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Friendly Center	Lisa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attached document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Information Technology	Adam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have not met (will meet next month). • Equipment ordered for the lounge. • H. DeFranco forwarded an email to Adam from C. Johnson regarding equipment that has been gathered around the church (no longer used) and is in 1W. IT team to look at and decide what can be recycled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Nominating	Dana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have not met, will provide an update at 1/27 Leadership Retreat. • C. Johnson seat is done this year. • 1 other open position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Property	Chris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Baptismal Font is now on wheels! • D. Frost had someone build it at no cost. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Personnel	Andy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Met via Zoom to work on Employee Handbook. • Have a second meeting scheduled. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Reconnect	Hollie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning is occurring for the High Noon Tea event in April. • Will tie together with 150th and Orphanage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Stewardship	Stephanie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attached document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
WMA	Markie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attached document. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Youth	Adam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not meet. • Rummage sale was a success. • Made over \$3000, the best done with the youth rummage sale. • Youth Trip to NOLA. • \$425 to register +transportation + hotel. • Just the high school students. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

12. Council Connection: February – Adam Fonk

13. Parking Lot items

- a. Get to know SMLC Member – Spirit Article/Testimony
 - Who’s who in the pew.
 - Skills, business, etc.

14. Calendar

- a. February Spirit Deadline: January 23, 2024
- b. January Stewardship Message: Personnel
- c. February Stewardship Message: Finance/Stewardship
- d. Next Council Meeting: February 15, 2024
- e. Jan 19-21, 2024 - Middle School Winter Extreme
- f. Jan 27, 2024 - Leadership retreat: Siena Center in Racine from 9AM-3PM.
- g. Feb 10-2024 Together in Mission
- h. Feb 14- Ash Wednesday
- i. Feb 16-18, 2024 – High School Winter Extreme
- j. Feb 20, 2024 – Voting
- k. Tuesdays in Feb – AARP Tax preparation

15. Prayer Requests/Closing Prayer: Markie

16. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

2023-2024 Council Connection schedule

Aug' 23	Andy Schroeder
Sep' 23	Dana Larsen
Oct' 23	Patricia Mason
Nov' 23	Chris Johnson
Dec' 23	Lisa Zanin
Jan' 24	Markie Hylinski
Feb' 24	Adam Fonk
Mar' 24	Stephanie Raszkievicz
Apr' 24	Hollie DeFranco
May' 24	Lana Woller
Jun' 24	Keith Richter
Jul' 24	Keith Richter

2024 Temple Talk Schedule

Jan' 24	Personnel
Feb' 24	Finance/Stewardship
Mar' 24	Friendly Center/Nominating
Apr' 24	Nominating/WELCA
May' 24	Youth
Jun' 24	Property
Jul' 24	Church in Society
Aug' 24	WMA
Sep' 24	Sunday School/Education
Oct' 24	IT
Nov' 24	Caring Ministry
Dec' 24	Endowment Foundation

December 2023 TREASURER'S REPORT

St. Mary's Lutheran Church - Treasurer's Report - December 31, 2023

General Operating Fund

Beginning Balance	8,495.65
December Income	51,234.52
December Expenses	(40,380.38)
Cumulative Profit (Loss)	19,349.79

Dedicated Accounts

Operating Reserve Beginning Balance	23,492.06
-Receipts	0.00
-Disbursements	0.00
Operating Reserve Ending Balance	23,492.06

Long-Term Reserve Beginning Balance	59,708.94
-Receipts	0.00
-Disbursement	0.00
Long-Term Reserve Ending Balance	59,708.94

Building/Grounds Beginning Balance	52.51
-Receipts	0.00
-Disbursements	0.00
Building/Grounds Ending Balance	52.51

Investment Accounts Beginning Balance	123,509.64
-Receipts	0.00
-Disbursements	0.00
Investment Accounts Ending Balance	123,509.64

Other Dedicated Accounts Ending Balance	69,079.75
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Total Fund Balances	275,842.90
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Bank / Investment Account Balances

Checking Account	31,438.56
Money Market Account	119,267.03
Investment Accounts	123,509.64
Prepaid Insurance	1,627.67

Total Current Assets	275,842.90
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Difference	0.00
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Summary of Difference

