

Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

December 15, 2024

At 10:35 a.m., Council President Su Erickson called the meeting to order.

PRESENT: Su Erickson, Interim Pastor Kim Sterner, Carol Moonan, Judy Turnen, Randy Heibel, John Brown, Ann Bruce, Kathy Williams and Jo-Ann Wordell.

ABSENT AND EXCUSED: Magan Ratalisky, Gene Myers

A MOTION was made by Carol Moonan and seconded by Kathy to approve the November 15, 2024 council meeting minutes as written. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT: John Brown reported that the 2024 financials continue to be in line with budgeted income and expenses during the month of November. It was noted that any year end gains will be moved to Designated Funds. John presented the 2025 budget. After some discussion and minor revisions, the council recommended that the proposed budget be submitted to the full congregation at the Annual Meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

TRANSITION REPORT: Ann reported that the transition team is moving forward and will meet again after the Annual Meeting. The Bible Study groups are working on vision, mission and values. The Grand Canyon Synod announced a new Transition Coordinator, Pastor John Maroni.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Su reported that we are still seeking people to serve on council next year. Several current committee members' terms expire at the end of the year; however, they are eligible to serve on the council in other positions.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Randy highlighted his report (which was distributed) with an update on solar. He had contacted Sun Valley Solar regarding the installation of solar panels; however, the investment group that originally planned to support this project declined, citing that the project is too small. SVS did ask to see CELC's financials which the council may be willing to provide after the year end financials are completed. Combining CELC's solar project with another congregation was discussed as a possible option. The solar project will be on the agenda for the Annual Meeting.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Su reported that the Nomination Committee will put together a list of persons in the congregation who may be willing to serve on next years council. Several current committee members' terms expire at the Annual Meeting; however, they are eligible to serve on the council in other positions. Randy noted that he will be vacating his position with the buildings and grounds committee on the council but is willing to transition to the new person

who will hold that position. It was suggested that Pastor Kim be the person who should approach persons to serve on next year's council.

Regarding CELC's youth, Su noted that the council may consider combining CELC's youth group with a youth group from another congregation to provide youth activities, as the demographics of CELC as a congregation are typically older. Pastor Kim will contact area churches to explore this option.

NEW MEMBER EXPLORATION: Su asked Judy Turnen and Pastor Kim to set a new date for new members. January 19th will be the New Member Sunday. Visitor cards will be reviewed, and prospective members will be contacted to attend an orientation session. Su will post a sign-up sheet and include an announcement in the weekly bulletin.

NEW BUSINESS:

SOLAR: Randy had contacted Sun Valley Solar regarding the installation of solar panels. However, the investment group that originally planned to support this project declined citing that the project is too small and there are credit concerns around churches. Randy asked if they might consider if we shared our financial statements. The council will provide this information after the year-end financials are completed. The solar project will be on the agenda for the Annual Meeting.

COUNCIL REPORTS:

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: Randy highlighted his report (which was distributed). Christmas lights were hung on Building B and the front signs changed for the Christmas season. He continues to work with Metro Fire for repairs on backflow valves.

EVANGELISM: Judy noted that she sent out holiday cards to the congregation. She also reported that the Saturday Bible Study class may be stopped if more people don't attend.

Su mentioned that there is no charge for new member tags, however, there is a \$7 charge for replacement of lost name tags.

HEALTH: Kathy reported that she was contacted by the West Valley Lutheran Thrift Shop and they have granted us \$2500 for our adult hygiene project. We are still waiting for a formal letter of approval and the funds.

OUTREACH: Su reported that the number of persons participating in Outreach has dropped.

WORSHIP: Carol reported that there was a good response to the purchase of poinsettias for the altar. Persons who purchased a poinsettia may take the plant home after the service on Christmas day, but if some are left behind, there will need to be arrangements to make sure they are watered.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: The next council meeting will be held on January 12, 2025, a budget forum will be held on Sunday, January 19th, and the Annual Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26th.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jo-Ann Wordell, Council Secretary

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS REPORT

December 2024

Solar Project. Sun Valley Solar Solutions communicated that the investment group that was originally planning to support our project with a Power Purchase Agreement has declined. The only apparent way forward with Sun Valley appears to be a purchase option.

Contracts. One of our parishioners, Mark Aguire, gave me some important guidelines for writing construction contracts. I will provide that list to the executive committee and to the council as needed.

Building A. We are monitoring the sanctuary bathroom, which may be the cause of a mild to moderate sewer gas smell.

Building B:

1. The water shut-off valve outside the nurse's office sprung a leak. Tom Flores Plumbing is ordering a valve replacement.
2. Christmas lights were hung between the outside pillars.

Backflow Valve/Water Main Valve. Metro Fire repaired two of the three backflow valves that were repaired only weeks before.

Landscaping

1. We plan to transplant the volunteer palm trees in the spring, when the soil is warmer.
2. The astroturf will be disposed of if we cannot find an animal shelter or a similar facility to accept 10,000-14,000 square yards.
3. We started using a repellent to discourage the pocket gophers.

Irrigation. We have a continuing project to seal the leaks on the trickle tubing as they occur. The likely culprits are the pocket gophers.

Signage

1. The Litchfield Road sign was changed to reflect the Christmas Cantata. It will also reflect the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.
2. A Christmas banner was ordered and will be strung between two palms.

Future Projects

1. Parking lot repairs/resurfacing
2. Relandscape the front of Building A
3. Repaint the Building B Sanctuary

God's Work, Our Hands,
Randy Heibel