

St. Luke's Annual Meeting

January 29, 2023



Minutes for Annual Meeting

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

January 29, 2023

Proposed minutes

Attending: John Emery, Dana Emery, Doug Friendshuh, Robin Friendshuh, Dick Hecock, Georgia Hecock, Carol Granger, Jim Granger, Barb Ebert, Doreen Tollefson, Sandi Holmberg, Loxley Koshnick, Sandy Thielen, Bob Koshnick, Mike Becraft, Caroline Becraft, Araba Wourt, Kathy Carter, Kathy's grand daughter

Attending via Zoom: John Fossen, Mary Claire Bond, George Cercle

Called to order: Mike Becraft 11:40 am

Opening Prayer: Dana

Appointment of Clerk: Jim Granger

Minutes: of 2022 meeting: none

Treasurer's Report: John Emery (see attached report)

Presented Treasurer's report and Proposed 2023 Budget

Operational income over \$72,000 expenses approximately \$63,000

*Moved to accept Treasure's report and proposed 2023 budget.

Caroline B./Kathy C. Approved unanimously

Out Reach Report: John Emery (see attached report)

Big part of outreach for St. Luke's is building use

Election of BC:

Sr. Warden- John Fossen

Jr. Warden- Jim Granger

Treasurer- John Emery

Mike Becraft- BC member

*Moved to elect on a unanimous ballot

Loxley/Doreen approved unanimously

Mike offered his and the congregation's appreciation to Matt Friendshuh, and Carol Granger for their service to the church and the BC.

Introduction of Youth Christian Ed:

Loxley introduce Sandy Thielen, Christian Ed instructor. Sandy explained her curriculum

Sr. Warden's Report: Mike Becraft (see attached report)

Mike discussed-

- *our involvement in ECMN's Faithful Innovations process

- * need to extend ourselves to spread the Word

- * a sincere "Thank You" to the clergy also to Matt, Robin, Jamon, and John E.

- *talked about placing a banner on the outside of the church proclaiming the Episcopal Church's openness to all people

Jr. Warden's Report: (see attached report)

Total Ministry Report: Dana and Sandi (see attached report)

Looking to revitalize the Total Ministry Team into a ministry of the people

Sandi is looking to move more into her retirement life- still a full member of St. Luke's but not as active as a priest

Communication Report: Loxley/Jamon (see attached report)

Space 'N Faith Proposal: Loxley (see attached proposal)

Moved to approve implementation of Space 'N Faith plan

Doug/Bob Approve unanimously

Approval of Written Reports:

Moved to accept all written reports as presented

Mike/Dana approved

Closing Prayer: Sandi

Adjourned: 12:35 pm

Submitted by Jim Granger

Treasurer's Report: John Emery

Report is a separate document

1st column is the actual 2021 budget

2nd column is the proposed 2022 Operational

3rd column is the proposed 2023 Operational , extrapolated from the accountants 3rd quarter 2022 report

“*” denotes changes Note- Income, Public Relations, ECMN Pledge, Office, Utilities

Outreach Report for 2022

NAPS Food Gifts	\$1200
Episcopal Relief	\$3000
Food Pantry	\$2000
Liberian Church	\$420
Beker C. Human Resources Camper support	\$500
Day of Caring	\$200
Feed the Hungry	\$200
Salvation Army	\$1000
UTO	\$661
Christmas Stocking	<u>\$2716</u>
TOTAL	\$11,897

Sources of Funds

Many Individual donations

Duplicate Bridge \$1610

Building use:

Duplicate Bridge

NAPS

Weight Health Group

Lions

PEO

Family Events

Non-members: Weddings, Baptisms, Funerals

SENIOR WARDEN ANNUAL REPORT JAN 2023: Mike Becraft

This has been an amazing year in the life of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, I call it the year of discernment. In the face of declining membership, a year ago the Church began a period of discernment and has actively pursued it over the year.

