

## **2025 Annual Congregational Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)**

### **Sunday, January 28, 2024**

#### **Invocation / Call to Order**

President Lee Keffer called the meeting to order at 11:33 am following the 10:30 am worship service. Pastor Teri Sutherlin led us in prayer.

#### **Old Business**

Church Secretary Carol Fritz read the minutes from the 2024 annual meeting. It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the minutes as presented.

#### **New Business**

1. Church Treasurer Kylie Stoppel gave a treasurer's report with an overview of the finances from 2024. It was moved, seconded and passed to accept the treasurer's report as presented.

2. Deb Karst presented the slate of nominees for 2025 Altar Guild. The nominees are as follows: Kris Boxberger, Lois Dewald, Danielle Ewers, Corine Gideon, Teresa Hilbrink, Gina Langhofer, Shayla Peck, and Brenda Yoder. It was moved that we pass a unanimous ballot for the new altar guild members. The motion was seconded and passed.

3. Pastor Teri Sutherlin gave an explanation of amended and updated items to the Constitution of St. John Lutheran Church, which is included in the annual report. The Church Constitution is to be reviewed annually. Updates were made to the Constitution in 2024 based on 2022 ELCA amendment recommendations.

4. President Lee Keffer gave an explanation of amended and updated By-Laws of St. John Lutheran Church which are included in the annual report. This congregation has a written procedure for accounting and internal controls. A congregational financial assessment was conducted in 2024.

5. Church Treasurer Kylie Stoppel gave an overview of the proposed budget. She stated that there were three new line items included in the 2025 budget. These were for income, prayer shawl ministry and pastoral care. Also a change in the budget which was printed in the annual report to include a new amount for insurance coverage which was recently obtained for full insurance coverage for St. John Lutheran Church. A new budget proposal was presented to the congregation prior to the annual meeting. The new budget reflects the amount of \$ 251,307.00, which is about a 5% increase for 2024.

#### **Explanation of the Ballot for Voting**

1. Action items requiring Congregational Vote

a) 2025 Nominees for Church Council

b) 2024 Philanthropic Fund

c) Russell County Area Community Foundation Beneficiaries. In the unlikely event that St. John Lutheran Church ceased to exist, we have two accounts with RCACF that need to have assigned beneficiaries. As beneficiaries, they would receive the earnings from these accounts. These can be changed at any time and there is a yearly process for reviewing account beneficiaries.

d) Endowment Policy. The Church Council of St. John Lutheran Church is recommending to the congregation the written policy for the management of the listed endowment funds. There is currently no written policy or procedure providing guidelines for leadership to follow. This policy is included in the annual report.

- e) By-Laws of St. John Lutheran Church which have been updated.
- f) Constitution of St. John Lutheran Church which has been updated.
- g) Proposed 2025 Budget for St. John Lutheran Church as presented.

President Lee Keffer asked if there were any questions prior to the vote. He also noted that we do have a quorum for the voting process. With no questions being brought up a paper ballot was passed to the congregation for them to vote on the above items.

### **Voting**

- a) Nominees for the 2025 Church council are as follows: Alex R. Krug & Hadlee Brown (Youth Members) and Gaylon Walter (Council Member). There were no additional nominees from the floor. The vote passed 52-0.
- b) The amount to be distributed from the Philanthropic Fund for 2024 is \$ 1612.51. The ballot for the Philanthropic Fund had four nominees. The Russell County Food Pantry or The Russell Play Park, for a local choice, and Lutheran Disaster Relief (US Hurricane Relief) or Kans4Kids (State of Kansas) for a global choice. The ballot instructed the congregation to vote for one local and one global nominee. After voting, the two selections were (local) Russell County Food Pantry and (global) Lutheran Disaster Relief (US Hurricane Relief). The endowment fund will be split into a 50/50 donation with each receiving \$ 805.25.
- c) Nominees for Russell County Area Community Foundation Beneficiaries are as follows: Russell County Association of Churches, Russell County Food Pantry, Russell Regional Hospital and Russell Senior Center. The ballot instructed the congregation to vote for two. After voting was complete, the two selections were the Russell County Food Pantry and the Russell County Association of Churches.
- d) The Endowment Policy passed 50-1.
- e) The By-Laws passed 52-0.
- f) The Constitution passed 52-0.
- g) The proposed budget for 2025 passed 52-0.

### **Closing Remarks**

President Lee Keffer expressed his appreciation to the council and the congregation for all the work that has been accomplished in 2024.

### **Prayer and Adjournment**

Pastor Teri Sutherlin led the congregation in the Lord's Prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 12:08 pm.

Respectfully recorded and submitted by Carol Fritz, Church Council Secretary