

Cross of Christ Church Council

Minutes of January 21, 2020 Meeting

Officers	P	A	Pastors	P	A	Cabinets	P	A	Cabinets	P	A
Lynn Meyer (<i>President</i>)	X		Linda McPeak	X		Gwen Rostad (<i>Finance</i>)	X		Krin Abraham (<i>Personnel</i>)		X
Ray Mark (<i>Vice President</i>)	X					Jared & Amy Shimon (<i>Youth & Family</i>)		X	Jenelle Lemke (<i>Worship & Music</i>)	X	
Paige Markegard (<i>Secretary</i>)	X					Keith Herek (<i>C of C Building</i>)		X	Alysia Woodard (<i>Education</i>)	X	
Patrick Forsyth (<i>Fin Admin</i>)	X					LeRoy Thompson (<i>Stone Church Bldg</i>)		X	Ellen Hongerholt (<i>Stewardship</i>)		X
Karen Todd (<i>Financial Sec</i>)		X				Joe Brueggen (<i>C of C Grounds</i>)	X		Sue Ferris (<i>W/ELCA</i>)	X	
						Lisa Onsgard/Holly Westby (<i>Evangelism</i>)		X	Vacant (<i>Youth Rep</i>)		X

President Lynn Meyer called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm in the Library/Lounge at Cross of Christ.

Pr. Linda's devotion was from the book of Acts 2: 41-47. What do you see standing in the center of early Christian life? What is standing at the center of our current Christian life?

1. **REPORTS:**

a. **Senior Pastor's Report for December 17, 2019 – January 21, 2020**

i. **Membership Activity:**

- Funerals/Memorial Services: Robert Morrison, January 10, 2020 (Service at Hoff Funeral Home) Gordon Paulson, January 15, 2020
- New Members: New Member Sunday was postponed family households not available

ii. **Pastoral Acts (these are not all-inclusive, but intended to give the council a good deal of guidance) :**

- Visitations, shared word and sacrament: Valley View Nursing Home-led monthly worship & Bible study along with monthly communion visit at Heritage Court and Valley View Manor.
- Pastoral Care - Ongoing exchanges with youth, individuals and families who desire to be in conversation about how God is at work in their lives through health, healing, grief, faith questions, doubts, challenges and formation.
- Wednesday Night at Church – Simple Supper, Confirmation, Club 56, GXP and Worship – January Theme; Following Jesus.
- Stewardship and Discovery Team – developing a framework for vision and mission to include purpose and plan. Facilitating next meeting Thurs. Jan. 30.
- Worship & Music
 - Christmas Eve Worship – 3p “Family Friendly Christmas”, Candlelight at 5p and 9p. Christmas Day service 10:15a “Come As You Are”. Good attendance 75+ at new 3 pm service. Grateful for musicians, ushers and worship leadership!
 - Baptism Blessing and Affirmation, Sunday January 12, 2020
 - Noisy Offering collection on Sunday, Dec. 22 and Jan. 26 ELCA Disaster Relief.
- Monthly Bible briefing; Responding to God's Grace – Augsburg Adult Bible Study. Meet the last Thursday of the month at 2 pm.

7. Women's Wellspring Faith every other Saturday reading from the book; Sensible Shoes by Sharon Garlough Brown. Developed a private Facebook group that has 37 members and strong participation.

iii. **Participation in the ministry of our larger Church and Community:**

1. The January Moses Project Cohort consisted of a two day (1/6-7) in person wellness retreat in Des Moines, Iowa. February's module theme: "Virtuous Cycles".
2. Attended Root River Pastor Conference Gathering Jan. 14, Trinity Lutheran Church, Spring Grove.
3. Houston Area Community Foundation board member meeting, Jan. 14.

