

Council Meeting Minutes

November 16, 2023

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

ABSENT: M. Hylinski, Pastor D. Hartfield, B. Robinson

Discussion Topics

1. **Call to order** – Meeting opened at 6:31 PM
2. **Opening Prayer/Devotion** – Chris Johnson
3. **Approval of Council Agenda for November 16, 2023** – Agenda approved, P. Mason made motion to approve agenda, L. Zanin seconded. All in favor.
4. **Approval of Council Meeting Minutes from October 19, 2023** – Council Meeting minutes P. Mason made motion to approve meeting minutes, S. Raszkievicz seconded. All in favor.
5. **Treasurer's report** – Keith – October 2023 – See attached document.
6. **President's report** – Keith
 - Pastors Kathy & Debbie and Keith participated in Kenosha ELCA Pastors Presidents meeting and discussed where we can start working together (7 churches).
 - Lounge Dedication was a success. People who had not been in those rooms were pleased with the renovations.
 - Received "Thank You" note from Spirit Alive who held their leadership retreat at SMLC.
7. **Pastor's Reports**
 - a. **Pastor Kathy**
 - 1 baptism
 - Met with a couple to plan a wedding.
 - Rededication of the chapel lounge and library
 - Led worship.
 - Participated in WMA, Finance.
 - Monthly meeting with all the other pastors that are in transition.
 - Participation Quarterly Leadership Retreat
 - Attended a daylong event hosted by the Reconciling in Christ team for the Synod in Waukesha.
 - Participated in Trunk or Treat.
 - b. **Pastor Debbie** – See Pastor Debbie's written report attached.
8. **Document Policy updates** – Keith
 - a. SMLC Constitution and By-laws (Executive) – No updates this month.
 - b. Employee Handbook (Personnel) – Personnel reviewing and then will bring to Council for approval.
 - c. Memorial Giving (Finance) – No updates this month.

d. Disbursement (Finance) – Finance good with this, will bring it to the December Council Meeting for approval.

9. Old Business

a. Call Committee - Lisa/Keith

- Meeting regularly.
- Mock interview conducted with Pastor from St. Luke’s in Waukesha.
- Went very well (wish we could have someone like him! Building relationships comes naturally to him).
- Received paperwork on 4 candidates, reviewing the paperwork and preparing questions for interviewing for those that they will interview.
- Keith and Lisa will not be involved in the interview but will vote.
- Consultant to help with networking/succession planning...has links to ELCA pastors that are not currently preaching or rostered.

b. Worship Discussion Sessions

- Had two discussions this past weekend on Saturday 11/11 (12+) and Sunday 11/12.
- Saturday had good participation as well as Sunday.
- Council is strongly encouraged to attend the sessions.
- Have an open mind during the Saturday sessions.

c. Council Retreat/Stewardship Retreat

- Went well.
- Think of ways to have year-long Stewardship in front of people (bulletin boards etc.)
- If you have any ideas, let Keith and Stephanie know.

d. 150th Anniversary Planning Team – Chris – No updates this month.

e. Building use request update – Polling place

- Received notification that SMLC is accepted and selected as a polling site for 2024.
- February 20th, April 2nd, August 13th, and November 5th.
- SMLC can advertise on those days-Can discuss further at the next Council meeting.

10. New Business

a. Protecting Places of Worship training

- Keith is registered for it.
- Let Keith know if you would like to participate as well.

b. Endowment Foundation Christmas Celebration

- Invitation sent by Kay Manderfield for December 12th at 530PM, Kenosha Country Club.

c. Get to Know a Member of SMLC

- Similar to what “I’m a Lutheran” has.
- Write up bios, put in the Spirit, on the Council Board (those that are Council Connection each month).
- Have to determine what the questions would be.
- Could tie into the 150th celebration.

