



ZION Lutheran Church

1254 S. Union Street, Shawano, WI 54166-3461
715-526-2017 zion@shawanozion.org www.shawanozion.org

REV. SCOTT LUDFORD
Senior Pastor

Council President

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting November 21, 2023 – 6pm at Zion

DRAFT

Call to Order: President Bob Hass at 6:00 pm.

Present: Bob Hass, Mike Eidahl, Pastor Scott, Tom Laude, Judy Laude, Curt Preston, Nancy Schultz, Michael Sleeper, Keith Milner and Julie Effenberger.

Absent: Karen Fusek

Devotions: Michael Sleeper

Sound Off: Chris Dalke briefed the council on the accounting software program (Power Church) we are currently using in the office. It is stored on only one computer in the church and if anything were to happen to that computer we could potentially lose all our data/records. The latest version of Power Church (which has been in existence since 1984) is much more secure, is hosted on their server, and they do backups every 30 minutes. It costs approximately \$500/year, which is a little more than we are paying now. Our current version is outdated and soon no updates will be available. With the new version it will be stored in the cloud and will be kept up to date. Chris also mentioned getting additional training for Kay and one or two others, so that more than one person is acclimated to this program. He has researched different programs and Power Church is the only program that offers the accounting section. This program would have different user names for different individuals, so there is control over entries/changes.

1. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Scott is very pleased with all the ministries currently in action. He just had 18 members join our church this fall and has potentially 20 more that would be actively pursuing membership by Easter. He has 6 baptisms that he is waiting for dates on. He is happy to see us operating in the black and sees the harmony right now in our church. He also complimented the stewardship committee for the successful stewardship drive they just conducted.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Tom and seconded by Nancy to approve the minutes as printed for the October 17th, 2023, Council Meeting. *Motion carried.* The minutes from the Congregational Meeting in October were also included in our packets. Mike Eidahl made the motion, which was seconded by Michael Sleeper, to approve the minutes from the Congregational Meeting on October 15, 2023. *Motion carried.*
3. **Treasurer's Report**
 - a. **Accounting Fund Balance** – Mike Eidahl then passed out a new Accounting Fund Balance Report and reviewed it, advising after payments are made the General Fund should be in the positive \$2,000-3,000 range. He also added a line #40 for BMO CD and line #41 BMO Money Market so we can review periodically. Also, #51 Endowment Funds balance is incorrect.
 - b. **Accounts Payable** – Mike Eidahl also reviewed the accounts payable report. A motion was made by Julie and seconded by Keith to approve the Accounting Fund Balance Report and to approve the bills listed for payment. *Motion carried.* A discussion was held regarding the WEE Care Program and their constant purchasing and disbursements. Mike Eidahl made the motion, which

was seconded by Nancy, to approve letting WEE Care operate within their own funding program and not have to obtain council approval on amounts over \$500. Their activity would still be listed on the monthly transactions. *Motion carried.*

4. **Finance Committee:** Michael Sleeper passed out their committee report, noting they had a general discussion on what the overall salary adjustments should be for 2024. They will meet again December 12th.

5. Old Business

- a. **Updating Security System and 8x8 Phone System:** Keith Milner reported to the council that the new phone system is in place and Kay has asked for additional training on the system. The phone for the sacristy was instead used in the elevator. There is a \$11,633.22 check to Martin Security Systems included in bills to pay, as this was approved at the October 15, 2023 Congregational Meeting. He reported that he did have to order an additional panic button for the security system for \$250. Martin Security Systems did a walk through and took measurements for the installation in January of 2024.
- b. **Updating Constitution and Reviewing Bylaws:** Mike Eidahl stated they had a meeting last week and will meet again soon to review and start updating Zion's Constitution and By-laws. Their main focus right now is any rewording they need to do on the By-laws.
- c. **Hiring Health & Wellness Coordinator Update:** Mike Eidahl feels they are ready to start advertising for this position and hopefully get that done before the Christmas Holiday.
- d. **Youth & Family Ministry Staff Update:** Curt advised the council that at the last Youth meeting they devised a rough draft for a job description for a Youth and Family Minister. Mike felt they are getting close to advertising this position also, and the Personnel Committee will be meeting with Curt in the near future. At the annual meeting they would like to get approval to hire for this position so we can be ready with candidates to interview.
- e. **Update Congregation Membership List:** Kay continues to make changes as mailings come back to her in the office.
- f. **Stewardship Sunday-November 5:** Keith reported that 85 people responded with Time and Talent Sheets along with 60 pledges for approximately \$120,000 to the General Fund and \$12,000 to the Building Fund. He provided the council with either print outs or a flash drive of the spreadsheets he drafted from the Time & Talent results. Keith researched options to replace the Sign-up Genius program and was happy with The Church Crew, (TheChurchCrew.com) which only costs \$8 per month. The program has great attributes and will help tremendously with our volunteer sign ups. Keith will trial the program free for 30 days and if he's pleased with it we will approve next month.
- g. **Painting the Bell Tower:** Tom reported that Raddant Electric came with their boom truck to inspect the bell. They cannot locate the part to repair it and there is no way of testing it to see exactly what the problem is. The company that manufactured it is no longer in business. Also, he received an estimate from Jesse Woods, whose name he got from Dearco, for \$10,480 to paint the bell tower. Tom will continue to research this project as that amount seems excessive.

6. New Business

- a. **Loud Offering Update:** Judy reported the kids collected over \$400 in their offering and voted to donate to the Heifer Project. The kids have several different areas they would like to contribute to so they will decide each month where the donations will go.
- b. **Air Conditioner:** Tom contacted Zimdar's Plumbing and Heating and they did receive the \$3,000 down payment for the air conditioner and is scheduled for installation in the spring.
- c. **Choir Stair Railing:** Tom reported that our hand railing going upstairs to the choir loft is not up to code. It will cost \$1,882 in materials plus labor to replace it. Tom and his son, Steven, are willing to donate some of their labor costs but not the entire amount. Michael Sleeper made the motion, which was seconded by Nancy, to approve Tom's recommendation to replace the choir loft hand railing (\$1,882 in materials) with a portion of the Laude's labor donated and the

remainder of the labor will be billed to the church. A grant would be written so these funds would be taken from the Lois Kruse Fund. ***Motion carried.***

Committee Reports. Refer to printed reports available.

- **Church In Society**
- **Education** – Minutes attached.
- **Health Ministry** – Minutes attached.
- **Life & Growth** –
- **Property** – Minutes attached from last month.
- **Stewardship** – Minutes attached.
- **Worship & Music** – Minutes attached.
- **Youth** – Minutes attached.

Motion to accept all Committee Reports including the Finance Committee Report as presented was made by Mike Eidahl and seconded by Nancy. ***Motion carried.***

Bob mentioned he is searching for someone to head up the Nominating Committee to replace outgoing council members. Also, it was noted that Nancy Schultz, who's term is up on the council, will also be going off the Endowment Committee that will have to be replaced. The Annual Meeting Agenda was brought up by Bob and that is usually based off the prior year's agenda and we will review that in December and January.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Julie and seconded by Curt. ***Motion carried.*** Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer by All

Respectfully submitted by:
Julie Effenberger,
Council Secretary

Draft