

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church
Annual Congregational Meeting
January 26, 2025

1. **Call to order**

Council President Su Erickson called the 2025 Annual Congregational Meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

2. **Opening liturgy**

Tony Fabrello led the congregation in the liturgy and Miloy played the opening hymn.

3. **Appointment of Tellers**

President Erickson announced the tellers: David Bruce, Jim Hill, David Gregor and Ken Olson. Ann Bruce is the Parliamentarian.

4. **Approval of the minutes from the 2024 Annual Meeting**

Sharoll Blodgett moved to accept the minutes of the 2024 meeting as presented in the Annual Report, Judy Turpen seconded. Motion carried.

5. **Review of staff and council reports (and 2024 audit report)**

President Erickson directed attendees to the staff and council reports in the meeting packet. A video put together by the Coyle's son of the Outreach program was presented. President Erickson asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, she proceeded with the agenda.

6. **Review of the 2024 Mission Spending Plan and Presentation of the 2025 Plan**

John Brown reviewed the Mission Spending Plan for 2024 and reported that our income of \$419,000 was \$11,000 over the amount that he had budgeted for the year. It was \$12,000 better than 2023. John explained that part of the reason for this positive amount is that Pastor Kim receives less money than Pastor Jeff did. He is projecting \$417,000 in revenue for 2025 and \$386,000 for expenses. John explained that we will have some expenses related to the call process and inflation. Ron Nawrocki asked about insurance and was told that we are insured. John then went over the different fund balances, reported that we will need to refinance our mortgage in 2 years, gave a short explanation of the 2025 Mission Spending Plan and asked for questions. Kathy Coyle asked if Miloy had gotten a raise and John answered that both Miloy and Jonathan had received 3% raises.

7. **Declaration of quorum.**

Su Erickson confirmed that quorum was present with 67 members in attendance.

8. **Nominating committee report**

Su presented the slate of candidates – there were no nominees for Building and Grounds, Youth or Fellowship - and asked for nominations from the floor. There were no nominations from the floor so nominations were closed. The following people were nominated for council positions:

- a. Stewardship – 2 year term – Ann Bruce
- b. Evangelism – 2 year term – Sandy Gabel
- c. Fellowship – 1 year term no candidate
- d. Building and Grounds - 2 year term – no candidate
- e. Youth – 2 year term – Olga Blanchard

Su then announced that the audit committee needs 1 person to audit the 2024 financial records. Ron Nawrocki will fill that position along with Keith LeFevre and Mike Coyle. The council Secretary is Joann Wordell, and the Treasurer is John Brown.

10. **Casting of written ballots**

The written ballots were distributed to the congregation members. The ballots contained a vote for council positions and the Mission Spending Plan.

11. Update on transition process

Ann Bruce us leading the Transition Team and Su discussed the upcoming election of the Call Committee.

12. Update on solar project

Su reported that we have lost the money that was spent on the solar project. A letter was sent out in July explaining what happened. The owner of the company that we were working with is in prison and the company no longer exists. Don Stevens, the attorney working with the synod, feels that we probably will not be able to get our money back. We have looked at working with Sun Valley Solar but would have to find investors and we would pay them back. We can also look at getting a loan from either the Mission Investment Fund or the ELCA. Ellory Christianson asked how much money was lost - \$40-42,000. Greg Ellis asked if solar was worth it and John Brown responded that it was profitable after 5 to 7 years. We would just break even at first. Stevie Henderson commented that as a congregation we are in turmoil because of the transition process and suggested that we table the solar project until later. Ardyce Durand asked if we could recoup some of our money from the Registrar of Contractors but they only work with residential complaints and we are considered a commercial entity. Su gave a further explanation of the solar issues. Beth Blankenship commented that she is an employee of the Avondale School District and they are using Sun Valley Solar. Jim Hill commented that he has reviewed Randy's paperwork and he doesn't think that the current proposal is very good and we should slow down and look for other options. Greg Ellis commented that data centers lead to price increases and we should start looking now. Su discussed our other upcoming expenses – repaving the parking lot, painting the buildings and possible air conditioner replacement. Kathy Coyle asked for applause for Su for the job she is doing as president.

13. Recognition of outgoing council and committee members and other staff

Su started with thanking all of the people who have volunteered over the last year. She started with Ardyce Durand who is also a leader of Outreach. Randy Heibel went through the list of outgoing Council members and handed out cards to:

Judy Turnen – Evangelism

Gene Myers – Fellowship

Judy Turpen – Stewardship

Darrel Bjornson and Janell Jensen – Audit Committee

Facilities manager and Pastor of Vida Nueva – Jonathan Gonzalez

Director of Music and Worship – Miloy Canete

Interim Pastor – Kim Sterner

14. Election results

61 completed ballots were returned. All nominees were elected and the 2025 Mission Spending Plan was approved.

15. Closing comments and prayer

Su asked for any comments or questions.

16. Adjournment

Mike Coyle moved to adjourn the 2025 Annual Meeting and Sandy Gabel seconded. Motion carried. The 2024 Annual Congregational Meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Bruce and Joann Wordell