

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH  
COUNCIL MEETING  
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

**Voting Members Present:** Afton Brown, Carol Fritz, Lee Keffer, D.J. Klema,  
Melinda Olson, Heather Pohlman, Kylie Stoppel,  
Pastor Teri Sutherlin, Gaylon Walter

**Voting Members Excused:** Kelvie Reeves

**Others Present:** John Dumler, Mark Mai

**INVOCATION/CALL TO ORDER**

President Lee Keffer called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. John Dumler PMA led us in prayer.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT**

It was moved, seconded and passed to approve the January minutes as presented. Treasurer Kylie Stoppel reported that we have received the 4% endowment in the amount of \$14,099.81 from RCAF and the beneficiaries have been updated on the RCAF account. Also we have received an anonymous donation in the amount of \$4,994.00 from a church member. It was then moved, seconded and passed to accept the treasurer's report as presented.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

President Lee Keffer requested to add item c) Executive Council to new business.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

A thank you card was received from the 425 Youth group for receiving the annual thrift store donation to the church. The card was passed around for the council to view.

**REPORTS**

**EDUCATION** - Afton Brown reported that they have had several new parents volunteer to help with Sunday School. They are also planning another youth Sunday.

**EVANGELISM/PARISH FELLOWSHIP/SOCIAL MINISTRY** – No report as there is no chairperson at this time.

**PROPERTY** – Gaylon Walter reported that the committee plans to meet in two weeks and set up a work schedule for 2025.

**STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE** - The committee plans to meet in April.

**TECHNOLOGY** - Heather Pohlman reported that she is working on a step by step update for the sound system as Vimeo has updated their system and the steps are a little different.

**WORSHIP & MUSIC** - Because of weather issues, the date has been changed to dedicate the new clavinova. The new date is March 2, 2025. Melinda Olson suggested that we explore the option of having maintenance and cleaning done on the sound board.

**YOUTH** - Pastor Teri reported for the youth that they are planning to do the soup supper prior to the Ash Wednesday church service They are also doing a diaper drive during March to benefit the Russell County Food Pantry. All sizes are welcome in regular packs, not bulk pack. A box will be placed outside the youth room and in the South Main Street entryway by the elevator.

**CEMETERY** - The cemetery contract for the 2025-2026 maintenance of the cemetery was passed around for the council to review. After discussion it was moved, seconded and passed to accept the contract for Jason Krug to continue maintenance at the cemetery.

**PMA** – A written report was submitted.

**PASTOR'S REPORT** - A written report was submitted.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

a) We have obtained full insurance coverage for the church from The Insurance Board with the premium being close to what we have paid before. The premium will be paid quarterly. However, we have found that the Wiggle Your Wings Preschool cannot be covered under the church insurance as the company does not cover for profit entities. The preschool has been informed that they will need to carry their own insurance. It was moved, seconded and passed that we will no longer be accepting a donation from them for the use of the room for preschool so they may apply this amount to their insurance coverage.

THE MEETING WAS MOVED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:28 pm.

THE EXECUTIVE SESSION ENDED AT 7:33 PM AND THE REGULAR MEETING RETURNED TO UNFINISHED BUSINESS.

b) The issues with mics and board cleaning was already discussed.

c) Pastor Teri Sutherlin reported that Synod Assembly will be June 5-7, 2025. She plans to attend and stated that anyone else in the congregation is welcome to attend also.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

a) John Dumler gave an update on the Back Pack program which was originally started with St John Lutheran Church. Recently it was taken over by the Kansas Food Bank. We will review this again next month. At this time, it was moved, seconded and passed that we use the 4% endowment from the Back Pack Fund and place the money in the RCACF checking account to assist with this program.

b) We plan to continue with the Wiggle Your Wings Preschool. We are looking into having a contract drawn up with them. Kylie Stoppel has offered to draft a contract and present it to the council.

c) Lee Keffer would like to continue with Executive Council. It was moved, seconded and passed to continue with the current executive council. Lee Keffer, President, Gaylon Walter, Vice-president, Carol Fritz, Secretary and Kylie Stoppel, Treasurer.

## **DISCUSSION**

a) Lee Keffer would like to work on strategic planning for 2025. He requested that the council members present three options and get them to him so he can compile a list for review at the March Council Meeting.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 pm with The Lord's Prayer.

- Next Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, March 11, 2025 at 5:30 pm
- Next Council Meeting: Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

*Respectfully recorded and submitted*

Carol Fritz, Church Council Secretary