	0.00
	0.00

Unexplained Difference	0.00
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Mortgage Balance	346,159.49
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Congregation Council Meeting Jan. 18, 2024 Pastor Debbie Report (12/14 23 -1/18/24)

- Pastoral Care
 - Congregation
 - Residential Care Visits (Brookside/Willowbrook)
 - Hospice Care
 - Home Soup Ministry - Since this ministry began in November 2023, 23 containers (~46 servings) of soup and Paielli's bread have been shared during pastoral visits with parishioners and community members. Thank you, Gretchen!!!
 - Time together (in person and/or over phone, before/after doctor/hospital visits/testing/surgery)

- St. Mary's, St. Paul's, Trinity, and Lord of Life collaborated in bringing together the Blue Christmas worship service held at St. Paul's on Tuesday, December 19th. It was a beautiful worship service filled with candlelight, readings, scripture, prayer, communion, music, and fellowship. Approximately 70 people were in attendance.

- Due to all the congregations in Kenosha who are in transition (St. Mary's, Trinity, Lakeside Lutheran, Spirit Alive!), collaborative Lent services will not be taking place this year. However, we are grateful to Pr. Chip and Lord of Life for hosting the noon Good Friday service, March 29th.

- Caring Team Collaboration – Sue/Pr. Debbie & area colleagues

- Administration/Meetings/Conference
 - Congregation Council Meeting, Dec. 14th
 - 150 Year Meeting (Chris Johnson), January 2nd
 - Executive Committee Meeting, January 10th
 - Congregation Leadership 1:1, January 10th
 - The Rostered Minister's Report to the Bishop was completed and submitted January 12th.
 - Stewardship Meeting (Stephanie Raszkievicz), January 16th
 - *Attitude of Gratitude* Spirit article contribution

- We experienced winter weather that caused the church office to be closed and activities cancelled on Tuesday, Jan. 9th and Friday, Jan. 12th (phones redirected to Beth at home). This was a learning experience for what to do when weather necessitates "closing" and may require more follow up so all know the steps to be taken in making decision and communications that are needed after a decision is made.

- I was on-call the week of January 8th while Pastor Kathy was out of town.

- Looking Ahead
 - Wednesday, January 24th – Friendly Center with Pr. David Rebey
 - Saturday, January 27th, Leadership Retreat, Siena Retreat Center
 - Left hip replacement – Thursday, Feb. 8th. (earliest date possible - not in January as hoped for!)

January 18, 2024, Council Meeting Pastor Kathy Report

- Worship services – 12
- Regular meetings – Finance, WMA, Stewardship, choir practice
- Met with Keith Richter regarding Together in Mission
- The Healing Network monthly meeting
- PACT (Pastors Accompanying Churches in Transition) monthly meeting
- Funeral planning with one family
- Worked with Beth, Chris, Julie and Dick in creating the 150th anniversary logo
- Attended joint Blue Christmas service at St. Paul's. The time together was very healing and Spirit-filled.
- Worked with Sue Quever on assisting an individual in the community with housing.
- Spent Mon-Fri 1/8-12 visiting a lifelong friend who lives in FL. She lost her husband at the end of October and it was good to be with her in this time of grief and adjustment.

The Friendly Center Meeting Minutes

January 2024

The Friendly Center Board met on January 4, 2024, and the following decisions were agreed upon.

Upcoming Gatherings:

January 24th- Breaking the Chains Ministry by Pastor Reby. He will give the devotions and program. A free will collection will be taken to support this ministry.

February 28th- Pastor Cindy Aasen will give devotions. Carol Scotese and a colleague will present Adventures in Lifelong Learning. Nonperishable items will be collected for Luther's Lunchbox Program at Carthage College.

March- Gathering will be cancelled due to Holy Week and the Spring Break period.

April 24th- Pastor Chip Lutz will be asked to give devotions. Bingo or the Senior Center Choir will be the program.

May 22nd – Pastor Lance Loveall will be contacted for devotions. Bingo or the Senior Center Choir will be the program.

A discussion was held about the upcoming Ministry Fair on February 25th. Board members are willing to create visuals as well as man the booth at the fair.

Lisa will write the temple talk about The Friendly Center/Stewardship for March.

Bob will give it on Saturday night and Lisa will give it on Sunday morning.

