

Congregational Meeting January 28, 2024

Meeting called to order at 11:18am

Opening prayer – Pastor Nick

Approval of Minutes – Jonathan Kraatz

Minutes approved

Election of Voting Members for Synod Assembly– Jonathan Kraatz

Lori Anderson

Lisa Harrington

Approved

2022-23 Fiscal Year Treasurer's Report – Jim Berg

Jim Berg presented financial report ending end of June 2023

Operating Fund

Receipts: \$539,321

Expenses: \$545,632

Net: \$6311 deficit (deficit paid from savings)

Capital Fund

Receipts \$132,000

Expenses: \$224, 740

Net: \$92,740

Approved

Finance Update – July 2023 – December 2023- Craig Womeldorph

This year's budget: \$575,000

Operating Account July 2023 – December 2023

Receipts: \$288,242

Expenses: \$299,000

Net change: \$7,286

Expenses higher this year (increases in ministry budget, increases in bills)

Will be receiving help from volunteers with financial knowledge to go through all transactions

Net change needs to be corrected: \$10, 761

Prior Year (Dec 2022)

Receipts: \$296,429

Expenses: \$277,990

Net change \$18,438

Question about QR code (does not accept credit cards) to make it easier to give, especially for visitors

Question - how much of our general fund goes to ELCA

Answer: 10%

Capital Account July 2023 – December 2023

Receipts \$756,679

Expenses: \$725,513

Net Change: \$31,166

Prior Year (Dec 2022)

Receipts \$97,242

Expenses: \$59,614

Net Change: \$37,627

Endowment Fund July 2023 – December 2023

Current Year

Receipts: \$12,193

Expenses: \$0

Net Change \$12,193

Prior Year

Receipts \$5,973

Expenses: \$0

Net Change: \$5,973

Balances as of 12/31/2023

Operating: \$106,633

Capital: \$58,024

*(doesn't include \$29,126 Mortgage Escrow refund deposited in January)

Youth: \$8,336

Endowment: \$43,012

Assets: \$2,274,092

Liabilities: \$54,080

Question about liabilities listed - money in liabilities fund have been designated to fund future events or purposes

Question: Where does the figure of having 45 days of cash on hand come from: church policy from finance committee

Question about independent Audit – last audit was done last year (2023) internally

No plans to do outside audit - need to look into cost of this to see cost/benefit
Jonathan said we can get quotes for it and can build into next budget if we decide to pay for outside audit

Committee and Ministry Review – Jonathan Kraatz

Jonathan presented ministry reports for following committees and below are highlights from each:

Outreach

- ELCA Hunger Grant to be used to build community garden
- Continued partnership with GRACE (collection of cooking oil, Feed our Kids, adoption of transitional housing unit, Christmas party for Transitional Housing families)
- Continued partnership with churches in our synod: San Gabriel (backpack supply drive, Christmas angel) and Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (feeding ministries)
- Love Your Neighbor partnerships: Ronald McDonald House meals, Ladies Pajama Party for Safe Haven, Boo Bingo and Christmas caroling at Harbor Chase
- Donation drives: Carter BloodCare, GRACE Oil, School Supply for San Gabriel, pantry food drives for Good Shepherd
- Hosted our 10th annual Great Day of Service
- Next Great Day of Service: Saturday, May 4, 2024

Worship & Music

- Claudia McWhorter resigned as Chair and now Altar Guild will be headed by Toni Holte and Debbie Kelley
- 60+ Holy Communion meals were prepared
- 15 banner and parament changes for church seasons
- Gluten-free bread as new standard
- New process of ordering supplies with assistance from office manager
- Using climate control system to better maintain grand piano
- Purchased new sound equipment
- Purchased new altar linens
- Music: Lift Every Voice Choir, Grace Notes Bell Choir, Praise Ensemble
- Christmas Cantata (seven movement) was presented
- Choir attendance increased by 10%
- Bell Choir attendance increased by 17%
- Praise Ensemble increased by 10%

- Lift Every Voice traveled to NYC and performed “Christmas Dreams” at Carnegie Hall
- Music librarian needed to support organization and work flow in music room

Fellowship

2023/2024 ON-GOING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

- AGLC Men’s Breakfast & Bible - 1st Saturday monthly
- AGLC Ladies Breakfast & Scripture w/ Vicar Christine - Designated Saturday monthly
- Women In Stitches w/ Susie Henning - 2nd & 4th Thursdays monthly
- Saturday Men’s Group Hang-out - Quarterly
- Fellowship Committee Meeting - Monthly 2nd Sunday
- Suppers for 6 - 9 Groups
- Friday Family Movie/Game Nights
- Young Adult Gatherings
- Young at Heart Gatherings
- Golf Outings
- Abiding Dudes Cooking Events

2023 FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

9/10 Ministry Fair – New Interests: Book Club (non-Biblical), Walking Pals, All ages game nights, Bowling
 9/18 Sunday Lunch and Cornhole Tournament
 9/24 “Apple” Pie Sunday
 10/13 WELCA Event
 10/14 Friday Golf Outing
 10/15 Fall Picnic – Abiding Dudes cook
 11/18 Abiding Dudes Cooking turkeys for Thanksgiving
 11/26 Thanksgiving Pie Sunday
 11/29 Advent Wednesday night meal – weekly before service though 12/20
 12/3 Advent Dinner & Variety Show

2024 FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

1/20 Saturday Chili Cookoff & Dinner
 2/10 Abiding Dudes Super Bowl Brisket Fundraiser
 2/10 Ladies Sweetheart Brunch & Secret Sister Reveal

