



NOTES – Christ Lutheran Church and PreSchool Congregation Meeting Held Sunday, September 18, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: The September 18, 2016 Congregation Meeting was called to order at approximately 10:45 a.m. Vice President Tom Pfenning determined that there was a quorum present. President Lynn Brandl gave a quick introduction, including our efforts to continue to be a joyful ministry. On that note, **the congregation celebrated the first anniversary of Pastor Padraig McGuire as our Interim Pastor.**

PASTOR'S REPORT: Pastor Padraig McGuire outlined some of the activities he has been handling, including worship services, outreach, visits, etc. He noted that the synod is aware and supportive of our slow pace through the process to call a “permanent” pastor, and the possibility of flexibility in his tenure as an interim pastor. This is noteworthy as interim pastor terms are often in the one-year range. Pastor noted that he continued to feel called to this ministry, and he felt this stability was important for us as a congregation. The group expressed thanks and support. Going forward, we should work to develop a Congregation Profile, which can be supported with information we gather during **Cottage Meetings** (informal discussions which will no doubt be scheduled for after church and other times as we head into fall). Pastor also plans to work on updating our congregation's **Constitution and Bylaws** (with support of volunteer Natalie Hilberg), as well as hold both **Confirmation** and **Lay Leader Workshops**. *Pastor McGuire's report follows as an attachment.*

OVERVIEW: In general, Christ Lutheran has continued in our path as a **joyful ministry**. Our **preschool** is thriving with longer days, successful extended day programs, a dedicated staff and outstanding leadership. Our **Concurrent Sunday School** will return September 25 – thank you to our volunteer teachers and organizers. Director Jodi Jost explained that additional children have expressed interest, so we will work to have a main teacher and a support teacher, should we need to divide the group. Jodi noted that if we see a large group on a Sunday, please consider standing up and lending a hand that day. We have lots of activities coming up on the calendar, including **Pet Blessing** (Oct. 15), **Feed My Starving Children** pack event (Oct. 1), **Caring Hands** (Oct. 15), and **Empty Bowls** (Nov. 6). Please support these opportunities. Our fellowship events have been outstanding, with Lois Menis and her volunteers serving more than 220 hotdogs for our recent **Welcome Picnic**. Financially, we want to be good stewards with what we have been given, so we have worked hard to cut costs and live within the budget.

LEADERSHIP: The leadership roster remains fairly consistent. There are spaces we haven't filled (for instance, Building and Grounds). In general, regardless of “title,” all members of Christ Lutheran pitch in doing whatever needs to be done – thank you all. *The Leadership Roster appears at the end of these notes.*
MOTION: *Ken Pawlak voted to accept the leadership as presented; Doug Moore seconded; Approved.*

FINANCIAL REVIEW: Vice President (and acting Treasurer) Tom Pfenning provided a big picture snapshot of current finances of the combined efforts of both the church and preschool as of August 31. As usual, summer and early fall are the toughest times from a financial standpoint – lower attendance means less congregational giving. Because we run a tight budget, we are unable to budget ahead for unexpected expenses. (One example includes more than \$600 in recent repairs to fire alarm and emergency lights – something that we need to do to stay safe and compliant. That said, we are looking for a lower cost provider/alternative.) Other possible expenses include patio door replacement, HVAC repairs, sound system, organ installation, and even landscaping – with Ken Pawlak noting how some of the pine trees in particular need to come down. Overall, congregation giving has been able to cover expenses related to Pastor's employment (note he is on a part-time contract). The PreSchool covers the mortgage. Liz Pawlak inquired about the low income from Kids Kamp. Tom and PreSchool Directory Kathy Davis explained that this was a recently discovered bookkeeping process problem with much of the Kids Kamp income incorrectly going into the PreSchool line item – which then overinflated PreSchool revenues and under credited Kids Kamp revenues. Kids Kamp and PreSchool both were right on (or more favorable than) their budgeted numbers for income and expenses. The process problem was identified as more parents have begun to use the PayPal service, rather than checks. It has been determined a new reporting system must be put in place to categorize these incomes more specifically so that Tom can accurately budget and track for each program. Tom and Kathy will backtrack through reports to determine corrected numbers, as well as develop a more robust reporting process. *Financial report attached.*
MOTION: *Doug Moore motioned to accept the financial report; Lois Menis seconded; Approved.*