11. Committee Report/Motions

Committee	Liaison	Notes	Motions
Audit	Keith	• Had some discussions.	• None

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have some options going forward not necessary per the constitution and bylaws but at least we are moving forward. • There are some members of the Finance team that do not hold positions that preclude them from being an auditor, but 3 will start with them. 	
Caring Ministries	Lana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Did not meet 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Church in Society	Patti	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attachment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Education	Stephanie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were 9 participants in the book study that recently wrapped up. • Andrea Beer planning for an Advent Book Study. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Finance	Keith	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are still members that prefer envelopes for their offerings. • Cari is working on a process to hand out envelopes in December (7/8 & 16/17). • SMLC saves a lot of money this way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Friendly Center	Lisa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See attachment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Information Technology	Adam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submitted a request to Endowment for equipment. • A meeting is scheduled in December. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
Nominating	Dana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have not met. • Need to keep in mind there is (1) 2 year term open. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Property	Chris	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broken Sunday School chairs to be removed. • Downstairs needs attention with cleaning. • Big Bear room downstairs needs patching and painting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None
Personnel	Andy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job description for SS lead. • Will bring to the December meeting for thorough discussion. • Council has to approve the job description and the official position. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finance cannot do anything with this for this year's budget and looking more to next year's. 	
Reconnect	Hollie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Successful refreshment set up and serving for Organ Recital on November 5th. Will have pie serving after Worship Service on Thanksgiving Eve on 11/22. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Stewardship	Stephanie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See notes above in 9c. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
WMA	Markie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Eve services set, for 5 and 8 PM Candlelight Service. 1 service on Christmas Day. Looking for more people to sign up for poinsettias. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
Youth	Adam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See attachment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None

12. Council Connection – December: Lisa Zanin

13. Calendar

- December Spirit Deadline: November 23, 2023
- December Stewardship Message: Endowment Foundation
- Endowment Foundation Christmas Celebration: December 12, 2023 (5:30PM)
- Next Council Meeting: December 14, 2023
- Leadership retreat: January 27th, 2024, at Siena Center in Racine from 9AM-3PM.

14. Prayer Requests/Closing Prayer – Chris

- Stephanie's friend Jim in hospice
- Patti's foot surgery, brother-in-law with mental illness.

15. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 7:41 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

OCTOBER 2023 TREASURER'S REPORT

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

General Operating Fund

Beginning Balance	(3,825.89)
October Income	48,419.57
October Expenses	(41,828.73)
Cumulative Profit (Loss)	2,764.95

+6590.84

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	2,836.68
-Receipts	0.00
-Disbursements: Christine Johnson- Supplied materials	(984.17)
-Disbursements: Robinson Brothers Environmental	(1,800.00)
Building/Grounds Ending Balance	52.51

Investment Accounts Beginning Balance	123,488.82
-Receipts	0.00
-Disbursements	0.00
Investment Accounts Ending Balance	123,488.82

Other Dedicated Accounts Ending Balance	50,118.84
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Total Fund Balances	256,861.17
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Bank / Investment Account Balances

Checking Account	31,241.68
Money Market Account	98,774.35
Accounts Receivable	80.16
Investment Accounts	123,509.64
Prepaid Insurance	3,255.34

Total Current Assets	256,861.17
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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	352,287.09
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**November 16th, 2023, Congregation Council
Pastor Debbie Report
(October 19th - November 15th, 2023)**

- Pastoral Care
 - Congregation
 - Hospital Visits (Froedardt)
 - Residential Care Visits (Brookside/Willowbrook, Water's Edge Health & Rehab)
 - Home visits
 - Time together (in person and/or over phone, before/after doctor/hospital visits/testing/surgery)
- Preach & Preside at St. Mary's (Oct. 21&22)
- Community
 - Funeral prep and preach/preside at Lord of Life (Nov. 4th)
- Caring Team Collaboration
 - Pr. Kathy/Sue/Pr. Debbie/area colleagues
- Weekly Text Studies with GMS South Conference
- Congregation conflict resolution phone calls and follow up
- Administration/Meetings/Conference
 - SML Leadership Retreat, November 4th
 - Joint ELCA Congregation Presidents and Pastors Meeting @ Trinity, Nov. 7th
 - Executive Committee Meeting, November 8th
 - Companionship Training (Sue Q. & Anya from Aurora), November 9th
 - First Call Conference November 11th, 12th & 13th (Wausau)
- Looking Ahead
 - Dec. 2nd, Saturday, 9:30am-11am, Surviving the Holidays w/Sue Quever,
 - Dec. 19th, Tuesday, 6:30pm, Joint Kenosha ELCA Blue Christmas Service @ St. Paul's