Submitted by Lisa Zanin

Stewardship Planning Meeting Minutes

January 16, 2024

CIOH – 1/8/24,

Old Business – None, first meeting

New Business

1. Temple Talk

- a. Organization – Dan/Finance – Dan spoke about doing 1 talk related to time and talents and 1 related to where our money goes – 4 parts: outside ministries, programming within building/service/worship, personnel, facilities
- b. 1/27-1/28 – Keith summary of retreat/Stewardship Year-round
- c. 2/3-2/4 – Dan #1
- d. 2/10-2/11 – Where does our money go?
- e. 2/17-2/18 – Dan #2
- f. 2/25

Paul was a fundraiser for the church. Discussion about telling the story of where our money goes with the giving within St. Mary's. Sponsorship of medical folks; helping in Tanzania; Companion synods and our connection with where the Synod; stories to share – Keith shared an electronic file with

2. WMA – Organizing worship with Stewardship, thanks, giving, etc.

- a. Will there be worship on 2/24?
- b. What other areas will overlap with Stewardship and WMA?

3. Pledge card drafts

4. Time and Talents Survey

- a. Elvanto

5. Campaign Kickoff – light brunch, 2/3-2/4

6. Ministry Fair 2/25

- a. Ministry Fair Ministries/Tables (contact info)
 - i. Set-up
 - ii. What should they have/bring
 - iii. Temple talk represented at the table
- b. Ministry Fair Letters (draft)
- c. Ministry Fair Potluck
 - i. Beth, thirds of congregation (A-? Appetizer, ?-? Sides, ?-Z Dessert)
 - ii. Setup (Scouts there)
- d. Raffle
- e. Thoughts for including F+F and SS families

7. Advertising/Publicity

- a. Boards and Case
- b. Newspaper?
- c. Synod?

Minutes of WMA -Worship, Music, and Arts

January 16, 2024

6:00 pm

Those in attendance: Dick Sjoerdsma, Gretchen Rasch, Julie Schmit, Deb Black, Andrew Schroeder, Faith Pfeiffer, Pat Gallo, Markie Hylinski, Bjorn Hanson, Pastor Kathy Brown, Guest Stephanie Raszkievicz

- I. Opening devotion given by Pat- Changing World.
- II. Minutes of December 7, 2023, were approved as written.
- III. Reports from Council members – Council accepted our motion to rescind the motion to end Saturday night services in December.
- IV. Business

1. Worship

A. Stephanie talked about the Stewardship campaign that will start in February and tie in with the Time and Talent Ministry Fair and a Pot Luck. We will be asked to participate in the Time/Talent portion. We will discuss what we are doing at our next meeting. She asked us to consider having only one service on February 25. There would be no Saturday night service. We voted - by email on Thursday Jan17-- to have only one service that weekend so all could attend the Fair and the Potluck that will be held. There will be different Temple talks each weekend in February. The theme is “Being Thankful!”.

B. Holden will be sung on Wednesdays Mid-Week services during Lent except Ash Wednesday. There will be communion on Ash Wednesday but not the other Wednesdays in Lent. Andy will get communion assistants. Gretchen will again be offering a soup meal starting at 5:00 on Wednesdays. Meals will start – February 21 - the Wednesday following Ash Wednesday. The Youth will help serve and clean up. All monies raised will go to the Youth for their Mission trip.

C. By an email vote we approved a banner that will be used for the 150th Anniversary Celebration. Banner cost is \$133.90. We wanted it here for this next weekend since this is our actual Anniversary.

D. Our November Survey questions were discussed. It is very important that everyone knows they were heard. Julie will do a Temple Talk this weekend to explain this. We have decided that any major changes we do we would want input from a new pastor. This past weekend the Order of Worship was put into the bulletin for the Contemporary Service. That helped. Gretchen would like to see the words printed as well. There was discussion that there must be a “slide” for each verse and refrain so that the Sound board doesn’t have to jump around – back and forth. Saturday night would like to see occasional special music-small groups. We would like the youth to sing more with contemporary service. Service will continue once a month.

2. MUSIC

A. Jubilate! Mondays 5:30 –7:00.

B. Adult Choir Wednesdays 7:00-8:00 or following the Lenten service.

C. Holden will be sung on Saturday nights.

D. Perhaps for the 150th Celebration we could have a special service in the fall

and invite former choir members to participate. Dick suggested songs about Mary that are depicted in our stained-glass windows. It was also suggested we could use some OLD liturgy settings for the 150th- maybe in April.