PARTNERSHIPS: Leaders reviewed the main partners sharing our space and ministry. Of particular note was **justWorship**, a new non-denominational church “plant” who was meeting for just their second 11:15 a.m. service during our congregation meeting. Pastor Jin Lee has a broad background in church work, having experience with Willow Creek and other churches as well as running his own small church consulting company. He holds advanced degrees in both counseling and theology. Pastor Lee and his group had been meeting in his home in Palatine, and felt called to start an actual church. Pastor Padraig and Council members have met with Pastor Lee, and we believe that God has called us to support Jin in his efforts, and work together as ministry partners. Right now the group is small (though September 18 was a huge service that included many friends and mentors). The group has pledged to support us with tasks such as lawn care. Other partners include a variety of **12-Step Programs** (AA, AIAnon, NA), with the number of groups meeting here expanding a bit this summer when the Illinois budget crunch left a few groups without spaces. We also continue to support **Boy Scout Troop 273 and Cub Scout Pack 273**. At this time we have not pursued any requests for space rentals that are not aligned with our mission of supporting non-profit organizations.

WELCOMING CHURCHES COALITION: The group briefly discussed the opportunity of joining the Chicago-based Welcoming Churches Coalition, which intentionally welcomes and supports the LGBT+ community. Dozens of churches, including many ELCA congregations are members. Council had previously expressed support. There were no clear comments of either support or dissent – and unfortunately, Lynn Brandl was unable to locate the pile of handouts that would provide more information about this Coalition. Because this is part of a bigger conversation of who we are and how we welcome (regardless of sexuality, race, creed, etc.), Pastor suggested we table this item for deeper conversation during Cottage Meetings, at which time we may be able to not only address this specific organization, but also develop a broader statement of intent. *Welcoming Churches Coalition informational materials attached.*

CALENDAR CHECK/NEEDS: Penni Sauer asked that Lynn Brandl include actual due dates in communications about **Manna** purchases; Lynn asked for clarification of when actual due dates occur. Penni requested that people consider Manna for their purchases as a painless way to give more to our ministries. Coming up on October 1 is **Feed My Starving Children** – please sign up (through our christlutheranvh.org “events” webpage or on the bulletin board). **Empty Bowls Soup Supper** will be the evening of Sunday, Nov. 6 with all proceeds going to COOL ministries in Waukegan.

OPEN DISCUSSION: A Boy Scout has inquired about building a **gazebo** in the back near the lake for his Eagle Project. The group expressed concern with upkeep of the structure and the surrounding landscape. Another idea might be to work on the weed patch between the two doors off the small parking lot – perhaps dig out weeds, put up pergola and bench. Kathy Davis said if a project is needed, the **fence around the playground** is in terrible shape. There was concern if a Boy Scout could handle a project of this scope (and cost). The PreSchool has researched an alternate type of fence (taller, so no climbing over), but it is expensive. As we talked about all of our land, Mir Pawlak asked if we might consider converting some of the grass to **vegetable garden**, with produce going to the community. Penni Sauer noted that raised beds might make working in the garden more comfortable. Lynn Brandl was a wet blanket, worrying that we have so much trouble keeping the thistles somewhat controlled; more people would definitely need to commit to this or we would have a mess. (Sorry for being so cranky.) No decisions or recommendations were reached on these discussions – rather we were putting ideas and concerns out for the group.

ADJOURN: The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:50 a.m. with The Lord’s Prayer.

MOTION: Motion to adjourn made by Harrison Menis; Seconded by Doug Moore; Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn Brandl, Council President*

LEADERSHIP ROSTER

Council: Lynn Brandl, President (*brandl@earthlink.net*; 847-323-2232)
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Jodi Jost, Education (*jostjodi@att.net*; 224-558-8466) (transitioning to Mir Pawlak)
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