The process began with a session at the Church with Canon Blair Pogue from the ECMN. It has continued under the careful guidance of Jim Granger, and has now included the use of the "Faithful Innovation" process with Jim and Cathy Carter. Bishop Loya's visit on 22 January 2023 provided a capstone for the year on this effort. His message was that going forward the Church writ large will be different and we must begin to think out of the box. The COVID pandemic has changed our lives in many ways forever and we all must adapt. I would be remiss if I didn't highlight and thank our wonderful clergy: The Reverend Dana Emery, the Reverend Sandra Holmberg, and our Deacon Loxley Koshnick. They have led us with great personal commitment, intelligence, compassion, heart, and religious clarity. They have helped to keep this congregation healthy and together during difficult times as well as focused on the future.

Given I will be stepping away as Senior Warden at the Annual Meeting, I must thank the members of the Bishop's Committee (BC) who have served St. Luke's unselfishly over the past year. Junior Warden Matt Friendshuh will be stepping off the BC this Annual Meeting and Carol Granger will also be stepping away. Mary Claire Bond came on board this past year and has done a fantastic job.

And of course, many thanks to John Emery our Treasurer for all he does for St. Luke's. Many thanks also to Jim Granger our BC Recorder and Jack of all Trades, Doreen Tollefson who writes our checks and keeps us straight, and Jamon Friendshuh who writes our Newsletter.

Finally, I want to thank the "Regulars" who attend services every week. I am comfortable that St. Luke's will find its niche as a community of faith and continue to thrive as an important religious voice in the Detroit Lakes community. It has been an honor to serve as the Senior Warden and I will be happy to serve as a BC member for another term. I want to welcome John Fossen who will stand for Senior Warden, and Jim Granger who will stand for Junior Warden. St. Luke's is in good hands.

Warm Regards, Mike Becraft

Junior Warden report 2022

It was a quiet year again. The lighting for the front door was upgraded and a switch controlled by a clock. Turn the lights on and off hopefully this will shed more light at night. We continue to use RU ready Lawn Care. We had no major expenses for buildings and grounds costs.

I will be stepping down as junior warden effective after the annual meeting.

Matt

St. Luke's Team Ministry Annual Report for 2022

It is always encouraging to see how much we have accomplished at St. Luke's in a year's time. We are a small church, but we still can do great things when we work together. We are a committed group and we are aware of how much we need each other in order to share God's love with others. Though 2022 was not as difficult as 2021, when it comes to recovering from COVID, we still were making some adaptations to our meetings and worship. Our numbers are down, but we are enjoying the increased participation of our summer members along with our winter congregation (😊), so we maintained using ZOOM for most TM meetings and BC Meetings. In person, we alternated between worshipping in the Sanctuary and worshipping in the Gathering Room. We had more Morning Prayer than in years past, and when we could not get an organist, Jim helped us record music with Holly or we found music on YouTube! (Faithful Innovation!) Thank you to our organists Holly Heisserer and Barb Ebert for a year's faithful work. And thank you, Jim, for keeping our heads above water when it came to technology!

With the death of Ellen Cerele, our Ministry Team now consists of Priests: Sandi Holmberg and Dana Emery, Deacon Loxley Koshnick, who came back out of retirement, to rejoin the Team (Thank you Loxley!) and Araba Wourt, who is our faithful Altar Guild Servant and Intercessor. We open every meeting with a meditation and prayer. Then we move into Prayers of Healing and Intercession and Prayers of Thanksgiving. Araba closes every meeting with the Lord's Prayer. We try to meet twice a month on the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 10:00am. Sandi and Dana alternate between leading the meeting and writing the minutes.