Church in Society

Minutes for November 9, 2023

Members present included: Anne Winkle, Inez Lemnus, Patty Mason, Steve Hartfield, Margaret VanBoven, Ralph Tollas and Kathy Neururer

Meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm. Steve Hartfield led devotions and Inez will lead devotions at the next meeting on January 11, 2024.

Minutes from the October meeting were read and approved.

Financial Report: Budget: \$300 Dedicated account # 3243 \$1306.09

Dedicated Amount \$ 247.55

Summer Snack Fund \$1,058.54

Fair Trade Coffee Fund \$ 615.16*

*\$900 has been spent on a coffee order, which has not yet been recorded. Temporarily, there will be a negative balance until some of the coffee is sold.

OLD BUSINESS

Afghan Refugee Resettlement – Information is available in the monthly report to the congregation. Handouts were made available to the congregation pertaining to the bill: The Afghan Adjustment Act of 2023.

There was no other old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Fair Trade Products – the price of coffee has increased to \$9 per bag in October in order to cover increased costs to the committee.

People volunteering to sell coffee as listed:

Saturday, Nov. 18 – Ralph

Sunday, Nov. 19 – Margaret/Patty

Saturday, Dec. 16 – Ralph

Sunday, Dec. 17 – Anne, Inez, Kathy

Breaking the Chains Ministry – Steve reported that we will be stuffing bags on Dec. 11 from noon to 4:00 pm. Any volunteers can come and participate. Action Team money has been used to purchase stamps to facilitate mailing Christmas cards (there have been many cards donated) by the ministry. The service for handing out gift bags will take place on Sunday, Dec. 17. A request has been submitted to allow up to 10 St. Mary's members to participate in service. More information will be coming.

Shalom Center – Steve reported that Christmas preparations are going on at Shalom. A ribbon cutting to celebrate the addition will take place in January.

CUSH – Anne reported a session on “Building Transformational Justice” was held on Wed., Nov. 8 at the Wesley United Methodist Church.

Bread for the World – There has been no movement on the farm bill, so programs such as WIC and other food programs are not being funded at this time.

Angel Tree Christmas Ministry – it appears 40-50 children will be serviced through St. Mary's this year. Names may be taken on the weekends of Nov. 18/19 and Nov. 25/26. Gifts need to be returned by Dec. 2/3. Following that weekend, gifts will be sorted and delivered to families.

Grace Lutheran Church – is having a Craft and Vendor Fair on Nov. 25 from 9 am- 2:30 pm.

No other new business was reported.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 pm with the Lord's Prayer. The next meeting will take place on January 11, 2024.

Kathleen Neururer
Church in Society Committee

The Friendly Center Meeting Minutes

November 15, 2023

Members attending: Sue and Bob VanBendegom, Faith and Rod Pfeiffer, Lisa Zanin and Carlene Conoscenti

Members absent: Jan Merrick

Meeting opened: 1:30 pm

Old Business

Dues for Membership- Dues collection will be mentioned in both newsletters (November and December) and will be collected in January. Dues will be \$6.00 per person.

Spirit Announcement- Bob suggests that a summary be placed in the Spirit to let our congregation know a donation was made to a charitable organization for the months of November and December from the members of the Friendly Center.

A second announcement for the Spirit would be a call for helpers for the Friendly Center. Looking for helpers to be a little younger (maybe newly retired), mobile and interested in helping on a consistent basis. There are tasks to be done for long range and short-range planning as well as tasks of set up and clean up on the day of the event. Volunteers may choose to be a member of the Friendly Center, but this is not required.

