



1515 N Cascade Ave
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

January 28, 2025 FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Present (via Zoom)

Yoshiko Anspach, Larry Bagley, Brenda Bocek, Bill Busovsky, Jason Fox, Julie Furstenau, Terry Hjelkrem, Joan Kuehn, Kiersten Lehmkuhl, Pastor Travis Norton, Chris White

Absent

None

Opening

The regular meeting of the First Lutheran Church council was called to order by Terry Hjelkrem at 7:01 pm.

Devotions (Terry Hjelkrem)

Terry shared the prayer that was written for Gen. George Patton and his troops in December of 1944 by the Chief Chaplin of the Third Army, James O'Neill. This prayer was distributed to all troops in the Third Army and it asked for, among other things, fair weather. The weather did improve as the Battle of the Bulge began. Terry paraphrased this prayer asking for "fair weather" for the Church in this new year.

Approval of Minutes

COUNCIL APPROVED THE JANUARY MINUTES

Finance Committee Report (Brenda Bocek)

- Brenda reported that the total income for 2024 was \$182,456.60 over budget. She reminded us that \$70,000 of income was from one member giving a tithe of the proceeds from the sale of their house – an event unlikely to be repeated in 2025. Also of note was that there was over \$12,000 that was not spent in the local benevolence budget, since the congregation was so supportive of the youth going to the ELCA gathering in New Orleans last summer. This meant that money that had been budgeted for scholarships did not need to be used. Under salaries, the church is over budget, mainly due to yearly bonuses not being a part of the 2024 budget. They are included in the 2025 budget. The church ended 2024 with \$16,107.34 in net income.

COUNCIL APPROVED THE FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Senior Pastor Report

- Pastor Travis recapped the Christmas season – 1361 people attended Christmas Eve services, and along with all of the special services and planned events, we also hosted an impromptu toy drive that was very successful. Thanks to all who participated in these services and events.
- We have signed a contract with CRP Architects, and Pastor Travis shared with council CRP's initial plans for remodeling both the first- and second-floor common spaces. These include adding an addition to the front, creating a larger space for the whole congregation to meet and dine, and increasing hospitality for visitors. The remodeling plans are still in the early stages, with the architect expected to return with a more detailed design in a month or so.

- Pastor Travis discussed the recent staff retreat and the introduction of the Enneagram, a spiritual personality profile, to help staff understand each other better. He also mentioned the congregational retreat on the theme of "Unforced Rhythms of Grace."
- Pastor Travis discussed his service on the synod's Congregational Ministry Committee, which will be hosting an event on Lay Pastoral leaders next month.
- Stewardship update: We have received one less pledge than last year but pledged funds have increased by \$141,568.
- Lent: Pastor Travis outlined plans for soup suppers and devotion writing, with a focus on the theme of "Path of Redemption". Council members were encouraged to consider writing a Lenten devotion.

Old Business

- Pastor Travis will follow-up on getting iPads to use during church as "large-print" bulletins for members of the church who have vision issues.

New Business

- Election of council officers
 - Council officers for 2025 were elected as follows:
 - Terry Hjelkrem – Vice-President
 - Brenda Bocek – Treasurer
 - Julie Furstenau – Secretary
- The council voted to authorize up to \$8200 of the Endowment Fund to be spent during 2025. Combined with carry-over of unspent funds over the past three years, there is \$24,600 available to be spent.
- The council approved disbursement from the Endowment Fund for a \$4500 request from Ken Boehm for the Prison Fellowship Angel Tree ministry. This will be used to support sending youth to summer camp and supporting the Angel Tree Christmas party in December.
- Pastor Travis asked the council for their suggestions on what organization this year's Lenten Self-Denial offering should benefit. After discussion, it was agreed that this year's offering will go to the Lutheran Family Services Refugee and Asylee Program. Pastor Travis to get narrative from Floyd (program director) on how the Lenten denial funds would be used for Lutheran Family Services refugee/asylee program and share with congregation.

Reminders

- The next Council meeting will be in-person in the Library on February 18 at 7pm. Members will also be able to attend via Zoom if needed/desired.

Adjournment with Prayer - Pastor Travis 8:11 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Julie Furstenau

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Secretary