Respectfully submitted by Pastor, Linda McPeak

Pr. Linda wanted to highlight a few things from her report:

Recap on the 3pm family Christmas service. It was well attended for many different reason, and the worship and music cabinet has decided to add it to our permanent schedule. We had a very successful Christmas service season. The Women's Wellspring Faith gathering has been happening every other Saturday at Baristas, and to grow this group and to let others participate that can't attend in person, Pr. Linda has created a Facebook group that is now up to 37 members. She wants to thank us for allowing her time to take vacation after Christmas. It was much needed!

b. **President's Report:**

President Lynn Meyer's report is below:

For January 21, 2020 Church Council meeting:

The following represents my involvement in various Cross of Christ issues during the past month, highlighting certain matters that may or may not come up during cabinet reports or other segments of our council agenda discussions.

Meetings Attended:

- Dec. 17 Congregation Council meeting
- Dec. 19 Met with Ellen Hongerholt re Stewardship
- Dec. 19 Nominating Committee meeting
- Dec. 22 Stewardship Cabinet meeting
- Dec. 22 Verbal Report to Congregation during worship
- Jan. 14 Executive Committee meeting
- Jan. 15 Met with Patrick Forsyth at Bluff Country Financial
- Jan. 21 Stewardship Cabinet Conference Call

CABINET HIGHLIGHTS:

- Finance Cabinet will be presenting a preview of our 2019 year-end results.
- Stewardship Cabinet has completed the Stewardship appeal brochure and will be presenting it at the January 26th Annual Meeting. A meeting of the Discovery Task Force, Technology Task Force and Stewardship Cabinet has been scheduled for January 30th to begin the strategic planning process.
- Personnel Cabinet will be meeting soon to initiate a process for filling two staff positions after receiving letters of resignation from our Office Administrator and our Christian Education Supervisor.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Nominating Committee:** Has done quite well in recruiting volunteers to serve on the Congregation Council in various vacant positions. Jessica Brand has agreed to be nominated for the Youth and Family Cabinet position with the understanding she will have others to co-lead this position with her. We continue to reach out to members who are felt to be a good fit for this call to service leadership.
- **Annual Meeting Reminder:** The Cross of Christ Lutheran Church of Houston, MN congregational annual meeting will be held following worship on January 26, 2020. There will be a light lunch following the meeting.

NEW BUSINESS: (none at the time of this writing)

Lynn Meyer, President
Cross of Christ Congregation Council

c. Secretary's Report:

- i. *Jenelle Lemke made a motion to approve the minutes from the December 17th meeting. Pr. Linda seconded the motion to approve the minutes from the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.*

d. Financial Administrator's Report:

- i. December
 - 1. December came in at a surplus of almost \$12,000. Giving was up 6%.
- ii. 2019 YTD
 - 1. For the year we ended with a surplus of \$10,319.
- iii. Endowment Funds:
 - 1. Funds had a gain of 17% for the year.
- iv. Jenelle was curious to know how many donations we are receiving through the Give Plus app as well as the text giving. Patrick said these amounts are being accounted for in the e-deposits line item, but we could pull a report if we would like to see these numbers broken out by giving source.
- v. *Alysia Woodard made a motion to approve the December financial administrators report. Gwen Rostad seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.*

e. Financial Secretary's Report:

- i. Karen absent. Report is in agenda. Nothing to add.
- ii. *Alysia Woodard made a motion to approve the December financial secretary's reports. Gwen Rostad seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.*

2. CABINET REPORTS:

a. Education:

- i. Alysia's report is below. It is a compilation of e-mails from Diane Larson, the SS Director.

Email 1:

Hi Alysia,

Here are the numbers for 2019 Sunday school.

For the 2018-2019 school year - 36 different kids came to Sunday school between January and May. Here is the breakdown:

Preschool - 6 of 20
Kindergarten & 1st - 3 of 15
2nd & 3rd - 8 of 22
4th, 5th, & 6th - 19 of 37

For the 2019-2020 school year - 39 different kids came to Sunday school between September and November. We did not take attendance during the Christmas program practice Sundays. Here is the breakdown:

Preschool - 13 of 25

Kindergarten & 1st - 10 of 13

2nd & 3rd - 14 of 21

4th, 5th, & 6th - 12 of 23

We did have 41 kids participate in the Christmas program, including 2 visitors.

For VBS, we had 21-25 kids attend each evening. This was down from prior years.

