

Living Hope Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
August 29, 2023
5:00 pm

1. Attendance: Pastor Daniel Flucke, Jen Eason, Gary Myrah, Joe Georgeson, Brad LeDuc, Chris Lear, Andy Krueger, Patti Luedtke, Shannon Stoker
2. Pastor's Report
Pastor's report is available in the Google Shared drive. Highlights of his report include long range worship planning including a few sermon series, the first one to begin on September 10. Pastor is also looking into an Advent series and a Lenten series.
3. Approval of Minutes
Motion to approve the Minutes of the 7-25-23 Council meeting and the 7-12-23 Joint Council as submitted was made by G. Myrah, seconded by C. Lear, motion approved.
4. Financial Reports
J. Georgeson reviewed the financial report and notes for July, they are available in Google Shared Drive.
He suggests that the Council discuss and make decisions on the "designated funds" available in the budget (see handout), plan to discuss at the September meeting.
The Council should also discuss the goals of the reserve fund in September.
A motion to approve the financial report as submitted for July was made by P. Luedtke, seconded by G. Myrah, motion approved.
5. Portico Benefits
The benefit plan can be found in the Google drive. A motion to approve the Portico plan as submitted was made by J. Georgeson, seconded by G. Myrah, motion approved.
6. HWG Employee Retention Tax Credit
A motion was made by G. Myrah, seconded by P. Luedtke;
Whereas the Employee Retention Tax Credit has been created to assist companies/organizations recoup lost income caused by the recent pandemic, and
Whereas the directors of Here We Grow have prepared necessary documentation to reflect the impact of the pandemic to Here We Grow/Living Hope, and
Whereas we have shared this data with Clergy Financial Resources for outside review and consultation regarding our potential return from the IRS, and
Whereas the estimated return has been calculated to be approximately \$209,000, and
Whereas Clergy Financial Resources has quoted an estimated professional services fee related to this filing to be \$13,000 (approximately 6.2%),
Now therefore be it resolved that the Living Hope Church Council supports applying for the Employee Retention Tax Credit, further,

Be it resolved that the Living Hope Lutheran Church Council directs Beki Tetzlaff and Pastor Daniel Flucke to work with Joshua Friesen, Tax and Payroll Advisor for Clergy Financial Resources, and further,

Be it resolved that the Living Hope Church Council commends Beki Tetzlaff and Shannon Stoker for the extra effort for preparing the data for this application.

J. Friesen has indicated that the "audit window" is less than 3 years. HWG will submit a plan for the credit.

No further discussion, motion carried.

7. Church Musician

Currently our musician, T. Schumann, is paid on a per Sunday basis, she is interested in the position returning to a salaried position. As a salaried musician, she would like to restart the Adult Choir. Currently the budgeted amount per Sunday for the year is \$6500, with a salaried position the budgeted amount would increase. The next step will be a discussion with T. Schumann regarding salary level and participation in worship planning. The Council will discuss further in September.

8. Kick-Off Sunday

Kick-Off Sunday is scheduled for September 10th. There will be a joint service with Christ the King at Living Hope at 10:00 AM. The Service will include distribution of children's Bibles and backpack tags and blessing of backpacks.

Stone Soup will also Kick-Off that weekend, samples will be available after Service.

Following the service, the congregations will be assembling school kits for God's Work, Our Hands. Several Council members volunteered to bring additional treats for the Fellowship Coffee Hour.

9. Fall Stewardship

Pastor Daniel, J. Georgeson and S. Stoker to discuss/plan. Planning for a stewardship campaign the last 2 weeks in October, first 2 weeks in November. Details to follow.

10. Lay Leader Educational Opportunities

Pastor Daniel provided a handout for three upcoming continuing education opportunities for lay leaders. He encouraged Council members to attend as able, registration information was included.

11. Trunk or Treat

Planning for Trunk or Treat to be held October 29th from 12:00-2:00 PM (this is during a Packer game). It was suggested that we have a brat fry, J. Georgeson and G. Myrah volunteered. J. Eason is also considering having chili. A bounce house has been reserved, it needs to be above 40 degrees for use. Discussed door hanger invitations for the Saukville area, S. Stoker has started working on the design.

12. Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 26th at 6:30 at Living Hope. There will be a Joint Council Meeting on Wednesday, October 18th at Christ the King, our Council will meet after the Joint Council meeting. Also discussed combining the November and December Council meetings to be held on Tuesday, December 5th.
13. Closing Prayer and meeting adjourned.

A huge “thank you” to Joe and Jen Eason for hosting the Council cookout!

Respectfully submitted,
Patti Luedtke