3. ARTS

A. Anniversary Banner should be here for the weekend.

B. Think about what we will do for the Ministry Fair.

C. Ribbons are here to be put into hymnals to help mark pages. They will be put into books closer to the front.

V. POTPOURRI

1. WMA will help serve coffee this Sunday. We will purchase a cake to kick off the start of our 150th Anniversary. Julie, Andy, and Gretchen will help.

2. Devotions next meeting –Gretchen.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is Tuesday, February 13, 2024.



Greater Milwaukee Thank You

Did you know that ELCA members in more than 8,900 congregations in the United States and Caribbean give approximately \$1.7 billion in regular offerings annually to support ELCA ministries in their local communities and worldwide? When members give through their congregations, a portion of that money is shared with the local synod, which then shares a portion with the national churchwide office. Thank you for your faithful support! Last year, the Greater Milwaukee Synod shared **\$720,000** directly in Mission Support for ELCA churchwide ministries. In the midst of such challenging times, thank you for your continued commitment to respond to God's call to love and serve as a neighbor, both locally and with the wider church. It is through your faith-filled and financial support that the following ministries are possible. We ARE church together - Thanks be to God!

YOUR MISSION SUPPORT HELPS FUND THE FOLLOWING CHURCHWIDE MINISTRIES:



41% OF MISSION SUPPORT GROWS THE ELCA IN THE UNITED STATES:

Thank you for **\$295,200** from the Greater Milwaukee Synod for these ministries!

- **Plant and support** hundreds of new congregations.
- **Enable congregations to renew** their ministries and **reach out** to their surrounding communities.
- **Develop and share** resources for faith, discipleship, prayer, stewardship and worship.
- **Work together** with our African-descent, American Indian, Alaska Native, Arab, Middle Eastern, Asian, Pacific Islander and Latino/Latina leaders and members.
- **Invest** in technology and communication.
- **Grow and sustain** financial resources.
- **Engage** in research and strategic planning.



"SPACE TO ABIDE"



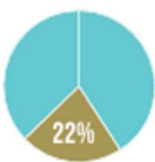
"INSPIRING GENEROSITY"



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

CLICK ON EACH STORY TO READ MORE!

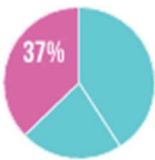
MISSION SUPPORT: A DEEP DIVE



22% OF MISSION SUPPORT GROWS THE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND ADDRESSES ISSUES AROUND THE WORLD:

Thank you for **\$158,400** from the Greater Milwaukee Synod for these ministries!

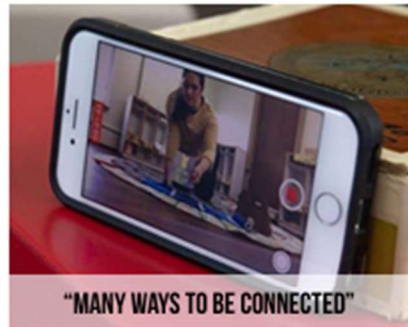
- As a member of the Lutheran World Federation, the ELCA is in communion with **147 other churches**.
- ELCA synods relate directly to **65 companion churches** through a total of **127 official relationships**.
- The **ELCA accompanies** new Lutheran churches, **expands** ministries and **trains** leaders and evangelists.
- The **ELCA sends missionaries** who are the hands and feet of Jesus around the world.
- The **ELCA addresses social issues** and **works for justice**.



37% OF MISSION SUPPORT HELPS DEVELOP CURRENT AND FUTURE LEADERS IN THE ELCA:

Thank you for **\$266,400** from the Greater Milwaukee Synod for these ministries!

- **Prepare** and **implement** a system for recruitment and assignment of rostered ministers.
- **Identify** and **provide** ministry resources and opportunities to lay leaders for networking.
- **Offer events and leadership opportunities** for youth and young adults.
- **Support** the work of **seven ELCA seminaries** and **26 ELCA colleges and universities**.
- Provide **coordination** and **support** for churchwide ministries.
- Provide **governance** and **leadership**.
- Sustain **ecumenical** and **interfaith** relations.



Thank you for your ongoing support! For additional resources, go to ELCA.org/SOFIA.