New Business

Upcoming Events-

On December 13th the Holiday Party will take place at the Fireside Restaurant at 11:00 am. Pastor Chip from Lord of Life Church will lead devotions. John Schoettler and his 4-piece trombone quartet, Bone Appetit, will play Christmas songs following the meal. His fee is \$100 for the entertainment. The menu and cost per person for the meal has yet to be determined.

January 24 or 31- Breaking the Chains with Pastor Rebey. Pastor Rebey will also lead devotions. Rod will make Swedish meatballs over noodles. The rest of the menu will be determined.

February? - Adventures in Life Long Learning with Carol Scotese. Pastor Cindy may be available for devotions. Menu is yet to be determined.

Stewardship- Lisa let the board know that the church council is looking ahead to scheduling a temple talk from the Friendly Center in March of 2024 on stewardship. Faith and Bob said that Sister Carol had written out this talk long ago. They would get a copy for Lisa to preview. Lisa also discussed the Ministry Fair that would be taking place in the spring of 2024.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05.

Submitted by Lisa Zanin

**Youth Education Committee
Meeting Agenda November 14, 2023**

Call to Order 6:36p: present Michelle and Adam Fonk, Kendra Richter, Heidi (Spirit Alive), Mindy Eltoft, Hollie DeFranco, Charlotta Jonsson, Stephanie Raszkievicz, Lara Rader

Opening Prayer/Devotion: Kendra

Approval of Meeting Agenda: Michelle

Approval of October 10, 2023, Meeting Minutes: Michelle

Treasurer's Report: (Mindy) nothing to report.

Old Business

Administrative (Michelle)

Reach out past members/local community: Michelle sent letters to baptized, confirmed

Shalom Center: Michelle will follow up with Kendra/youth families to volunteer.

FISH/Fusion (Kendra)

- Lord of Life Community Meal: Great!
- Halloween Party: Great! Fonks will host again next year.
- Winter Extreme: Jan 19-21 (Middle school), Feb 16-18 (High school) Next mtg we will have more info about transportation.
- Youth Gathering: 7/16, no update.
- Fish Summer Mission Trip: no update
- Confirmation Pictures: need to order.
- Drop and Shop: still a go! 12/8 4-8p at Lord of Life
Kendra/Stephanie will advertise w/SS.
- Rummage Sale: was in the Spirit, drop off Dec 30 9-12p, Jan 1 4-7p, pricing Jan 2/3rd if needed 6-8pm, sale is Jan 6th 8-3pm and 7th 4:30-6:30pm, sun 8-12pm

Sunday School (Stephanie)

- Trunk of Treat: just over 50 people, about same as last year, 21 cars...friendliest
- Friday Family Fun Night: 2 now - first games night, second colored bags for Thanksgiving donations. Next one will be a pasta bar with cookies to decorate and decorate the tree. Thinking about making Christmas cards for folks. Next one will be Dec 1 and Jan 5. 3 families have been coming.
- Teachers: staffed until Christmas, looking to pull some folks from Carthage
- Lutherdale: Dec 2/3, Dave, and Stephanie chaperoning. 5 kids signed up. We did receive funding from the Foundation. Thank you, Kim Frost!
- Christmas Program: going well already! Kids are excited about the singing and speaking parts. Program is Dec 17, 9a; practice on 16th 9-12pm

New Business

Administrative: (Michelle) need to cancel next month's meeting. We will not reschedule.

Fish/Fusion: (Kendra)

- Two fundraisers scheduled: benefiting summer mission trip.
- Sheridan Culvers Fundraiser: Nov 20 5-8pm, No FISH/Fusion
- Mod Pizza: Dec 4th all day, but must say it's for St. Mary's, Michelle will make a FB event.
- Thanksgiving Eve: invite past youth and current youth to have pizza downstairs together.
- FISH has been low, not more than 12.

- Two high schoolers looking for honors points by directing a kid's choir: Kendra will discuss with Stephanie.
- Will start talking Good Friday rehearsals in January.

Sunday School: (Stephanie)

- 1/7/24 Movie Day/Teacher meeting: What's working, what's not? Will need someone to watch the kids during the service to do this. Will do it on site so Emily and Ellie can attend during the youth rummage sale.

Meeting end 7:25pm