Our JOYS and our BLESSINGS:

- **Worship in 2022** consisted of 37 services of Holy Eucharist, 17 services of Morning Prayer, 4 Midweek services, 3 Private Communion, and 2 ZOOM Healing Services for Ellen. St Luke's officiated at 4 funerals/memorial services: one at St. Christopher's in Roseville, one at St. Luke's, one graveside, and one in West Fargo.
- **St. Luke's used a Supply Priest:** (Steve Schaitberger) once, Besides Dana and Sandi leading MP on ZOOM,; Loxley Koshnick, Jim Granger, Carolyn Becraft, Mary Claire Bond, John Emery, Kathy Cart and Doreen Tollefson have led in person Offices.
- In 2022 we had Holy Eucharist on Ash Wednesday and then we received a real blessing from our Bishop! ECMN provided written or video taped sermons to help take the load off during Lent.! We used them, which allowed us to prepare and hold small group gatherings for lunch on Wednesdays to discuss the Gospel of Matthew using "Heart and Mind, the Four-Gospel Journey for Radical Transformation," by Alexander John Shaia. We were delighted to be able to work collaboratively with the Rev. Anne Miner-Pearson and Heidi Groven from Trinity, Excelsior in preparing for this. People enjoyed it, and we are preparing to study Mark this Lent, using the same format.
- Palm Sunday and Easter went well! We had our first "Tri-Church" Service (since COVID) on Good Friday at the Methodist Church. We shared a simple Meal, Kevin Gregory, Mark Kuether and Dana shared in a simple Eucharist and Service. Mark Preached. 8 people from St. Luke's participated.
- In May 2022 Canon Blair Pogue was with us. She introduced the ECMN process she is proposing "Faithful Innovations." From this we formed a St. Luke's Team lead by Jim Granger and Kathy Carter. They have been offering what they learn back to us: "Dwelling in the Word", and finding where the "Spirit is at Work" in us and in our community. This continues...

- Steve Schaitberger was at St. Luke's in June to celebrate the Feast of Enmegahbowh and share about his recent book on the same.
- **During the Summer**, there were various opportunities for outdoor fun times: an **Evening Prayer Service** (which was to be outside on the labyrinth, but turned out better to do indoors... heat) celebrating the Feast Day of Clare of Assisi followed by wine and cheese. **The Lunch Bunch** (organized by John Fossen) met for lunches at local cafes every other Thursday; A gathering called **"Come to the Waters,"** for Bible Discussion and refreshments, was held at Deacon Loxley's home. Our **Second Annual Pontoon/ Box Lunch Parade** happened on Big Detroit after church one August Sunday with 4 Pontoons! **Loxley's Flower Ministry** also provides flowers from her garden in which people make a donation to church for a bouquet, and the money is used variously for Youth Camp and other special activities- people love it!
- **In the Fall** we hired Sandy Thielen to be our **Sunday School Leacher/Teacher** and we held an All-Church Intergenerational Breakfast Kick-off. See **Church School and Confirmation Report**.
- In November, we participated with the **Tri-Church Thanksgiving Service**. Dana participated with Pastors Kevin Gregory (Methodist) and Interim Paster Michael Fritz (UCC). St. Luke's provided the 10 Pumpkin Pies and Whipped Cream! Robin, Doug, and Doreen helped serve the pie.
- An **Advent Quiet Day** was held on December 16th with the Theme "Deepening Our Spiritual Roots." Scripture, Art, Nature, and Music using tree imagery emerged from the Isaiah passage about the coming Messiah "A Shoot from the Stump of Jesse." We shared a meal together and good fellowship. (It had been postponed from December 14th due to weather)
- **Sunday Service Liturgy**: The TM Team chooses to use a variety of worship service liturgies. Most Sundays we use the BCP and Eucharistic Prayers A, B, C as printed in our Bulletins. Occasionally we use other authorized services such as the Enriching our Worship resources. On weekdays we utilize resources such as "a Prayer Book for New Zealand," The Red Lake Mass, and Celtic resources, and Iona resources. People seem to like the diversity.
- St. Luke's has an active Outreach Ministry: 100 Christmas stockings: a project Robin and Ellen have done for years, were completed again! They are donated to a local multi-county social service agency, and members of St. Luke's contribute items, or money to buy items to fill the stockings. The Outreach committee oversees distribution of funds to various causes: Salvation Army Christmas fund and others; they purchase fresh produce from Manna which is then provided to the Nutrition Program run by Social Services and distributed in our church building.
- Loxley is a representative to the NWMA and St. Luke's is still active in the NWMA. Loxley is one of the Diocesan Council Representatives from NWMA.

