

St. John's Lutheran Church  
Congregational Assembly Meeting  
April 28, 2019

DRAFT Apr 30, 2019 Draft

This regular meeting was called to order at 9:25 am by President Tom Braun. The attached information packet, including the agenda and draft minutes from the previous meeting, was provided. Fifty-seven members signed in. Pastor Roberts opened the meeting with a brief devotion from Luke 8 and the storm on the lake when Jesus asks “Where is your faith in me?”

The minutes of the December 2, 2018 Congregational Assembly were approved with the following adjustment. Mark Behnke asked that the minutes reflect that Pastor Mark's call amendment was approved by the assembly.

Pastor Roberts provided an update on the “4 for 4” program which came from the cottage meetings. The top 3 responses being:

- 018 – Youth ministry – working with Evan Menk and the Board of Parish Ed. Pastor noted a special thank you to Dalyne Shinneman for her contributions to Sunday School.
- CW – Contemporary Worship – There have been a number of meetings. There will be some preview services likely starting in late June on Saturdays – 5:00 or 5:30.
- SG – Small Groups – Working on framework with Parish Ed. Test groups to start sometime after Memorial Day.
- D2MC – This is a 2.5 year learning community that Pastor Ben, Melissa and Katie Pece are committed to. To seek answers to how do we equip ourselves to reach the lost in today's society/culture. Goal is to make this part of our “fabric”.

Pastor Mark asked for prayers for Otto and Carol Osterland.

President Braun moved for approval of two board appointments he had made:

- Shirley Morgenthaler to the Board of Parish Education
- Rebecca Hemminger to Board of Parish Education

The motion was approved.

President Braun thanked everyone for the GIFT appeal but he stated that continuing to fund operations with special appeals is not sustainable. We need to bring more people and children to Christ and to St. John's.

Jenn Behnke and Teri Lyn Mannes presented on the state of St. John's School. There are currently 139 students in the school and next year's budget is based on this same number of students. Elmhurst College will be providing their recommendations for growing our school on April 29<sup>th</sup>. These will be shared with everyone sometime in the future weeks. Teri Lyn reported that Gloria Dei School in Chicago (Midway area) will be closing and St. John's has been listed as a preferred school. Recruitment of potential students is underway and an Open House is planned specifically for these school families. The School Board is looking for other funding such as grants, alumni donations, past school families. Also, the State of Illinois scholarship program still exists and those who donated last year have been contacted to donate again. There will be a vote upcoming in Springfield that will determine the continuance of this program.

Jeff Baker presented the 2019-2020 fiscal year budget. Reviewed Income and Expenses YTD in the handout. The revised 2018-19 budget was approved at the December meeting. Jeff reviewed the expected annualized expenses and noted an expected Net Operating Loss (NOL) of \$58K. Jeff also reviewed our Cash Position in the handout and noted that we are expected to go from \$283K to \$157K by fiscal year end. As to the budget, Jeff reported that the Council approved an expense budget for the 2019-20 fiscal year of \$1,570K and moved that this budget be approved. The motion was seconded. Additional comments made were that there was no salary increases except for the algorithm requirements. Also, expected school and church revenue is based on projections of the number of students and congregational giving. Finally, current funds can only sustain us at the current levels for one more year but no more. Andy Kunz asked if there are plans for a formal planning process to evaluate our financial situation. Pastor Ben stated he has reached out to a number of experts to help us assess a “go forward” plan in addition to the Elmhurst College recommendations. By fall, we will a vision and goals set. Jeff recognized Julie Rauch for all her efforts in preparing the budget documents. President Braun recognized Dalyne Shinneman for her efforts in pursuing grants to fund numerous projects. The vote was taken and the budget was approved.

Bill Newren presented the Capital Budget, listed in the handout, and explained each item. President Braun added that the optional capital projects would not begin until the funds are available. President Braun then made a motion to approve the capital budget. It was seconded and approved. As the by-laws dictate, the polar vortex water repair bill of \$6800 was reported to the assembly by Bill Newren.

Pastor Stapleton closed the meeting with prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Attachments: Agenda and Handout packet, Sign-in sheets, Approved Minutes of December 2, 2018 meeting, FY 19-20 Budget

Prepared by Rick Lange, Vice President