Let me know if you need any additional information.

Thanks,
Diane

Email 2:

Good evening everyone. I want to let you know that after much discussion and prayer, I have decided to resign from my position at Cross of Christ. This will be effective either at the end of the Sunday school year or when a replacement has been found.

This will become "public" tomorrow as Pastor Linda included it as part of her annual report. I did want to let you know prior to then.

I do plan to help my replacement get up to speed with what we are doing and where things are at. I also plan to continue to work with the youth educational opportunities at Cross of Christ.

I really appreciate all of the support you have provided in the last 5 years and look forward to working with you for the remainder of the year.

Sincerely,
Diane

Email 3)

Hello Everyone,

We have chosen Knights of the North Castle for the VBS Program for 2020. Cokesbury, who created this program, has created worship around the county for churches to attend to see the program in action to get additional information and ideas.

VBS Background:

North Castle is hidden in a frozen land. The King's valiant Knights are on a quest in search of the King's armor. But the armor isn't what they think it is. \Cokesbury's VBS 2020, Knights of North Castle: Quest for the King's Armor, invites children to be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power by exploring how we put on the armor of God. Kids will take on the role of brave Knights and begin their quest each session by opening the King's Book. They'll explore Old and New Testament stories and discover different pieces of protective armor — the Belt of Truth, the Breastplate of Justice, the Shoes of Peace, the Shield of Faith, and the Helmet of Salvation — at work in the lives of familiar Bible characters, and explore how that armor works in their own lives as they follow and serve God.

Workshop Information:

There is a VBS Workshop on Saturday, February 22 from 9:00 – 12:30 at St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Mahtomedi, MN. This workshop is presented by the local church and attendees will learn more about Cokesbury's 2020 VBS, Knights of North Castle, and much more!

Join the VBS Team at this church as they walk you through all 5 Sessions of Knights of North Castle! We'll also have snacks and prizes! This workshop is designed for leaders and volunteers that will be conducting VBS. 10 leaders and volunteers are able to attend from our church. Please let Diane Larson know if you would like to attend. You can call, text or email to let her know.

Emails and notes submitted by Alysia Woodard

Alysia wanted to highlight that Diane has stepped down from her position of SS Director. They are preparing for VBS and do have the program picked. Diane will stay on until the end of SS in May or sooner if we do find a replacement.

b. Evangelism:

- i. Holly and Lisa absent. Report below.
 - 1. End of December, 2019-January 18, 2020
 - a. All Christmas items removed from pews
 - b. Pews pads restocked
 - c. Envelopes restocked
 - d. Pencils sharpened and replaced
 - e. 9 thanks were sent out this period

Thank you
Holly Westby and Lisa Onsgard

c. Finance:

- i. Gwen's written report is below.
- ii. Financially, Cross of Christ had a very good year. Investments did extremely well and the budget came in at over \$11,000 to the good. The large unexpected surplus was due to an increase in giving and the absence of any large, surprise expenses throughout the year.
- iii. The finance cabinet would like to recommend additional mission gifts be made to Southeast Minnesota and World Missions out of this large surplus. We suggest up to \$8,000 in additional gifts to ask the Council to consider this. We are not sure of the steps needed for this to take place, such as congregational approval, etc.

Submitted by,
Gwen Rostad

iv. Highlights:

- 1. The finance cabinet is making the suggestion of making an additional donation of \$8,000 to local and global missions, \$4,000 each. This would be above what we already gave this year to Mission 66 playground, and Hand in Hand Global mission. We ended the year very strongly and we are set up to go into 2020 very strongly as well, so we have the money available if we would like to do so.
 - a. The council all agrees that we should use this surplus to make extra gifts to missions, but we would like to take a month to come up with some ideas as to how best to allocate these funds and where to gift them. Congregation approval will not be required.

d. Personnel:

- i. Krin absent. No report.

1. Pr. Linda just wanted to reshare that we received a letter of resignation from Diane Larson, SS Director. Diane has said that she will stay on until SS if over in May, unless we find a new replacement before that.
 2. Personnel will be meeting to update the job description and discuss posting.
- e. **C of C Grounds:**
- i. Joe Brueggen had nothing new to report.
- f. **C of C Building:**
- i. Keith Absent. Written report below.

