

St. Matthew Lutheran Church
Voters Meeting 11/19/2023

The Meeting was called to order by Jason Zemke at 11:22 a.m.

Pastor Hugo led us in an opening prayer.

The proposed agenda was approved. The order of items was approved by all members. We moved the voting of candidates to the top of the agenda to allow our counters to obtain the accurate count. Members were then given time to review the meeting minutes from 12/11/22 and 6/11/23 before approval.

Pastor gave an update:

- Julie Allen resigned to take care of her family's needs
- Andrew Wagner is the new office manager and Coordinator of music.
- Tammy Meinhart is assisting with the financial records of the church with Sue Betzold and Andrew is learning along the way.
- Brenda 15 hours a week. Our Sunday School numbers are low and we need to look at creative ways to work through that.
- Faustina is collaborating with First Lutheran
- Kathy Volunteers 4 hours a week
- Sarai is doing great with all our tech needs
- Mary Ebert and Dorothy Brutlag will lead GriefShare
- DCLC continues to be challenging. Every year since 2015 our day care was exceeding the church budget. During COVID things declined. This year we anticipate a small negative impact. The DCLC Board is working on taking a look at what is happening.
- Starting in April we will be working with other LCMS churches to build our church community.
- An outreach Committee will be getting together to discuss plans for outreach. It is Lisa Neaderhiser, Doug Rosenberg, Faustina Allen, Will Rottler. If anyone is interested please contact Lisa Neaderhiser.
- We would like to find another group to rent the beautiful space we have here. The Oromo church left in September.
- Our building manager is conducted in house. (Andrew Wagner)

Jason Zemke shared the following information from the property facility committee:

- Clean up weekend was successful
- Carpet cleaning and waxing was completed
- Boiler project is complete
- Restroom in the lower levels are complete and look groovy
- We got another large donation that will be used towards drinking fountains

- Don't forget about the upper level. It could use some upgrades. Some of these upgrades could increase our leasing options.

The New DVB candidates voted in for this next 3 year cycle. Louise Roberts, Karrie Kikeh and Larry Betzold.

The 2024 budget was presented to the members.

Review of the year to date expense report was reviewed.

- Giving is a bit low
- Tuition fees are down
- Rents, grants and donations were included in the budget and were higher than what we had previously budgeted.
- We owe 145,000 dollars on the boiler.
- A question was asked if some of the employee retention money received, was it considered to buy back some of the positions we cut. The answer was no.
- We need to get better control of the DCLC business and budget.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS:

- Where did the DVB get their data to get some of the numbers?
- LCMS outreach methods in the past have not worked. We need to be creative about how we do outreach.
- Should we consider selling the two parking lots?
- We are a shrinking church. Should we build a new church and then sell this building?
- Should we consider buying a smaller church that might be going under for our needs as we seem to be shrinking?
- Keep praying for our BeFriends Ministry. We need to be caring for our elderly members.

A motion was made to approve the budget and a second was given.

A motion for 50% Pastor's salary as housing allowance given, and approved

11 members wish to take a new member class. One family has moved out to Monticello.

Pastor Hugo closed with prayer.