

**Epiphany Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting  
January 14, 2020**

**Attendance:** Lynn Chrisman, Laurie Landon, Kevin Saionzkowski, Bill Smith, Darlene Bell, Pastor Brad Gee, Carl Langwell, Mark Low, Lynn Rigelman, Bill Merriman, Jill Schellhase, Lori Toms-McMullen, Carole Bockey, and Scott Gardner.

**Excused:** Dave Zimmer and Linda Hamaide.

**Guests:** Barry Halter.

**Call to Order:** Lynn Chrisman called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the 2020 Epiphany Church Council. All Council members introduced themselves. According to our Constitution, since the congregation did not vote on Linda Hamaide at the annual meeting, we will need to vote her onto Council tonight. After motion by Lynn Chrisman, motion carried to have Linda Hamaide on Council for Christian Education. The congregation will vote on her at the next congregation meeting.

**Opening Prayer:** Pastor Brad led Council in prayer.

**Devotion:** Lynn led devotion on encouragement for the new year. "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Jos 1:9) We need more than a hopeful greeting from those around us. We need God's encouragement. There are a lot of what-ifs in our lives. God is in charge and he promises to be close. Thank you for the gift of a new year.

**Minutes:** There being no corrections or changes, Council dispensed with the reading of the December 10, 2019 Minutes. After motion by Scott Gardner and second by Bill Merriman, motion carried to approve these Minutes.

**Treasurer's Report/Approval:**

Year-to-date as of December 31, 2019, Gifts exceeded Expenses by \$5,144. Gifts exceeded Budget by \$849 and Expenses were below Budget by \$6,396. Expense categories to note and monitor: Payroll Processing, Staff Payroll, Building Operations, Continuing Education, Copier//Tech, Congregational Life, Youth and Benevolence exceeded budget at year end. Though a strong December, we should monitor Gifts downward trend.

There is nothing unusual to report on Large Disbursements. The monthly bank reconciliation has an unreconciled variance of \$1,660.

Fund balances are: Gifts and Furnishings \$107,679; Share the Light \$5,104; Unrestricted Savings \$83,588; 2021 National Youth Gathering \$14,477; Nonbudgeted Funds \$25,245; and Capital Campaign Fund \$139,593.

Bank Balances in the Operating Accounts are \$381,339 and Endowment Cash & Investments is \$210,025.

January 2020 started Church Windows only – one accounting system of record. 2019 activity was entered and cash reconciled monthly.

After motion by Bill Smith and second by Darlene Bell, motion carried to approve the December 2019 Treasurer's Reports.

**Pastor's Agenda:** The retreat on January 25 is an important day. As we enter into 2020, we need to continue to focus. On May 16, 2020 Barry will graduate from Trinity.

### **Committee Reports/Roundtable:**

**Congregational Life:** We had a successful Christmas caroling at Amber Park and Wesley Ridge. The next event is the Women's Retreat on January 18. The committee will meet on January 22.

**Evangelism:** We are starting to plan for the coming year.

**Financial Secretary:** Nothing to report.

**Pre-School Board:** Nothing to report.

**Property:** Shaun Smart and Mark Reed have joined the Property Committee. We will be finishing lighting in the building (offices, corridors and the bell choir). We have 200 lights to switch over at a cost of approximately \$16,000. This Saturday we will put lights in the bathrooms. Twenty lights in the corridors need battery backup at an additional cost of \$175 each. The grout will be re-done in the bathrooms. We want to replace the white cove base molding with rubber cove base because it cleans better. We want new plumbing fixtures and toilets. We look at the asphalt every year. The price is \$90,000 but that depends on what happens with the building.

At the funeral on Friday, two cars hit the concrete base of the pole light. Bill said we could paint them caution yellow like around the curbs but it would not look good. Lynn will research parking lot safety on the Church Mutual website.

**Social Services:** Epiphany gave 84 Thanksgiving meals this year and donated \$506 to buy turkeys. Gift catalog purchases totaled \$11,000. Souper Bowl Sunday is coming up next.

**Stewardship:** As of December 28, we received 128 pledges for 2020 totaling \$424,000. This is less than previous years.

**Worship and Music:** Christmas and Easter are the two big seasons. We should encourage people to attend the contemporary service. They have some really good musicians.

**Youth:** Scott reminded everyone that 2020 is a pre-gathering year so we will have a lot coming up for the 2021 event. He gave a thumbs up to the confirmation class and our kids. Our youth are great!

**Old Business/New Business:**

Lynn reminded Council of the retreat on January 25 at Peace Lutheran Gahanna from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. with staff, Strategic Planning Committee, Building Vision Team and Council. There will be a light breakfast served and a good day of working together. Embrace the future and embrace change. Churches in our Synod that have not changed are dying. We have managed to stay at our membership levels. We are a healthy congregation.

As a leadership team, we notice the time and effort everyone puts in. Take the time to appreciate all those who serve on your committees.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be on February 11, 2020 at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment:** Lynn led Council in the Lord's Prayer and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Bell, Secretary