

November 2023 Church Council Minutes

On Monday, November 6, 2023, at 7:30 PM, a meeting of the Church Council was held to review several topics regarding the ongoing efforts at Faith Lutheran Church of McLean County. This meeting was held at Midwest Food Bank Conference Room and followed a Bible Study which began at 6:37 PM. The following is a summary of the main topics discussed at the Bible Study and the Council meeting. The Council members present included:

- Brent Carlock
- Staci Dowell
- Beth Feit
- Brian Goke
- Denise Ludwig
- Brad Morris
- John Petrillo

Also in attendance:

- Bridget Koester

Absent from the meeting:

- Jeff Pitzer

Brian Goke led our group in prayer before beginning the Bible Study Devotions to quiet our hearts and minds.

Bible Study Devotions: Each member of the group shared God Sightings.

- The more we see God moving, the more aware we will all become.
- Each member present shared a personal God Sighting.

Discussion and sharing of personal God Sightings was completed at approximately 7:32 PM.

- At 7:38 PM, Bridget Koester left.
- John Petrillo opened the Council Meeting in prayer at 7:38 PM.

Approvals: After making a few revisions to the October Meeting Reports, the submitted reports for the following were approved under a consent agenda format. Staci Dowell moved to approve the submitted reports and Brad Morris seconded. After minimal discussion, all the following were unanimously approved.

- October Meeting Minutes
- October Dashboard
- October Financial Report
- October Facility Report
- October Ministry Team Reports including Youth Discipleship, Worship & Mission Teams
- October Pastoral Update

- October Council President Update
- **Items Discussed:**
 - ✓ Budget 2024 Draft process – there is a pending discussion on a few line items on the 2024 Budget Draft. In the upcoming December meeting, Council Members will make decisions regarding the few line items that are pending. Each Member should look at the draft and prepare to attend the December meeting with feedback.
 - ✓ Approval of the Pastor’s salary and housing allowance will be determined at the December Council meeting.
 - ✓ Advertising and Marketing – ideas and cost? Should we consider a group of Faith Partners to work on this and come back to Council with ideas?
 - ✓ The congregational Annual Meeting will be held on January 28, 2024, after worship. Brad Morris, Church Council Vice President, will lead the meeting and Beth Feit will present the budget.
 - ✓ At the Annual Congregational Meeting, what do we, as a congregation, want to celebrate from 2023? Council Members were asked to think about this and provide suggestions at the December Church Council meeting.
 - ✓ Council Members were asked to review the 2022 Congregational Annual Meeting Agenda and be prepared to share ideas for the 2024 Congregational Annual Meeting Agenda at the December Church Council meeting.
 - ✓ Brian will talk to Barb Anderson about organizing a potluck after worship and before the Congregational Annual Meeting on January 28th. Staci Dowell volunteered to provide cake.
 - ✓ Church Council Leadership – It is highly likely that John Petrillo’s last Church Council meeting will be in December 2023 as he and Deb will be transitioning to Florida. Vice President, Brad Morris, will preside over the Congregational Annual Meeting on January 28th, 2024.
 - ✓ Awareness of a Life Group Conversation regarding the direction Faith Lutheran Church is going.
 - ✓ Beth Feit suggested that the Church Council Members meet for a fellowship supper before the December Church Council meeting on December 12, 2023. Brad Morris volunteered to plan and make the arrangements.

Pending Items That Were Discussed:

- ✓ December Church Council Meeting – tighten down the 2024 budget process.

- ✓ December Church Council Meeting – finalize the Congregational Annual Meeting Agenda for January 28, 2024.
- ✓ Building – future of Faith Lutheran Church
- ✓ Vision casting for the future of Faith Lutheran Church presented at the Congregational Annual Meeting in January 2024 – Brian will be speaking regarding this topic.

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Further Discussion:

The next Council meeting will be on December 12, 2023, following fellowship and supper.

- Church Council Members will meet at 6:00 for supper and fellowship at a location that is to be determined, with the Council meeting immediately following supper.
- November reports will be due by Sunday, December 10, 2023.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at approximately 9:19 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Denise Ludwig, Church Council Secretary