

**Our Redeemer's Lutheran Church**  
**Annual Meeting Minutes**  
**Sunday, January 28, 2024**

1. **Call meeting to order** at 10:15 am by Council President Karen Zahn; 32 voting members are present
2. **Opening prayer** led by Pastor Beth and sang "Here I Am Lord"
3. **Approval of Agenda**
  - a. Motion made by Roy Lawrenz and seconded by Patty Staabe to approve of Annual meeting agenda without additions; motion carried
4. **Approval of Minutes** from 3rd Quarterly Meeting Sunday, October 16, 2023
  - a. A motion was made by Roy Lawrenz and seconded by Maddy Holmes to accept the corrections to section 10 of new business item a and lines v and vi; motion carried
  - b. Erika Schindel made a motion to accept the minutes with the changes; seconded by Patty Staabe; motion carried
5. **Reading of the Mission Statement;** Karen Zahn read our mission statements
  - a. Faith statement: "Living in God's grace, we walk by faith and not by sight."
  - b. Business statement: "Our mission is to support one another to be faithful in worship, witness, and outreach; committing ourselves to proclaim the Gospel."
6. **Financial Reports:** General, Improvement, Memorial, Blessing Basket
  - a. **2023 Benevolence Summary:**
    - i. ELCA Mission Support → \$4,250.00
    - ii. Synod Special Appeal → \$35.00
    - iii. Women's Scholarship Education → \$2,000.00
    - iv. World Hunger → \$4,550.00
    - v. Christmas (Lutheran Social Services) → \$451.00
    - vi. Easter (Backpack Program) → \$410.00
    - vii. Lent (Fuel Assistance) → \$945.00
    - viii. Thanksgiving (Rainbow House) → \$120.00
    - ix. Care Share Food Pantry → \$550.00
    - x. Christmas Family → \$434.00
    - xi. Crossways Camp → \$1,200.00

- xii. Home Respite → \$1,000.00
- xiii. Nurses Nook → \$1,200.00
- xiv. Oconto County Sheriff's K9 Unit → \$204.00
- xv. TOTAL for YEAR: \$17,349.00

**b. Audit Committee Report**

- i. Met January 24, 2024 and consisted of Lora Houska, Jennifer Jandt, Jeanette Kootaka, and Kathy Lawrenz
  - ii. Accounts and records of General accounts, Women of the Church, Education committee, Memorial fund, and Improvement fund were audited
  - iii. Some notes they had were:
    - 1. If you receive a check from the church, please cash it as soon as possible
    - 2. A meeting of the committee in January works, but they need clarification of some dates
- c. **2023 year-end reports** printed in the Annual Report (Approval by hand raising)
- i. Roy Lawrenz made a motion to accept the 2023 year-end reports as printed and after the audit was completed; seconded by Greg Staabe; motion carried
- d. **Proposed Congregational Budget for 2024** (Approval by ballot vote)
- i. Carol Suring proposed adding \$50.00 to the Blessing Basket budgeted for administrative (checks and mailings) under the heading of committees; BJ Douglas seconded this proposal; motion carried
  - ii. Ballot vote called for by president, Karen Zahn; 2024 budget approved by ballot 32 yes votes & 0 no votes

**7. Pastor's Report**

- a. February of 2023 Pastor hosted a council retreat with the goal that we would all land on the same page and decide what to work on in 2023
  - i. The focus was healthy congregations and healthy communication at the retreat
  - ii. At the retreat the council committed ourselves to working together more closely and keep open and healthy communication skills going
  - iii. We also chose not to overlook or ignore conflicts and to try to deal with them as they arise in a timely and healthy manner

1. This commitment was put to the test throughout the year as a few conflicts arose & we tried to use what we learned in February at the retreat to deal with the conflicts
  - b. Pastor worked at her goal of figuring out who is still a member at Our Redeemer's
    - i. We had a large list with people who had not attended in a long time
    - ii. Through letters, phone calls, and conversations Pastor was able to paint a clearer picture of who is currently on the active member rolls of Our Redeemer's
  - c. Held a class for serving communion to shut ins in November with 2 people attending the training
    - i. If anyone else is interested, please let Pastor know at any time
  - d. Pastor's call is still  $\frac{3}{4}$  time and she does work elsewhere
    - i. One day a week is spent at Festival Foods and another 1-2 days are spent at Ferguson Family YMCA of Green Bay
      1. This gives her variety and lots of chances to interact with people throughout her week
  - e. Meetings with one or more staff: 27
  - f. Meetings with Committees/Leaders: 71
  - g. Denominational/Area Clergy Meetings: 1
  - h. Pastoral Contacts (Office visits, Hospital visits, Home or Shut-in visits, Counseling, Premarital, Funeral Planning, etc.): 308
  - i. Funerals/Graveside Services: 4
    - i. Lisa Demereth, Jaunita Mai, Donna Albert, and Mavis Blazek)
  - j. Weddings/Vow Renewals: 1
    - i. Kathy (Kostrova) & Rod Provost
  - k. Baptisms: 3
    - i. (Everleigh Wagner, Adalynn Thomas, and Benjamin Delemater)
  - l. Classes Taught/Bible Studies led: 28
  - m. Lectionary/Text Study Group attended: 0
  - n. Worship Services led: 53
- 8. President's Report**
- a. Another year of opportunities, some challenges, and changes has come & gone
  - b. We are blessed at Our Redeemer's
    - i. We have community of people in our church that are family
    - ii. We don't always agree on things, but communicating with honesty and love we are bound together as a family in Christ
    - iii. We can work together to reach our goals
- 9. Committee Reports**
- a. **Blessing Basket**
    - i. Report missed in printing, report given at annual meeting