St. Luke's Sunday School and Confirmation:

This Fall we hired Sandy Thielen to be our Sunday School Leader twice a month. We had purchased the Episcopal Curriculum : **"Weaving God's Promises"** a year ago and renewed our online access to it. Sandy finished out the Year on **The Church Calendar and Liturgy** and in Advent began a study of the **Old Testament**. Sunday School starts at 9:00am with a breakfast which Loxley, Doreen and Kathy provide to make it easier on families Sunday mornings. This seems to be appreciated. There are 5 children participating at this time. Grandchildren and friends are encouraged! St. Luke's has been trying to get our confirmation plan together. We do have a good curriculum. At this time, Zariah Wouters was the only one ready. Then, ECMN offered small rural churches an amazing opportunity! The Youth Canon Missioner for ECMN is offering 4 Sunday Night Zoom classes in preparation for Confirmation, either at the Cathedral or at local churches. Zariah registered and has attended his first session. We are encouraged to still participate with activities and mentor him as he continues... We will do our best to be on this journey, too !

CHALLENGES:

Even before COVID, we were diminishing in numbers. Some people moved away, some died, some stopped attending, and even though active members reached out to the latter, it just hasn't worked. Then COVID hit, and although we had Zoom worship with pretty good attendance, some people didn't come back when we were in person again. The same is happening in other faith communities. It is very sad, but our reality. And like many faith communities, our members are no longer as young as they used to be, none of us are! 😊.

Our Hope for the Future: With our Faithful Innovations Team bringing us new ideas to try, with the possibility of finding more supply priests to lighten our load, with the reminder of how well the “Ministry of All the Baptized” served us for the past 15 years... We are hopeful that St. Luke's can make our Team Ministry work in new ways. We have a very supportive Bishop, Craig Loya, who will guide us through what is coming next. I believe we can find some new ways to share the ministry and keep the Holy Spirit Breathing on us and Inspiring us into the future. We can do it! **And we will with God's Help!**

St. Luke's Ministry Team+

Annual Report from the Digital Communications Specialist, a.k.a. Jamon Friendshuh

2022 was an exciting year; the St. Luke's website was re-created, the Facebook page has gotten more attention, and the newsletter continues to go out as promised.

A position was created within the church to keep the social media presence going in our little community – A Digital Communication Specialist was hired. This person would be responsible to get the website up to date and keep it current. Facebook, as a media outlet, would need to have the St. Luke's presence and the newsletter would need to still reach our followers. In May of 2022, Jamon took on the responsibilities laid out in this position.

Newsletter:

The newsletter is emailed to 66 people and mailed to 6 addresses. It is linked to our Facebook page as well as our website. It goes out every month except for January. December and January information is sent in December.

Everyone is encouraged to read it...and to submit information. We want to hear from you. A story, a picture, an announcement, anything. The newsletter is written for you.

Website:

The website was up and functioning by the end of the summer. The website is <https://www.stlukesdl.com/> I encourage you all to check it out. Here you can find Service information, Community information, the History of St. Luke's, and information on the Labyrinth.