- 2/14 Ash Wednesday Annual Soup Supper
- 2/20 Wednesday Lenten Suppers weekly 2/20 through 3/20
- 3/30? Abiding Dudes Easter Smoking hams and ribs
- 5/11 Annual Women's Mother's Day Brunch
- 5/? Sunday Recognition of Graduating Seniors
- 6/2? Sunday Organization Anniversary
- 7/14? Sunday First Worship-in-the-Park Anniversary

Stewardship

- Endowment Fund up and running managed by Thrivent
- Estate Planning Seminars conducted with plans for future ones
- Mission Statement Refresh
- Time, Talent, and Treasure Refresh
- Emphasis on results from our giving and tithes
- Need to look for ways to contribute in most effective ways

Property

- Description: 4 buildings, 11 bathrooms, approx 9000 sq. ft., 5 acres, 120 trees
- Work Days: Easter (26 volunteers) and Fall (8 volunteers)
- Youth building flooring upgrade
- Repair and replacement of building signage
- Created Property Survey to determine priority of proposed projects
Sanctuary lighting proposal (adding floating panels to the Sanctuary, resurfacing the sanctuary floor, digging a well for lawn irrigation, adding permanent chairs where folding chairs are used in the Sanctuary, and upgrades to the Office stair and second level
- Developed Property Policy and Procedures and submitted to council
- Lawn Service will be included in 2024-2025 budget

Member Care

- New Member Sundays:
 - 1) Spring 2023 – 21 families
 - 2) Fall 2023 – 17 families
- Stephen Ministry
AGLC Stephen Ministry Leaders: Dave Klym and Kim Haggerty
12 members that are trained Stephen Ministers

- Prayer Chain continues to be managed by Kim Saunders
- Meal Train managed by Linnea Wolters (4 meal trains so far this year)
- Memorial Service – volunteers contributed food for one service
- Encouragement Ministry – 15 homebound families that are recipients of cards and holiday gift baskets
- Senior Sunday – recognized 8 high school seniors
- College Care – 16 college students that receive cards and gifts throughout the year

Youth Report – Kyle Powell

- National Day of Prayer – Cris and Miriam led this at Southlake Carroll HS
- VBS – 15 youth helping with VBS
- Great Day of Service – youth participated
- Gifts to Homebound members
- Helped out with Sunday School
- Renovation to youth space – new floors, paint, furniture, youth helping to make it their own space
- Youth Summer Camps
- Christmas Pageant
- Sunday Morning– elementary Sunday School (avg 8 per Sunday) and confirmation
- 5 kids confirmed this past year
- Youth group – Sunday nights – worship, fellowship, service events

Mission Statement:

We win when a kid takes a step toward owning their faith

Four Spiritual Habits:

- 1) Spend time with God
- 2) Spend time with others
- 3) Use their gifts
- 4) Share their story

Goals:

Children: Teach stories of the bible in an engaging and fun way to help main lessons sink in and start to take root

Confirmation: Question everything. Wrestle and begin to make your faith your own.

Youth: Putting our faith into action

Needs for 2024:

Volunteers, activity suggestions, group outings, more information (families let Kyle know how to help/show up for youth)

Vicar Christine's Report

- Internship officially started February 2023
- Committee Members: Toni Holte, Kathy Baines, Lori Anderson, Debbie Kelley, Jim Anderson, Chad Nelson
- Shared what she did in 2023: women's fellowship and bible study (monthly on Saturdays), midweek bible study, retreat planning, ELCA Hunger Grant, preaching, sermon series, young adult events, worship planning, teaching confirmation, home/communion visits, seminary classes
- Will graduate in May 2025

What I Learned:

- Being on Church council, had the opportunity to see how the budget and decisions for the church are managed.
- Preaching and worshiping at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church has been helpful in seeing how other churches worship, how other pastors plan, and preaching to an unfamiliar congregation. Pastor Kathryn is my mentor and from her I've learned about practical resources and strategies for worship and sermon preparation.
- Preparing the retreat has been a learning experience as I've had the chance to help plan the logistics, Bible studies, and worship.
- I've been growing in my worship leadership skills including presiding over communion. Last year, I also got to preside over my first baptism!

What I am Looking Forward to in 2024

Upcoming seminary coursework for the Spring Semester: Acts, Pastoral Care, Global Church History and Mission 2
Stewardship – committee and campaign

Pastor's Report – Pastor Nick

2023 – A Year to be proud of; Momentum has returned

- 40 new members (10% increase in membership)
- Baptized 9 children
- Paid off our mortgage 14 years early
- 2023 Goal: invite, invite, invite
- Provide opportunities to make it easier to invite friends and relatives (ex. ice cream truck at Christmas) so when they come they will hear message of God's love

2024 – Year to Be Excited About Doing More

- New Members and more baptisms
- Upcoming Lent Retreat
- Lenten Mentoring
- Easter and Holy Week Invitation Opportunities
- Growing Out Endowment Fund
- Tanzania Planning
- Strategic Planning: Continuing to Dream Big

2024 Promises

- Proclaim the gospel
- Help you/encourage you/challenge you to grow as a disciple (fellowship, bible studies, podcast, etc)
- Be there for whenever you need us
- Be more visible in the community

Results of the Property Survey

Floor – 36%

Stair renovation in office (out of code) – 49%

Replace folding chairs – 65% (received check for \$5000 from non-member)

Water Well – 77% (looking into cost)

Word About Giving –

Encourage people to shift their giving from capital (now that our mortgage is paid off) to operations to help with meeting our operations budget

General Discussion – Jonathan & Pastor Nick

None

Closing of Congregational Meeting – Jonathan Kraatz

12:30pm

Closing Prayer – Pastor Nick