

Trinity Lutheran Church
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, January 16, 2024

Called to order at 6:05 pm by Bob Horn

Opening prayer: Tammy Rismiller

Council Members and Roll Call:

President: Bob Horn

Vice President: Marcus Rismiller, via phone

Secretary: Elizabeth Snodgrass

Building and Property: Anthony Wright

Youth and Family: Michelle Wright

Social Concerns: Elaine Olson

Stewardship: Jonathan Sargent

Non-voting: Tammy Rismiller, pastor Eric via phone

Motion made and seconded to approve agenda. Motion carried.

Motion made and seconded to approve minutes for the December council meeting. Motion carried.

Reports: In lieu of any monthly reports, committee representatives were asked to write a brief annual report to be included in the packet of our upcoming annual meeting. Council members are to get these reports to Pastor Eric by January 17.

Written profit and loss statements were provided. December income was shown as \$70,371.36, and December expenses totaled \$44,101.14. Year to date, income stands at \$471,275.45 through December, 2023, while expenses total \$435,519.13.

New Business:

- A. 2024 Budget Finalization:** The final budget has been presented to council for final approval and was approved at the last meeting for presentation to the congregation.

B. Discussion regarding additional work needed before a vote on new building vs. remodel:

Council discussed information presented last Sunday to the congregation and additional information should be explored before the vote at the semi-annual meeting. The option of selling a portion of the property and using the proceeds toward a building project was shared. One overriding sentiment is that we do not wish to put the congregation into substantial debt for many years to come, no matter which option is chosen. It was felt that it is also important to share problems we are experiencing with the current building, and express the sense of urgency in fixing many of these issues. Pastor Eric suggested that information sessions be available after each service before the semi annual meeting. The vote from the congregation may be presented as an option to pursue selling some or all of the property to generate revenue for the remodel, or to sell this church and go into debt to build new. We also suggested a 75% super majority vote to proceed. Pastor will contact some congregants who would be eligible for membership and would then be voting. A task force may be formed to explore ways to sell the property for the best price.

C. Agenda for Semi-Annual Meeting: It was agreed that the budget should be presented at the meeting for congregational vote first on the agenda, before the vote on the construction work. The usual committee reports will also be presented.

D. Celebration Date for Preschool: Ideas for a celebration of the preschool ministry revolved around a possible end of year recognition. We will praise God for a long and successful ministry at that time. May 19 or June 2nd were the best dates put forward for consideration.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Adjourn at 7:06 p.m.