

**St. Lukes Lutheran Church  
Regular Council Meeting  
December 19, 2024 | 5:30 PM**

- Call to Order – Jim Friedrichs
- Opening Prayer – Kim Brandt
- **Establish Quorum – 6 is required**

Council Member	Attendance
Jim Friedrichs – President	✓
Randy Brandt – President Elect	✓
Sarah Scattini - Treasurer	✓
Chuck Alvey - Stewardship	✓
Kim Brandt - Education	✓
Josh Hall – Elder Board	
Joshua Brown - Pastor	✓
Kathy Dickens – Secretary	✓
Megan Oehlert - Worship	✓
Pam Alvey – Mercy Ministry	✓
Sean O'Brien – Property Management	✓

- Congregational Input: Will wait until the end of the meeting.
- members present: Paul Maurer, Taryn Miller-Warne, Chelsea Thompson, Tracy Tresley, Nancy O'Brien, Linda Oliver
- Official Acts
  - Membership information
    - New members
    - Transfers
    - Death's
    - Motion to accept

See report.

**Motion to accept Official Acts by Megan Oehlert. seconded by [Chuck Alvey](#). Motion carried.**

- Reading of the December Minutes
  - Motion to accept

December minutes were read.

**Motion to accept minutes with corrections and additions by [Randy Brandt](#).**

**Seconded by Pam Alvey. Motion carried.**

- Treasurers Report
  - Motion to accept
  - see report.
  
- Administration Highlights
  - Administrative Director see report. – Sharise Chatfield  
Sharise and [Stephanie McCollum](#) will meet with Steve Ferguson Jan 17, 2025 from 9-11am to review the financials of St. Lukes.
  
  - Building Maintenance and Property Report - see report - Sean O'Brien
  - Stewardship Report- no report – Chuck Alvey
  - Worship - see report – Megan Oehlert

#### **Ministry Highlights**

- Care/Elder - no report. – Josh Hall
  
- Education - no report. – Kim Brandt Bible Studies are started for this year. There is a confirmation banquet planned for Saturday evening before Confirmation Sunday for the families of the confirmands and 1st and 2nd year students. Bibles for the 1st communion will be handed out during the confirmation service.
  
- Mercy Ministry - see report. - Pam Alvey LERT has 33 people trained at St. Lukes. Thrivent is matching 2-1 any funds donated. There are 6 partnerships. Donations must be by debit or credit card. Donations will be accepted until March 10, 2025. Details will be in the Friday newsletter.
  
- Pastor's Report - see report. – Pastor Josh Brown
  
- Ruth Guild - no report. – Taryn Miller-Warne Group had a presentation by Horsemanship for Heros, a group providing therapy and companionship for Vets and first responders. The Basket Bonanza and OBW were a huge success. Ruth Guild is planning Coffee Hour in February.
  
- Social Groups - no report – Elizebeth Henningsen
- Worship Arts - see report – Brittany Brown

- Youth Ministry - see report – Chelsey Thompson

### **Old Business**

- Constitution and By-Laws Update | No discussion.
  - Update on confirming changes – Megan, Randy, and Josh H
- Policy, Procedure and Job Description No discussion.
  - Table of Contents
  - Policy Procedures
- Budget
  - Develop a proposed revised January-to-December 2025 balanced stated concerns, including realistic income expectations and actual 2024 data.
  - Distribute Budget proposal in early to mid-January for review and discussion by congregational members.
    - The budget was put out to the congregation January 10, 2025.

Schedule multiple opportunities for members to meet with the Council and provide comments, ask questions and offer suggestions. The budget may be refined by the Council in response to the information received.

Q&A sessions are scheduled for Sunday, Jan 19, 2025 during coffee hour (Church Council will provide coffee hour coffee and snacks) and after second service; Wednesday, Jan 22, 2025 during Wednesday Night at Church; Sunday, Jan 26, 2025 during coffee hour and after second service and during Wednesday Night at Church.

A Congregational Meeting will be scheduled in early February for a formal vote on the budget.

- Voters meeting scheduled for Feb. 2, 2025 after second service.
- Voter's Meeting Motion to investigate doing a Church Audit/Review  
No discussion.

### **Update**

### **New Business**

- Proxy Policy – Megan and Sean | No discussion.
  - A policy to provide reasonable opportunities for proxy votes at Congregational meetings is being developed and some form of proxy voting will be available at the February meeting.

### **Congregational Input**

Discussion about clarifying the budget. VBS has some pre bought items for next year. It won't show in the line item for 2025. Tracy Tresley will coordinate with Chelsey Thompson and let the council know her changes.

- discussion about congregation members being rushed out of church after the 6:30 Christmas Eve Service. No chance to mingle and have fellowship with members. Suggestion of having cocoa and cookies after the 6:30 service to provide for fellowship in the fellowship hall.
- discussion and clarification about activities and self-funded ministry items. There is no transfer of funds between line items for ministries.
- discussion regarding salaries for called staff and uncalled staff.
- discussion that a voters meeting is not necessary for voting on small items to fund ministries.
- discussion about yearly budget, and line items requested.
- discussion that council may endorse requests for ministry event money not funded. Or congregation members may donate for specific events
- discussion that CPAs are very busy and not interested in working on a review with churches.
- Our church is having a review, not an audit with Steve Ferguson. After the review, we have members of church who are qualified to look over the review. John Roberts and Joe Smith are two suggestions.
- discussion that any member of church can look further into the budget at line items with Sharise Chatfield, Jim Friedrichs or [Randy Brandt](#).
- discussion about funding the Christmas play. There was a dinner and brunch to help offset the expense for the play. The goal for the play is to break even. Perhaps the 527 Kitchen and Intergenerational groups can help with the dinner and brunch. Also the dinner and brunch price per person can be raised.
- The Q&A questions and concerns from each session will be written and published for the congregation to view. The questions will be answered verbally, not written, as there is a lot of discussion for each one.
- Question and concern that our budget has been cut by almost 10%. And this is worrisome about the ministries being cut. Is this because of the staff raises?
- Statements that Worship Arts is a large part of the ministries.
- Discussion about Pastor Mike Benke's line item that was cut. If a member wants to fund a line item they can propose a motion at a voter's meeting.
- Concern that our church has seen a division between the seniors, young adults, youth and children. We do not want our church to have "bigchurchitis". Confrontation is hard, but open discussion is needed to regroup. Elders are helpful in getting groups together.

- **Motion to Adjournment**

- **Motion to adjourn by Pam Alvey. seconded by Kathy Dickens. Motion carried.**

- **Lord's Prayer**

Christmas Cookies, Deserts, and Punch supplied by Council Members