

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

August 25, 2024.

At 10:25 a.m., Council President Su Erickson called the meeting to order with an opening prayer.

PRESENT: Su Erickson, Judy Turnen, Pastor Dr. Jeff Gallen, Ann Bruce, Kathy Williams, Randy Heibel, Carol Moonan, and Jo-Ann Wordell.

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Magan Ratalisky, John Brown, Judy Turpen, and Gene Myer

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES: Note correction to the minutes of June 15, that Randy Heibel was present. Following review and corrections to the June meeting minutes, Carol made a motion to approve the meeting minutes; the motion was seconded by Kathy and passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Council reviewed the June and July financial reports. Ann Bruce reported that the financial documents dated July 31, 2024 reflect a slight deficit in income, which is normal for this time of year and expected to be corrected when the snowbirds return in the fall.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Transition update - As a member of the transition committee, Ann provided an update on the transition to a new pastor, reporting that the team has met and is working on preparing a history of the church, along with a description of the congregation demographics, both of which are to be completed by Labor Day. The next transition team meeting is September 8.

Su noted that she spoke with Pastor Gustafson (the transition coach), and the Synod hopes to have an interim pastor candidate to us by the September council meeting. It is customary to meet this person before offering a call and compensation package. It is recommended the interim pastor be compensated in line with what our current pastor is making. Su inquired whether there is room for negotiations and was told there may be some, but not much.

Council also discussed if they wanted any onboarding time for the interim pastor. Kathy moved and Randy seconded that we have the interim pastor onboard for two weeks prior to Pastor Jeff's retirement. Motion passed. Su will communicate this decision to Pastor Gustafson.

Solar update - Randy provided an update on the solar project. It is not expected that the funds paid to Solar Coverage Parking (SCP) will be recovered as the company no longer exists, and the project will not continue with this contractor. Randy noted that he completed an online complaint with the AZ Registrar of Contractors (ROC), however he doesn't expect this step will bring us closer to recovering lost funds.

Nominating Committee - Su discussed selecting a nominating committee. Two members will come from the Council and three from the congregation, and they put together a slate for the annual meeting elections. Su distributed a spreadsheet noting council members, the current length of their term in office, and whether they are eligible to run again for another term or remain in their current positions.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

Lay Deacon program – Su suggested CELC begin a program enlisting the aid of church members to visit and provide communion to home-bound congregation members. This would require training and could be put into place soon.

Calendar dates and planning – There are several upcoming events to be planned for in the not-too-distant future: Fall Festival, Advent Dinner, Christmas worship service dates, budget preparation, and the annual meeting in January. It was suggested that perhaps CELC might want to join with the other churches (renters) for planning the Fall Festival.

#### COUNCIL REPORTS:

Buildings and Grounds (Randy Heibel) – Randy distributed a handout (which is attached to these minutes) detailing the updates on the projects that he is working on, including the solar project (see notes above regarding the solar project). Su asked Randy to schedule a fall clean-up day.

Evangelism (Judy Turnen) - Judy reported that 25 women attended the ladies social get together on Saturday, August 24, 2024. The next book exchange is September 8.

Health (Kathy Williams) – Kathy will schedule a CPR/AED class this fall and an end-of-life information session for early 2025.

Education (Magen Ratafsky) – none

Fellowship (Gene Myer) – none

Stewardship (Judy Turpen) – none

Outreach (Su Erickson) – Su reported that the number of families being served by the outreach program is down slightly. She also noted that five staff from St. Mary's Food Bank visited CELC to discuss our mission and needs for the coming year. They will look into offering weekly deliveries instead of twice-a-month deliveries. This should offer more even distribution of product and alleviate some of our storage issues.

Maricopa County conducted an inspection of the food pantry/kitchen and we received an 'A' rating.

Worship (Carol Moonan) – The Advent Dinner will be held the first Friday of December (6<sup>th</sup>). Carol volunteered to work with Gene on this event.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next council meeting will be held on September 15, 2024.

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER: Following a closing prayer, Carol made a motion to adjourn the meeting; the motion was seconded by Kathy, and the motion carried. The meeting adjourned by 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jo-Ann Wordell, Council Secretary

Attachment: Randy Heibel's report

*Approved 9/15/2024*