



**Council Meeting**  
**Monday, December 9, 2024**

**Call to Order:** 6:32 pm

**Establish a quorum/present:** Jackie Lee, Pastor Ben, Pastor Alicia, Sharon Steinhoff Smith, Dan Bishop, Dan Jacobson, Nate Borwege, Brian Gieseke, Heather Nybo

**Devotion** by Pastor Ben

**Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda** by Gieseke, second by Nybo, motion approved.

**Motion to Approve the November Minutes** by Gieseke, second by Nybo, motion approved.

**President's Report:**

- Council Reflection of 2024 year
- 2025 Calendar
- 2025 Council Retreat: 2/8/2025

**Treasurer's Report**

- **NEXT Campaign Pledges:**
  - 2023 Pledges Received: \$42,700
  - 2024 Pledges Received: \$652,977
  - 2024 Unpledged Rcv'd: \$241,651
  - **Total Received: \$937,328**

PLEDGES as of November 30, 2024	NEXT Campaign 2024 thru 2026
Total Pledged	\$1,252,399
Total Received	\$695,677
Remaining Pledges	\$556,722

Unpledged Gifts     \$241,651  
 Organ & Chairs     - \$196,000  
**Remaining Gifts = \$45,651**  
**Land Proceeds + \$84,000**  
**Total Add'l Funds = \$129,651**

- Next Campaign Additional:
  - Unpledged Received: \$241,651 (Organs, Chairs, Interest, add'l aspects)
  - Land Proceeds: \$84,000 (support, interest costs, unmet pledges)

Finances as of November 30, 2024	November Budget	November Actual
Revenue	\$52,147	\$58,195
Expenses	\$52,507	\$50,088
Revenue - Expenses	-\$360	\$8,107

YTD Finances as of November 30, 2024	Year-To-Date Budget	Year-To-Date Actual
YTD Revenue	\$597,843	\$560,548
YTD Expenses	\$595,853	\$565,407
YTD Revenue - Expenses	\$1,990	\$-4,859

**Motion to approve Treasurer's Report** by Jacobson, second by Borwege, motion approved.

**2025 Drafted Budget:**

- Current 2025 budget presented to council and recommendations to be changed are:
  - Change Outreach Line (tithe-endowment) and 10% tithe to be from total revenue.
  - Spread out the loan debt and interest payments to balance the budget.
  - Discussion with land sale team to have future bonds deposited to capital funds along with the current bond that's been called.

**Motion to Approve 2025 Budget as Presented and Discussed** by Bishop and second by Gieseke, motion approved.

- Discussed and ready to present the budget to annual meeting.

**Pastor Alicia's Report:**

- Tithe amount to be designated to the Synod, to be discussed at the January Meeting
- Ratify our constitution without change at our next annual meeting by two-thirds vote of those voting members present and voting.

**Motion to Approve Mission Outreach Needs** by Nybo, second by Bishop, motion approved.

- Little Food Pantry: December reimbursement not to exceed \$150.
- Le Sueur County Foster Care Project c/o Kate Kienow: \$480 for purchase of 48-\$10 gift cards to include in backpacks for foster care children.
- Note: \$1450 remains unspent from the pastoral/office discretionary fund. It remains available to use as needed.
- All other requests below are allocated as a percentage of the remaining funds.
  - 30% ELCA Disaster Relief Fund: <https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>

- 25% Lutheran Social Services Youth Homelessness: <https://www.lssmn.org/services/youth-homelessness>
  - 15% River Valley Health Services: <https://rivervalleyhealthservices.org>
  - 10% NAMI-MN: <https://namimn.org/>
  - 10% Southern Valley Alliance
  - 5% Duck Cup Memorial Fund: <https://www.duckcupmemorial.org/>
  - 5% Lutheran Campus Ministry: Univ of MN <https://lcmtc.org/>
- Pastors need to designate housing allowance annually. This does not impact overall compensation but is simply a requirement for clergy to note in meeting minutes. Pastor Alicia will continue to designate \$0 in 2025 and thereafter unless otherwise noted.
  - Thanksgiving Meal served 200+ people.

#### **Pastor Ben's Report:**

- 300 Chairs distributed to parishes in need.
- Pastors need to designate housing allowance annually. This does not impact overall compensation but is simply a requirement for clergy to note in meeting minutes. Pastor Ben will continue to designate \$1812.50/pay period for housing for 2025 and thereafter unless a change is noted.

#### **Old Business:**

- Church Council 2025
- Ribbon Cutting: December 12 (Public Event) @ 4pm

#### **New Business:**

- Pre Meeting/Annual Meeting
  - Sunday Jan 19 @ 10am
  - Wednesday Jan 2<sup>d</sup> @ 7pm

**Executive Team** determined that the free-will donations from the Thanksgiving meal will be received as revenue on the hospitality line and expensed out of the STD: Mission Outreach account (\$1454.10).

**Communicate to members that any member questions/concern can be sent to council email for reply.**

**Closing Prayer:** Lord's Prayer

**Adjournment of Meeting:** 7:58 pm

**Annual Meeting:** Sunday January 26 @ 10 am

**Next Meeting:** Monday, January 27, 6:30 pm