

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church
Estes Park, Colorado
Council Minutes
11 January 2024

Members present

Carolyn Jarmin – President
Roxy Hause - Secretary
Bruce Brackman – Member
Mike Kellam – Member
Tara McConnell – Member
Mary Settje - Member
Steve Thorn - Alternate
Pastor Ron Bockhaus

Guests

Linda Schlitt - Treasurer
Kris Adams

Financial Report

Before the formal meeting started, Linda Schlitt and Kris Adams presented an updated budget for 2024. This final draft will be presented to the congregation for approval at the Annual Meeting on 21 January 2024.

Budget changes were presented and discussed. Several changes are needed due to the upcoming transition and to allow for recruitment for staff positions. **MOTION:** Motion was made to approve the updated 2024 budget as presented. Motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

APPROVED

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm by President Carolyn Jarmin. Devotions and prayer presented by Pastor Ron.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer's report for December was sent out prior to the meeting. Discussion was held. **MOTION:** Motion was moved seconded and passed to approve the Treasurer's reports as presented. **APPROVED**

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the December meeting were reviewed. **MOTION:** Motion was moved seconded and passed to approve all the minutes of the December meeting as presented. **APPROVED**

Old Business

Constitution and Bylaws Update

As discussed in previous meetings, our constitution and bylaws need to be updated. Pastor Dominic suggested that we work on this in conjunction with transition. Discussion was held regarding the process to get this project done. The group agreed to give it thought and we will discuss at the February meeting.

January Annual Meeting

Carolyn presented the agenda for the annual meeting being held on 21 January 2024 after service. Kris and Bruce Adams are also preparing a brunch for that day. Packets for this meeting will be available to the congregation on 14 January 2024.

The Council approved the following gifts to be given to Pastor Ron upon his retirement:

Laptop Computer

2.5 weeks of paid vacation time

Pastor Ron was surprised by this decision and thanked the Council. This decision will be announced to the congregation at the annual meeting.

New Business

Transportation

The topic of providing transportation to church for those who no longer drive or can't get to church due to bad weather. This topic has been discussed several times with no solution. Bruce volunteered to announce this idea at church on 14 January to see how many people would need the service. Further discussion will occur at future meetings.

Lenten Service/Soup Supper

The group discussed the implementation of Wednesday night soup supper and service during Lent. Announcement will be made to the congregation at the Annual Meeting and various Sundays prior to the start of Lent. The schedule will be for supper to be served from 5:00-5:30 pm with service being from 5:30-6:30 pm. The church will provide the soup and bread for the meals.

Synod Assembly

The Synod assembly will be held 25-27 April. We are allowed two delegates, one male, one female to attend. Carolyn asked that the group consider availability to attend or help figure out who could be asked to attend. The meeting is in Loveland so those attending will not incur any travel expenses.

Pastor's Report

Pastor Ron reported the following report broken down into three sections preparing for transition:

Administration

1. Constant Contact weekly email newsletter;
2. Church calendar – handling requests from outside groups for use of the building and keeping the church activities current on the calendar;
3. Snow removal – Randy Huber is currently handling buildings and grounds. Randy Miller is the snow plow service;
4. Oversight for Mike Novak to insure changes in church use schedule are shared with him to make changes in his regular cleaning schedule;
5. Trash service – Pastor Ron has been taking the church trash and adding to his personal bag service. A trash service will need to be procured;
6. Phone messages – phone messages left on the church answering machine outside of office hours will need to be checked (can be done remotely) and distributed to the appropriate people;
7. Maintenance of the SMLC database of members/non-members on power church.

Worship

1. Worship Life Leader – Bruce Brackman has volunteered to be the point person for weekly worship, pulpit supply and coordination with the worship committee;
2. Worship planning – assistance for pastor, organist, choir director, special events etc;
3. Mid-week Lenten Services/soup supper.

Care Giving

1. Stephen Ministry – Pastor Ron reported there are six currently trained people in this program and can provide ministry for hospital visits, shut-in visits and any other services required of members of the congregation;
2. Communion Ministers – there are currently two people trained to perform in home communion to those requiring that service;
3. Follow-up service with visitors and how visitors are identified.

Discussion was held with the suggestion of placing the weekly calendar in the Constant Contact newsletter and looking at updating the website. Pastor Ron also discussed the need for training someone other than Jim to review the live stream each week and edit it for placement on the website. Additional trained people are needed to run the sound system as well.

There being no further business before the Council, the meeting was closed with prayer at 3:30 pm.

Next meeting will be a lunch meeting at Noon on 8 February at Poppy's with the regular meeting being held at the church at 2:00 pm.