



## **HOLY LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

### **COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

November 28, 2023

In attendance: Beth Newsom, Pr. Brittany Kooi, Lauren Kennedy, Ed Truett, Pr. Harry Laubach, Eric Hermanson, Melissa Waples, Lindy Whitney.

Members absent: Laura Flynn, Greg Boynton.

1. The meeting was called to order by Beth Newsom.
2. The opening devotion was provided by Lindy W.
3. Open Discussion Time from the Congregation: Bob Appman discussed historical research for Holy Love's 50th anniversary on May 4-5, 2024.
  - The historical team includes Bob Appman, Jim Lewis, Roger Collins, Greg Watson, and Ed Truett.
  - A tree ring slice from last year's cottonwood tree removal will be used to create a timeline of historical highlights. Bob mentioned adding a timeline, with additional historical items. There are currently 60 to 80 significant dates. Pastor Brittany recommended posting a wall timeline, which will also provide members with the chance to add additional highlights and events. Pastor Harry liked the idea, to give people the opportunity to add items and memories.
  - It was noted that the Holy Love Preschool will be celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2024.
  - Jim Lewis has historical slides, and Roger has a PowerPoint that was created for the church's 40th anniversary. The team may also have access to items in the "Congregation Red Book", plus 50 years of Annual Reports from Jean Roenfeldt. Bob indicated that he has a historical list of pastors, employees, and staff payroll. Bob stated that the historical team will be meeting again in early December.
4. Approval of September Council Minutes: moved by Eric H., seconded by Melissa W., and passed.
5. The Pastor's Report:
  - Faith Formation: Pastor Brittany led the Preschool Chapel on November 15 and 16.
  - Faith Formation: Youth have registered for next year's ELCA Youth Gathering. There is an opening for an additional adult chaperone.
  - Faith Formation: The PM Bible Study group is reading "The Didache". The AM Bible Study will reconvene in February.
  - Stewardship: The fall Stewardship campaign Commitment Sunday was November 19. Follow-up thank-you letters have been sent to those who have pledged.
  - Stewardship: The Spiritual Gifts Inventory and Focus is planned for February, 2024.
  - Stewardship: Pastor Brittany has been accepted into the ELCA's Resourceful Servants program -- which provides training & support in helping Holy Love practice stewardship and finances in 27 different areas. The Resourceful Servants membership includes 225 pastors & deacons nationally.
  - Worship: A sensory-friendly Christmas service will be held on Monday, December 11.
  - Worship: Two Christmas Eve services have been scheduled. The 3:30 pm service will include a children's program and worship stations. The 7:30 pm service will be traditional.
  - 50th Anniversary: Rhonda Merritt has agreed to coordinate the May 5 meal, which will be after the church service on May 5. Cindy H. will be researching picture and artifact gathering from Holy Love weddings over the years. Pastor Brittany is looking at food truck options for the May 4

fair. Pastor Brittany also discussed the possibility of the 50th anniversary logo contest, with members and/or council voting on the winner. The logo could be incorporated into invitations, t-shirts, and promotional materials.

- Outreach: Holy Love and All Saints churches will be displaying Giving Trees, with tags listing gift items for Venezuelan refugees. Items are due by December 17. The effort is being coordinated by Mona from All Saints Lutheran.
- Outreach: Holy Love received a thank you from the family who collected stuffies (stuffed animals) for the Independence Elementary school reading program.
- The Women's Advent Brunch was held on December 2, which included a delicious meal, music, fellowship, and a reflection from Pastor Karen Ullestad. Pastor Karen recently retired and moved to the Denver area, and she also served as a fill-in pastor this summer, during Pastor Brittany's maternity leave.
- New Members: Holy Love welcomed the Noyd family as church members on November 19.
- Continuing Education: Pastor Brittany and Ed Truett attended the Aurora Police Department Faith Academy on November 19. VRSM clergy monthly Zoom meetings are currently taking place. Pastor Brittany will be attending the Buckley Space Force Clergy Day on Feb. 28.
- The Nominating Committee has been contacting members to consider joining the 2024 Church Council.
- Process Change: Toilet paper and paper towels will be ordered through Amazon, using the church credit card. The preschool staff will be responsible for placing the orders. It is anticipated this will save money, including elimination of delivery fees.
- Process Change: The church office and preschool are transitioning from land phone lines to cell phones, using the same phone numbers. It is expected the change will save money on the Holy Love phone bill, and will provide additional benefits -- including phone contact to preschool classrooms (eliminating walkie-talkies), increased internet speeds, and potential use as a recording tool for the online services.
- Personnel & Family: Toni was baptized on November 21 in Chicago, by friend Rev. Anne Jorgensen, of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Lincoln had also previously been baptized by Rev. Jorgensen. It was the wish of Pastor Brittany & Pastor Matt to have their children baptized into the church at large -- and not into a specific denomination -- as Pastors Brittany & Matt serve as pastors in different denominations.
- Personnel: Pastor Brittany returned to work full-time on November 26. She will be taking Mondays off (previously Fridays).

#### 6. Council Updates:

- Pastor Survey: More responses are needed, and the online link will be kept active longer. Beth N. encouraged the Council to participate in the survey. Eric H. recommended moving the printed surveys to the bulletin podium, for greater visibility.
- Property update, provided by Ed Truett -- Tobin Heating replaced one of the church furnaces, which had failed. The negotiated price was \$12,275. The church has paid \$11,000, with the balance to be paid after the installation of a pending air conditioner compressor. A sum of \$12,000 has been transferred from the church's Capital Emergencies Savings to the restricted checking Capital Projects, to pay for the installation.
- Christian Education: Laura Flynn was ill, and was not in attendance.
- Treasurer/Finance updates from Melissa and Lindy:
  - i. \$10,000 has been transferred from Savings to Checking to support the year-end financials, which had been anticipated to be in the red when the 2023 budget was approved in January.

- ii. Discussion of dedicated/assigned benevolence donations from Thanksgiving and Christmas were tabled by the Council.
  - iii. Computation of the 2024 church budget is in process. The Finance Team will review in the December finance meeting. The pending December bills and payments will also need to be factored at the end of the calendar year.
7. Devotions for December - not specified.
  8. A closing Blessing was provided by Pastor Brittany.
  9. Adjournment of the regular Council Meeting to allow the Executive Committee to meet: A motion was made by Beth N.; seconded by Melissa W.; approved unanimously.
  10. Motion to adjourn Executive Committee by Ed T.; seconded by Melissa W.; approved unanimously.
  11. The next Council Meeting will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, December 19, 2023.

Submitted by Lindell Whitney, Treasurer

---

***In a divided and disconnected world, we fervently believe that our shared humanity is grounded in Christ's unconditional love. God's infinite grace and mercy drives us to replace anger, judgment, and loneliness with love, forgiveness, and belonging.***