

**ST. JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2024**

Voting Members Present: Carol Fritz, Lee Keffer, D.J. Klema, Heather Pohlman, Kelvie Reeves, Kylie Stoppel, Pastor Teri Sutherlin

Voting Members Excused: Afton Brown, Judy Holmes, Melinda Olson, Gaylon Walter

Others Present: John Dumler, Mark Mai

INVOCATION/CALL TO ORDER

President Lee Keffer called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm. Pastor Teri Sutherlin led us in prayer.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND TREASURER'S REPORT

It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the minutes as presented from the special council meeting held on November 12, 2024 and the minutes from the council meeting held on November 21, 2024.

It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the November 2024 treasurer's report as presented.

AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

COMMUNICATIONS

President Lee Keffer shared thank you notes with the council from the children who received Bibles this year and also from Carol Fritz for the floral arrangement the council gave in remembrance of her husband Jim. Also a thank you noted from the family of Allen Hammersmith for his passing.

REPORTS

EDUCATION - In the absence of Afton Brown, Pastor Teri remarked that the children's Christmas program held December 15 was very successful and had a lot of children participating.

EVANGELISM/PARISH FELLOWSHIP/SOCIAL MINISTRY – It was reported that we had one funeral dinner served in December.

PROPERTY - In the absence of Gaylon Walter, Lee reported that we have replaced a toilet this month and in the future we will need to consider a new shut off system for the plumbing as it is getting outdated and not functioning properly.

STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE - No report as they are not meeting until January 2025.

TECHNOLOGY - Heather Pohlman reported that we are now able to continue with live streaming and it is working well. She reported that they have installed several new links so that each service will run on its own link and a link has also been created for special services. They are working on creating a visual aid to help the system function as it is all manual now. We are also able to stream on the Web site and also on KRSL.

WORSHIP & MUSIC - No report at this time.

YOUTH - Kelvie Reeves reported that the Live Nativity Scene was successful and well attended. She reported that approximately \$1,200.00 was received from the free will donation. They also volunteered one night at the Russell County Food Pantry, which was a great learning experience for the youth.

WIGGLE YOUR WINGS PRESCHOOL - No report at this time.

CEMETERY - Mark Mai reported that they met last week and had some questions about repairing the gazebo at the cemetery. The gazebo will need to be repaired with funds from the cemetery account as there was not enough insurance money paid to cover this. The committee would like to rebuild a sturdier structure but had concerns who donated the original gazebo before they begin this work.

PMA - John Dumler reported that the RCAOC has helped some people in need over the past month. He also asked the council to approve him doing the clergy comments for Second Baptist Church on KRSL as they currently do not have a minister. He also reported that he has been helping with pulpit supply for Pastor Teri Sutherlin while she is recovering from recent surgery.

PASTOR'S REPORT - A written report was submitted. She also noted that there will be two services on Christmas Eve, one at 4:00 pm and one at 7:00 pm. Communion will be served at both services.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a) A previous vote at the November council meeting will need to be amended as we have received some additional nominations for the Philanthropic Fund from congregational members. After discussion the previous vote is amended and it is moved, seconded and passed for the final nominees for the Philanthropic Fund in 2025 to be, locally for The Russell County Food Pantry or the Russell Play Park, and globally Kans for Kids or The Lutheran Disaster Relief Fund - specifically for hurricane relief in the US. These nominations will be presented for the congregation to vote on at the annual meeting. The top one in each category will each receive 50% of the total Philanthropic money available for 2025.

b) A reminder that all reports and budget items must be received into the church office electronically by the end of December.

c) Kylie Stoppel presented an endowment policy draft. After discussion, there are still some items that need to be finalized. This will be checked into and a final draft presented at the annual meeting in January 2025 for the congregational vote.

d) President Lee Keffer reported that we are still working on insurance coverage for the church. He has contacted the synod and was referred to an Insurance Board Organization. After contacting them, an agent came from Wichita and visited with Lee and Gaylon Walter and inspected the church. The agent will be sending a quote for the insurance coverage.

NEW BUSINESS

a) A letter was received from the synod requesting that St. John Church increase their giving by \$100 for 2025. This item will be addressed in the budget for 2025.

b) We have received a request from KRSL to sponsor 48 hours of Christmas Music. This is something that the church has sponsored in the past. It was moved, seconded, and passed to continue with this sponsorship again this year at a cost of \$195.00.

DISCUSSION

It was brought up that we need to be considering nominations for church council in 2025. Judy Holmes has stated that she does not want to continue with her council seat which is for Evangelism/Parish Fellowship/Social Ministry, so this will be an open seat that will need to be filled.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 8:08 pm.

- Annual Congregational Meeting: Sunday, January 26, 2025 (following 10:30 am worship service)
- Next Executive Committee Meeting: Tuesday, January 7, 2025 at 5:30 pm
- Next Council Meeting: Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully recorded and submitted

Carol Fritz, Church Council Secretary