Ideas for the future/things that still need to be done

- Large photo gallery of our “family”
- Updated calendar of events – this would be a google calendar
- I would like our little free library to be on the national map. I have tried to do this, but will need to work with whomever started the process on getting that going

- Our church is listed on a few websites, but it is either the old webpage or just the Facebook link. I have reached out to the administrators and am waiting for the changes to go through.
- I am working on the analytics measurements (seeing how many people visit our page)

Facebook:

I post on Facebook multiple times per week. The posts that get the most attention are ones that are inspirational, and do not involve interaction. The page has 249 likes. In 2022 the page reached 2099 people throughout the year. In 2021, the page reached 1236 people. Quite a difference a year...and some effort makes! 65% of the likes are women over the age of 55. Detroit Lakes is the biggest follower, next is Minneapolis.

Ideas for the future/things that still need to be done:

- More post shares about neighboring churches as well as ECMN posts. When you share from another page, everyone on that page, sees your name/page = more possible visitors to our page.
- Advertise. Create a great advertise and get it out there. It is relatively low cost and you can pick the targeted demographics.
- I would still like to have people interact with the page...flat Jesus, Nature photos, where have you seen Jesus...there are all kinds of things we can do with this!

I welcome your ideas and thoughts on improvements.

I wish I could be here to show you in person...this is so exciting! I love this new undertaking and I hope you check out the website and the Facebook page! And please send in your stories for the newsletters 😊
God bless, Jamon Friendshuh

Space 'N Faith Proposal: Loxley

To St. Luke's congregation,

I was thinking about something possible for St. Luke's being that Bishop Craig Loya is really behind the idea of small groups meeting in their churches and sharing in the gospel, fellowship, outreach projects, etc.

How about publicizing our church as a location for any faith groups (Christian, Muslim or Jewish) wanting a place to meet? We would reserve Sunday Mornings for our congregation and keep the other times that groups already meet at St. Lukes. This would include the NAPS program, TOPS, Lions Club, and the Bridge group. We could open the church up to others wanting to be together to worship or do bible studies or do outreach work together for example.

We could offer the space at no charge to a group for the first 6 months. After that, if the group wanted to continue to meet at St. Luke's, we could charge a minimal fee- let's say \$50 -100 a month.

There would have to be some rules such as respecting property and no alcohol or drug use as well as a Background Check and participation in the Safe Church process for the leaders of any groups so that children and vulnerable adults are protected. Leaders would be expected to take responsibility for their key and for their participants. Anyone authorized to have a key would have to meet the ECMN standards for Safe Church.

The Bishop and ECMN staff will assist us in the development of this idea. Bishop Craig Loya is definitely behind the idea.

Loxley

Update: At the recent January Bishop's Committee meeting, the group voted in favor of pursuing this idea. The congregation at the Annual Meeting on January 29 will vote on the idea. If it passes, I'll work on further details. Then we'll get publicity in the newspaper and also out to area churches about it.

More details:

There will be a 3 person committee to take any requests from individuals to meet at the church. The committee could be a priest and two other persons. The committee would find out what the person(s) are interested in doing in our church space. They would give them the requirements for church use. I'd be willing to be listed as the contact person and set up meetings.

At the end of a 6 month trial period, we could revisit the use and tweak it if necessary.

We would sign an agreement of intent with the group on behalf of St. Luke's.

(I am reaching out to all of you as I see our church having the space to do so much more with. We don't have the numbers of people to really set up more programs but this idea lets us support the ideas of others who might benefit from a space to do their Holy Work. I also hate the idea of St. Luke's permanently closing our doors without trying to do everything we can possibly do.)

(I've been asked how this idea benefits St. Luke's. Well, other ECMN churches have opened their spaces to other groups. Once in a while, someone in those groups comes to the church's services because they are impressed by the generosity of the church and want to know more about it.)

(There are lots of marginalized groups in our area. Maybe St. Luke's can be a space for them. Ask me about sometime about immigrants, etc.)

(Some of my ideas in the past have been met withwell, what if....how do we know...how will we know... I want to reiterate that Hey, this is God's work we are doing...let's talk it out and trust in Him leading us through this exploration.)

GOD BLESS YOU ALL.

Loxley

