

**Epiphany Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting
August 13, 2024**

Attendance: Pastor Brad Gee, Fay Barry, Jill Schellhase, Cindy Ganem, Lynn Rigelman, Carl Langwell

Excused: Dell Moller, Ashley Turner, Jeff McCullough, Josh Thornton

Guest: Ian Boden

Call to Order: Fay called the meeting to order.

Prayer: Pastor Brad opened the meeting with a prayer.

Council Minutes/Approval: The July 9, 2024 Minutes were previously sent out for review. There being no corrections or changes, Council dispensed with the reading of these Minutes. After motion by Jill Schellhase and second by Carl Langwell, motion unanimously carried to approve the Minutes.

Treasurer's Report/Approval for July 2024: Josh previously sent this report to Council for review. Josh noted that while we had a down month in July, he does not feel there is cause for significant concern right now. A few reasons to remain are optimistic are:

- Typically, summer months are down in giving and it picks back up in the fall.
- We are within 1 week of expected giving income of being on track (expected weekly giving of \$13,625 but current giving deficit is \$11,426).
- Our expenses are less than the budget so we are really only down \$2,610 year-to-date on income vs. expenses.
- We expect a big chunk of CD interest to come due in September which will give us \$4,722 worth of interest for the first 9 months of the year at one time.
- We are tracking a little lower than last year but if we finish the year similar to how we did in 2023, we will still be ahead of the budget.
- The church has received some very significant special donations and estate gifts recently, and more are expected in the latter half of this year.

Josh will continue to keep a close eye on August and September's giving but he remains optimistic.

Following is the pertinent financial information for July:

The Report notes July's Gifts and Interest were less than Expenses by (\$6,705) and our YTD Gifts and Interest were less than Expenses by (\$2,610). July's Offerings were less than Budget by (\$9,224) and YTD Offering was less than prorated budget by (\$11,426).

General Fund Balance was \$7,238. The total benevolence is 9% of General Fund Income to our partners.

Other Fund Balances were: Gifts & Furnishings \$131,231; Memorial Funds \$79,780; Unrestricted Savings \$78,766; Youth Mission Fund \$24,879; Non-budgeted Funds \$136,927; Capital Campaign Funds \$93,429.

Large Disbursements over \$1,000: There was one large disbursement over \$1,000 in July (other than ongoing expenses):

\$40,781.43 to Elevated Integrity(*Construction progress payment paid from Portico Fund*)

Monthly Bank Reconciliation: Operating Assets have been reconciled to changes in General Fund and other aggregate Fund balances (see full Report for details).

Bank Balances were: Operating Account \$278,049; Savings \$44,648; CD 0916 - \$125,926; Schwab Brokerage Account \$101,502; Endowment Cash & Investments \$264,007.

Monthly notes and comments from the Treasurer:

- The church received an anonymous gift of \$75,000 for special projects at the church. The current special projects intended to be funded by this gift are: (1) carpet in Gathering Space and HMOC; (2) PolyCanvas Labyrinth for the HMOC; (3) additional carpet, if needed, in other spaces; (4) seed funding for an Outdoor Pavilion.
- The church received a gift of \$56,000 from the estate of Ed Otte. We are currently reviewing gift policies of the church and will bring a proposal for the use of these funds to a future Council meeting.

There were no questions or corrections on the July 2024 Treasurer's Report. After motion by Cindy Ganem and second by Jill Schellhase, motion unanimously carried to approve the Report.

Pastor's Time:

- Nominating Committee. Will be meeting on Aug. 14 to begin discussing open positions for the 2025-2026 term.
- Summer Ending Bash. Taking place on Saturday, Aug. 17 from 4-6p with food trucks, live music, and fun activities.
- Labor Day Parade. Epiphany will march in this parade which is on Sep. 2.
- Pastor Colby Martin seminar. On Sep. 28, Pastor Martin will be at Epiphany to lead a seminar on "Why LGBTQIA+ Christianity is Not an Oxymoron." He will then preach at both services on the 29th.

