

Living Hope Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
March 26, 2024
6:30pm

1. Attendance: Pastor Daniel Flucke, Jen Eason, Joe Georgeson, Brad LeDuc, Gary Myrah, Chris Lear, Andy Krueger, Patti Luedtke, Shannon Stoker
2. Here We Grow: Beki Tetzlaff and Dawn Zirtzlaff
HWG collected money for a memorial for Melanie Kaye. They would like to plant a flower garden near a tree in the front of the building, Council agreed.
The week of July 4th HWG is having the carpet cleaned, Council agreed to have the Sanctuary carpet cleaned at the same time.
Beki, Dawn and their spouses have moved everything into the storage garage from the storage unit. When those items are used in the Fellowship Hall this summer, Cliff Pohlheber will build shelves to organize the storage garage.
3. ERC update
The office has started to receive checks from the Employee Retention Credit, over \$150,000 has been received. A motion was made by J. Georgeson, seconded by B. LeDuc that the application fee amount (approximately \$13,000) should be returned to the General Fund, no discussion, motion carried.
The remaining funds will be deposited in the Designated Funds account. The Council needs to address where the funds should be deposited in the long term (about 5 years) and how the funds will be split between the Church and HWG. The split will likely be based on the number of employees and the wage percentage each had at the time of credit eligibility. Pastor would also like to discuss the potential of starting an Endowment Fund at the next meeting.
4. Book Discussion: Council members read the first 2 chapters in the book, The Invitational Christian. The chapters entitled, "A Changing World" and "Why Should Anyone Come" addressed issues many churches are facing. The Council had a good discussion, the Council is asked to read chapters 3-4 for the next meeting.
5. Approve 2/27/2024 minutes: G. Myrah motioned to approve the minutes as submitted, A. Krueger seconded, no discussion, motion carried.
6. Pastor's Report: See submitted report for March.
Pastor will be taking a few vacation days after Easter, Pastor Jon Breimeier will be leading worship on April 7.

7. Financial reports: J. Georgeson highlighted the February financial reports, please review the reports on the shared drive. Currently there is \$60,696 in the Reserve Fund and contributions are ahead of expenses.
P. Luedtke made a motion to approve the report as submitted, G. Myrah seconded, motion carried.
8. Parking Lot Lighting
B. LeDuc will contact an electrician to assess our lighting needs and offer an estimate of the cost. Council members also question if we should wait to see how our lighting will be affected by the lighting at the entrance to the new subdivision and along the road.
9. [Protecting Houses of Worship | Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency \(CISA\)](#)
G. Myrah reported that preliminary preparations will be needed prior to writing a grant this year. He states the guidelines for the grant should be released soon. Will await further information.
10. Church Musician
Discussed independent contractor vs. employee status for the musician, will look to guidance from the Synod.
Initially the musician would start as an accompanist and then move on to possibly directing choirs with an increase in time and wages. At this time the pay rate would be \$125.00/Sunday.
When a description is available, will place on the website, give to Trinny Schumann and Alex Pieper to distribute to their musical contacts and also “advertise” on social media.
11. Outreach and Evangelism
A meeting was held after Service on March 3rd and the next meeting will be after Service on April 14th. The committee would like to see an update of the Living Hope brochure and website. They continued to discuss a “Block Party” with our new neighbors.
Also discussed a Little Free Library, the Council questioned if this could be added to the Memorial Garden that HWG would like to develop. The Little Free Library could possibly be an Eagle Scout project.
VBS will be held at Living Hope with HWG, the community will be invited.
12. God’s Work, Our Hands Service will be held at Living Hope on September 8th. Ideas for volunteer work will be needed.
13. Next Council meetings will be Tuesday, April 23rd at 6:30 pm.
Next Joint Council meeting will be Tuesday, May 21st at 6:30 pm at Living Hope.

Closing prayer and adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Luedtke