

Living Hope Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2023
6:30pm

1. Attendance: Pastor Daniel Flucke, Gary Myrah, Joe Georgeson, Brad LeDuc, Chris Lear, Patti Luedtke, Shannon Stoker
2. Opening Prayer/Devotion
B. LeDuc led us in prayer and Pastor Daniel led a discussion based on playing card questions.
3. Living Hope/Here We Grow Storage update
The concrete slabs for the storage garage and the dumpster pad have been poured. A trench was completed for electricity to the building.
The plumber plans to connect LH and HWG to the Village sewer soon. They will be removing concrete from the basement floor to bring in the sewer lines. The HWG storage will need to be moved, there are concerns about the concrete dust that will be generated. The work will take one day, the HWG items could be moved upstairs, or the contractor could seal off the storage area.
The sidewalk area on the west side of the church will also need to be removed for plumbing, a repair estimate request has been made to Lutynski Concrete.
4. Approval of Minutes
Motion to approve the Minutes of the 6-27-2023 Council meeting as submitted was made by J. Georgeson, seconded by C. Lear, motion approved.
5. Financial Reports
J. Georgeson reviewed the financial reports for April and May, they are available in Google Shared Drive.
He suggests that the Council discuss and make decisions on the “designated funds” available in the budget. They could be used for cost overruns for the construction projects.
J. Georgeson indicated that there is a line item in the budget for Equipping the Saints, he would like to see a balance sheet including the amount pledged, amount received, and the amount spent. S. Stoker states the amount received to date is \$30,915.25, that includes monies from 2022 and 2023.
A motion to approve the financial reports for April and May was made by P. Luedtke, seconded by C. Lear, motion approved.

6. Parking Lot project

G, Myrah reported that he reviewed the updated bid with Payne & Dolan, there is an increase in the area that they will be paving resulting in the increase in the cost estimate. He also received an updated aerial view of the parking lot; these items can be accessed in Google Shared Drive.

It was also noted that the berms at the driveway entrance have been knocked down and reseeded and new plantings have been added around the church sign. This work was completed by the developers landscaping service at no cost to LH.

A huge “thank you” to Pam Poull for all her landscaping work at the entrance to the church.

7. Employee Retention Tax Credit

HWG and LH had been working with Innovations Refunds regarding an employee retention tax credit. G. Myrah has investigated this company and found some “red flags” including a 25% processing fee charge of the amount received, no WI based attorneys on staff and no company address, just a PO box.

G. Myrah reports that he, Pastor Daniel, and B. Tetzlaff spoke with a representative of another company, Clergy Financial Resources, regarding the potential for a tax credit. There is no cost to complete the application, they will review the application to determine if HWG is eligible. The final cost would be 5-10% of the tax credit based on how complicated the filing would be. The timeline for completion is 4-15-2024 for a 2020 credit, 4-15-2025 for a 2021 credit.

A motion was made by B. LeDuc, seconded by J. Georgeson, to move forward with an application for the Employee Retention Tax Credit with Clergy Financial Resources; this will be reviewed after the initial report is received from Clergy Financial Resources. No further discussion, motion carried.

8. Worship Life

Currently there is no active committee, will need to recruit new members. Recruiting for new members of the committee and for worship assistants will take place in the fall.

Currently Pastor Daniel has been making decisions regarding worship based on previous services.

Pastor Wendy will be leading worship on 8-20-2023.

9. Church Hospitality/Evangelism

September 10th is “God’s Work, Our Hands” Sunday and Rally Sunday. Discussed potential service projects, Lutheran World Relief has a backpack/school supply drive that LH participated in in the past, it was very successful; the Council agreed on that project. Information regarding the project will be sent out via the weekly email.

There was discussion at the Joint Council Meeting about having a joint worship service and service project with CTK at Living Hope that Sunday, no decision was made.

G. Myrah made a motion, J. Georgeson seconded, in support of a joint service and service project with CTK on September 10th, motion carried.

C. Lear presented a proposal regarding evangelism. He would like input from all the current members regarding outreach to potential new members. He proposed a breakfast or luncheon meeting to discuss hospitality ideas including door hangers, visitor gift bags, a block party, etc.

C. Lear will lead an informal congregational breakfast meeting on Sunday, August 13th regarding hospitality and evangelism.

10. New Business

No new business

11. Next Meeting will be Tuesday, August 29 at 6:30 (this is one week later than usual).

12. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Luedtke