- ii. The Blessing Basket is up and running
- iii. As of December 18, 2023
  - 1. 4 Helps have been applied for and disbursed
    - a. One hygiene kit, one gas card, and 2 groceries helps
- iv. It's the hope of the committee that more people in our congregation will apply for Helps for people they know in need

**b. Building, Maintenance, Improvement**

- i. Motion: Spend up to \$20,000.00 to build an access way, using a bonded insured contractor & purchase two replacement HVAC units (Approval by ballot vote)
  - 1. Discussion was had to clarify the state of our current HVAC units and what the walkway would entail
  - 2. Roy Lawrenz motioned and Ken Holmes seconded to accept the Building, Maintenance, and Improvement committee's motion; Ballot vote passed 32 yes votes to 0 no votes
- ii. Please refer to the written report in the Annual Report Packet

**c. Constitution & Policy**

- i. Announcement: Motion by the Constitution Policy and Procedure Committee and the Church Council have proposed a change to an amendment that has been budgeted for. Currently the treasurer and financial secretary are not required to be elected to the church council to carry out their duties.
- ii. The changes come from pages 12 and 13 of the Constitution under "officers." The amendment would be in section D adding the council secretary to the treasurer and financial secretary.
- iii. The change would say, "If the church council secretary, treasurer, and/or financial secretary are not selected from the elected membership of the Church Council, the council secretary, treasurer, financial secretary shall have voice, but not vote at the meetings of the Church Council."
- iv. This proposal will be voted upon on March 3, 2024 at a special congregational meeting following the worship service.
- v. Discussion followed that led to the possibility of needing to edit some of the wording because the council secretary holds a seat on the executive board of council. There may need to be a representative elected from council to serve on the board along with the President and Vice President.

**d. Decorating**

- i. Please refer to the written report in the Annual Report Packet

**e. Education**

- i. Please refer to the written report in the Annual Report Packet

**f. Evangelism & Stewardship**

- i. Please refer to the written report in the Annual Report Packet
- g. HVAC Subcommittee**
  - i. Please refer to the written report in the Annual Report Packet
- h. Landscape**
  - i. Please refer to the written report in the Annual Report Packet
- i. Long Range**
  - i. Please refer to the written report in the Annual Report Packet
- j. Memorial**
  - i. Financial report included in meeting packet, but not to be published in minutes per congregational decision
  - ii. Please refer to the written report in the Annual Report Packet
- k. Men's Group**
  - i. Please refer to the written report in the Annual Report Packet
- l. Women of Our Redeemer's**
  - i. Please refer to the written report in the Annual Report Packet
- m. Worship & Music**
  - i. Lenten services plan
    1. We will be having an Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday services
    2. The other weeks on Wednesday evenings we will be having soup & scripture led by members of the church, not by Pastor Beth
  - ii. Please refer to the written report in the Annual Report Packet
- n. Any other committee report**

## **10. Old Business**

### **a. Raised Garden Beds**

- i. A discussion was had on what to do about the planters.
- ii. Lora Houska made a motion to reduce the number of raised beds to four rather than eight we currently have; Patty Staabe seconded; motion carried

## **11. New Business**

### **a. Election of Council Members**

- i. Nomination committee brought two names to be nominated of Erika Schindel and Ken Holmes
- ii. Karen Zahn read a moving speech of serving our congregation
- iii. Lora Houska came forward willing to serve on the council if someone took her seat at treasurer of the Women of OR
  1. BJ Douglas stepped forward to do that
- iv. Roy Lawrenz and Earl Macha made a motion and seconded to accept the nomination of Erika Schindel, Ken Holmes, and Lora Houska; motion carried

- v. Still needing one more member to serve on the council it was decided that February would be a month of reflection on whether or not to serve on the council
- vi. Lora Houska made a motion to have elections for council on March 3 at the special meeting of the congregation; Roy Lawrenz seconded this motion; motion carried

**b. Conference Delegates**

- i. Shawano (February 4, 2024 in Little Suamico)
  - 1. Pastor Beth and Karen Zahn will be attending
- ii. Synod (May 17-18, 2024 in Oshkosh)
  - 1. No volunteers at this time
  - 2. Let Pastor Beth know if interested in attending

**iii. World Day of Prayer**

- 1. First weekend of March
- 2. Theme is "I beg you, bare one another in love"
- 3. Focus on Ephesians Chapter 4: 1-7
  - a. 1 "As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. 2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. 3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. 7 But to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it." - NIV version from Youversion Bible App
- 4. The Women of Our Redeemer's will be hosting & inviting the community to come out and share in prayer with us

**12. Additions to Agenda**

- a. None

**13. Adjourn with Lord's Prayer**

- a. Greg Staabe made a motion to adjourn; seconded by Lora Houska; motion carried

**NOTE:** These minutes are in draft form until there are corrections made and approved at the next council meeting. Respectfully written and submitted by Kayla Zahn, council secretary.