

**St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Sister Bay**  
**Vestry Meeting**  
**April 21, 2024**  
**MINUTES**

The meeting convened at 11:56 a.m. Attendees: Brit Frazier, Ralph Blankenburg, Paul Neuman, Ross Holton, Chris Roedl, Ray Osinski, Julie Hubbard and Susan Hoffert. Observers: Carol Ann Osinski, Mark Frazier and Kathy Blankenburg.

Absent: Trudy Jischke, Dick Heil, Norma Bramsen and Karen Malzahn.

**Opening prayer**

Brit gave the opening prayer. She then asked each member giving a report to estimate how long the report will take in order to manage the vestry's time.

**Procedural**

The April agenda was approved. March minutes, pending spelling and format corrections, were approved

**Calendar items** — Kathy and Ralph Blankenburg will represent St. Luke's at the Diocesan Convention in Baraboo, Wis.

The Diocesan Eucharist Festival will be held on May 11 in Fond du Lac. Brit is attending and welcomed anyone else interested in going.

A vote was taken to elect a new Vestry member to fill Lori Holton's remaining term. Parishioners Pat Lee and Doug Marvin were nominated. Ross motioned to elect Pat Lee; Ray seconded. Motioned carried. Brit reminded everyone that there will be three Vestry openings in January. Brit will contact Pat this afternoon and give Carol Ann an article for the Enews.

Norma and David Skidmore continue to upload documents onto Google Workspace. Norma submitted a report —currently the biggest issue is keeping the site activated. She would like feedback on what is important to include on the site.

**Memorial policy** — Submitted. Ralph expressed concern about the amount of information deleted from the previous policy, particularly tracking of gifts because it keeps us from asking individuals if we can direct their gifts to a certain item or ministry. Brit suggested, given the size of St. Luke's, that it would be appropriate for the rector and/or senior warden to continue tracking memorial gifts and keep in contact with the families. If the number and amount of memorials increase significantly in the future we could revisit that part of the policy. Discussion ensued.

Because Norma was not present it was decided to put this item on hold until she is at a meeting. Ralph will contact her to alert her to the discussion.

**Treasurer's report** — Submitted. Brit commented that it was normal and that we did acquire two new pledges.

**Investment report** — Submitted. Paul pointed out that both the Nicolet and Diocesan accounts had a good quarter. In October we will have to decide what to do with the Treasury Bills at Nicole's. The Common Trust has merged with Milwaukee and there is now a different structure. We will have the option of investing in short-term, middle-term and long-term investments. More information will be coming from the Diocese in June. The Investment Committee will review that and report back at the July meeting.

**Rector's report** — Brit expressed satisfaction with the fellowship engendered at the Vestry retreat last Saturday. Feedback forms were given to Vestry members to submit as soon as they are able. Discussion was held with many members suggesting a longer period of time for future retreats.

A new Emergency Response Committee will be formed to not only care for parishioners but also provide the community with access to shelter in case of catastrophic events. The committee will provide a point of contact for the local Incident Report Team, create scenarios where help is needed, create a phone tree and offer CPR training. An article will announce the formation this week and a meeting will be held in early May.

On Wednesday evenings Brit will offer confirmation/reception classes for six weeks. Bishop Gunter will visit St. Luke's for the parish picnic as well as for the service of confirmation/reception on Labor Day weekend.

She is also planning mini-pilgrimages to Washington Island for a service in the StavKirke as well as other close, spiritual destinations.

There will be two picnics this summer—one a joint celebration with the Church of the Atonement, Fish Creek, and the other one for St. Luke's.

Information on all events will be on the website, church bulletin board and in the Enews. Discussion was held on whether to do a special edition of the Enews as well as creating handouts of the calendar events.

**Junior warden's report** — Submitted. Ross noted it has been a busy month. He noted that Culligan's will be inspecting the water system and a locksmith will be rekey all the doors to the same front door key later this month.

**Senior warden's report** — Ralph gave a summary on the proposed Diocesan merger, noting that the decision was made for economic reasons. Many employees will now

work from home and each of the three areas will elect three representatives to serve on the Executive Committee. There will be an additional three at-large representatives. St. Luke's Diocesan assessment will increase from 11 percent to 18 percent and policy changes will no longer have to be presented at the convention for approval. St. Luke's will have three representatives at the convention going forward. The Bishop will visit every two years and confirmation candidates may have to travel to where he is visiting that year. Bishop Gunter will be the bishop for the Diocese of Wisconsin, although he does plan to retire at age 65 or so. All three cathedrals will be maintained.

Ralph asked the Vestry members to consider being the conduit for one (or more) of St. Luke's ministries as we move forward.

### **Other Reports:**

**Outreach** — Trudy reported that proceeds from the Sister Bay Rummage Sale will go to the Outreach Committee and that will be emphasized on all announcements.

**Old Business** — The Parochial Report may be approved over email.

**New Business** — Carol Ann commented that the blessing in today's service for Carol and Dick Heil was beautiful and thoughtful. She asked if we could do something like this once a month. Discussion was held on whether birthday/anniversary blessings were doable.

Paul volunteered for the May meeting's opening prayer.

Brit offered a closing prayer.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:38. The next Vestry meeting will be Sunday, May 19.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Hoffert  
Vestry Clerk