



1515 N Cascade Ave  
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

## January 23, 2024 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

### Present (via Zoom)

Yoshiko Anspach, Larry Bagley, Mike Baue, Julie Furstenau, Tad Goodenbour, Terry Hjelkrem, Kiersten Lehmkuhl, Pastor Travis Norton, Vincent Spaziani

### Absent

Jason Fox

### Opening

The regular meeting of the First Lutheran Church council was called to order by Terry Hjelkrem at 7:00 pm.

### Devotions (Terry Hjelkrem)

Discussed a devotion by Leslie Cole about Philippians 3:13-14: "Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on." God has always forgiven us for the mistakes that we make, we only need to continue on. Terry discussed how when he was a Sunday school teacher, he would teach his students the mnemonic ACELEP, for the church liturgical year and represents Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, and Pentecost. The beginning of the year is a good time to reflect and consider what is going on as we move forward and press on.

### Approval of Minutes

\*\*\*COUNCIL APPROVED THE DECEMBER MINUTES\*\*\*

### Finance Committee Report (Yoshiko Anspach)

- Went over financials for December, we ended on a good note.
- The church year ended strongly with a surplus.

\*\*\*COUNCIL APPROVED THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT\*\*\*

### Senior Pastor Report

- Christmas attendance was about the same as last year.
- Moving children's sermon to the 11 O'clock Christmas service was well received.
- Lori Duncan was installed on January 7<sup>th</sup> as Minister of Spiritual Care.
- Michaela Eskew is planned to be installed in two weeks as a pastoral intern. She will have 7 church members on her pastoral committee that will help guide her in her journey of internship. Discussed that moving forward she should be addressed as vicar Michaela, if she is comfortable with having her title changed.
- Continuing to interview and audition for the contemporary worship position. Discussed that depending on how interviews go, we may need to evaluate if we should use some additional money from ESM (Ecumenical Social Ministries) for expanding the position to full time.
- Pastor Travis preached at Tabor Lutheran to look at an opportunity for internship pastors that he could supervise. He noted that it was a good experience, and that God might be guiding First Lutheran into helping the surrounding churches.

- Pastor Travis received a Bishop election notification. He has since declined the opportunity.
- The sanctuary remodel contract has been signed and deposit issued with Mahler construction. The current plan is to start after Easter, with construction taking about 6-weeks.
- Lent is approaching quickly; it is on February 14<sup>th</sup>. The staff has been working hard getting ready for that. Members of the congregation have been preparing for writing devotions on the theme of spiritual renewal.
- Church council members voted to Marion House to receive the lentinan denial donations.
- Holy week and Easter Sunday services remain largely unchanged from 2023, only a minor scheduling modification to allow for additional time between services of 15-minutes.
- Currently working with Barbara on the annual report. Noted that we have not done an annual report since prior to Covid, he wanted to do it more graphically. The annual report will be sent to the congregation and include attendance patterns, membership patterns, number of baptisms and deaths, a financial report, and major milestones and accomplishments for the last year.
- Pastor Travis spoke to his experience on his recent attendance to the Be Loved retreat. Both Michaela and Lori assisted with holding the retreat, it was well attended with about 30 people.

### **Old Business**

- Sanctuary remodel and ESM disbursement discussions were covered in Pastor Travis' report. Though, Pastor Travis noted that the ESM disbursement has only been promised so far.
- The Peel House landscape does not have any new news. Harry noted that the project is currently waiting on timing such as winter to be over. Though Pastor Travis also noted that he has not seen the estimate yet.

### **New Business**

- Care and Share
  - Care and Share currently do not allow for First Lutheran to continue to host their mobile food patty at the Peel House any longer. Pastor Travis wants to reevaluate if we want to modify our current contribution to Care and Share to see if there would be a better application for those funds.
  - Pastor Travis discussed talking with the other community churches on if they would like to host a different opportunity that might fill the previous need. The current funds are part of our benevolence budget.
  - The money that is donated is received as a general donation. Pastor Travis is going to investigate what Care and Share are currently doing, he mentioned that there was a recent email that may have detailed that information.
- Council and finance meeting times
  - Council meeting is always the third Tuesday at 7:00pm
  - Finance meeting is always the third Tuesday at 6:00pm
- Endowment Fund
  - Pastor Travis has been working with Tad to invite the congregation to donate to the endowment fund. The fund was created 3-4 years ago with the vision to promote the fund. Pastor Travis is considering weather a committee is needed to assist with the endowment fund.
- Pastor Synod meeting
  - Pastor Travis discussed that the synod is currently calling churches to ask if there is availability for additional donations due to a budget shortfall.
  - Pastor Travis has a meeting with the synod treasurer and one of the associates to the bishop. During that meeting, Pastor Travis would like to discuss the synod's current plans as well as some ideas that he has.

- Pastor Travis mentioned that he would send the synod budget to the council members to assist with further discussion.
- Council advised Pastor Travis that we would like to see what their plan is in order to better determine how to proceed. Pastor Travis agreed with that approach where they should have an action plan to address their current situation.

**Adjournment with Prayer - Pastor Travis 7:50 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

*Vincent Spaziani*

Vincent Spaziani  
Secretary