Committee Reports:

Budget and Finance: Beginning work with the Staff on the 2025 budget. They will be at the September Council meeting to present their budgets.

Congregational Life: Pause starts up on Aug. 21 with a potluck and sub sandwiches. Young Adults will have a bonfire party on Aug. 30. LIFT has another summertime devotion and conversation on Aug. 19.

Evangelism: Labor Day parade on Sep. 2.

PreSchool Board: Preschool starts August 2. Only 8 spots are left to fill of the 64 openings. An offer was made for the one open teacher position and still looking for an assistant.

Property:

- Portico contractor still says he should be complete at the end of August.
- We are using the same painting company as the canopy contractor to paint the inside and outside of the gutters on the sanctuary as they are rusted on the inside and painting the soffit area above the large cross on the front of the church.
- Emergency egress light in the quad room on order (one of the four went bad).
- Memorial Garden has 6 in-ground vases on order that match the existing vases. They will be placed in front of the new columbarium. A bench matching the other metal ones is also on order.
- Carpets were cleaned in the quad room, nursery, copy work room and office hall.
- Replacing the carpeting in the Gathering Space and front entryway on Sep. 9-12 and in the HMOC on Sep. 18-20.

Social Services: Would like to know if a tent can be rented to use on God's Work Our Hands Sunday (Sep. 8) for people to eat their meal (Pastor Brad said he will get a quote). Will be using rooms 106, 107, Quad, HMOC and Gathering Space for all the numerous service projects on that Sunday. There will be a coat and blanket drive in October. Since Joseph's Coat no longer has storage space for household goods, we will be using Prince of Peace's Grace House for those donations.

Youth: Looking forward to the next National Youth Gathering and hoping to have many more of our youth attend. VBS and Day Camp attendees collected items needed to make 162 homeless kits; plan to complete 38 more kits at God's Work Our Hands. Are planning to hold another Advent Brunch on Dec. 7 since it was a popular event last year.

Other/New Business:

Preschool Insurance. Have two quotes: \$8,800 from Church Mutual (Kinsale Insurance) and \$5,850 from American Family Brokerage (Maxum Indemnity). Recommendation from

Executive Committee is to go with American Family Brokerage and Josh provided the following reasoning:

- 1) The church has historically provided this insurance for the Preschool in the past, and I think we should do it. Because the church has provided it in the past, the Preschool is not currently budgeted to cover it in their price structure.
- 2) I like the quote from the local insurance company (better price, **much** better response time—took months to hear from Church Mutual), and there is a local connection to the church).
- 3) The newly formed Finance Committee will have as one of its tasks to review ALL of our insurance policies next year but we will focus on this policy and hopefully get a better deal next year. Sometimes you can get a better deal on insurance when you already have it.
- 4) I recommend paying this expense out of the budget by creating a new line item for Preschool Insurance and my reasoning is the following: a) Per the Constitution, we are allowed to incur budget expenses in excess of 2% without congregational approval; 2% of our budget would be \$14,360 so this is well below that. We did not know this would be an expense during our last budget process, so this is an unplanned expense. b) The budget can absorb this cost because we received an extraordinary offering this week of \$30,000 which will put us well ahead of all of our budget expectations this month.
- 5) We will plan for this cost in our 2025 budget process that we will begin in earnest next month.

Based on the above recommendations, motion was made by Lynn Rigelman to use American Family Brokerage insurance at the cost of \$5,850 to cover the Preschool for the 2024-2025 school year and with a second by Carl Langwell, motion unanimously carried to approving this motion.

Nominations for 2025-2026 term. Committee is meeting on Aug. 14.

Benevolence Partners Review. Everyone should look at our current list as that will be part of the 2025 Budget discussion in September.

Next Meeting:

Tuesday, September 10th at 7:00p. Ashley will have the devotion.

Adjournment: Fay led Council in the Lord's Prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Ganem

Cindy Ganem, Secretary