Due to scheduling conflicts, we were not able to meet, yet. We'll try to get together on February 9th.

With an approved budget, we'd like to begin a few projects:

1. Install tile/laminate wood flooring in front of the kitchen in the Fellowship hall. We'll get Carpet One in LaCrosse to help us with this.
2. Repair the floor in Diane Larsen's office. This will also be done by Carpet One.
3. Get the water softener tuned up.

We still haven't heard from Willett Hauser about a quote for plexiglass in front of the stained glass windows. This will be more of a long-term project.

Thank you,
Keith Herek

Pr. Linda wanted to mention that her and the custodial staff noticed that a chair had been placed up against the heater in the youth room and had a burn mark on it. We are very lucky this didn't start a fire. Pr. Linda is making people aware that this happened and is also suggesting, for safety and fire hazard reasons, that we purchase a PTAC unit for that room, just like the nursery and quilt room. We don't know how this would work in the properties budget, so she would like them to meet to discuss it. For now, they will be putting signs up in the room to remind people to shut them off when they leave.

- g. **Stone Church:**
- i. LeRoy's absent. He didn't have anything new to report.
- h. **Stewardship & Missions:**
- i. Ellen absent.
 - ii. Lynn wanted to share that the Stewardship Mission brochure is complete! We are exploring ideas as to how best to distribute it. We will distribute at the annual meeting as well.
- i. **Worship & Music:**
- i. Jenelle first wanted to thank Pr. Linda for preaching at 4 wonderful Christmas church services.
 - ii. Starting for lent, at the Sunday morning service, we will be chanting the psalm. It will be something new to add to the service.
 - iii. This is Jenelle's last council meeting. We thank her for her time on council. She will continue to stay on the Worship and Music cabinet as a member.
 - iv. Jenelle trained in Kathy Olson last weekend for altar guild. She will be taking over for Jenelle on council.
- j. **Youth & Family:**
- i. Amy absent. No report.
- k. **W/ELCA:**
- i. Sue's report is below.
 1. Elections: President, Susan Ferris; Vice President, Denise Rostad; Secretary, Carey Herek; Treasurer, Cheryl Eaton

2. No WELCA booklet will be printed for all of the women. Instead, important information will be posted on the WELCA bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. The full booklet is posted on the church website.
3. Our annual allocations have been distributed - \$14,000 was disbursed to various group and organizations.
4. Measurements and ordering for Phase III of the window fund are complete and installation will take place later this winter or spring.
5. The Valentine Luncheon is scheduled for Saturday, February 8, and Highland Voices from the Caledonia area will provide quest entertainment.
6. Serving groups 1, 2 and 3 cleaned the kitchen to make it sparkle.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Susan Ferris, WELCA President

3. **OLD BUSINESS:**

- a. Annual Meeting – January 26th – Reports are on the narthex table. Please come to the meeting if you are able, and encourage others to attend.

4. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- a. Houston American Legion Donation–
 - i. Jon Gewitz from the Houston American Legion dropped off a check for \$1,000 to be donated to the Cross of Christ Youth and Family fund! Pr. Linda will share this information with the new Youth and Family cabinet chair, as well as with the youth. We will deposit it in the youth and family checking.
- b. Houston Area Chamber of Commerce:
 - i. We need to renew our membership. We could join for \$25 as a non-profit, or do a sponsorship of \$200 to have online recognition. The council all agreed we should just pay the \$25 non-profit fee to be members. Pr. Linda will let Karen know to contact the chamber. Invoice will be sent to Patrick.

5. **OPEN DISCUSSION:**

- a. None.

6. **Upcoming Events:**

- a. Jan. 21 – Church Council
- b. Jan. 26 – C of C Annual Meeting
- c. Jan. 30 – Discovery Task Force & Stewardship meeting
- d. Feb. 2 – Installation of Council
- e. Feb. 8 – Valentine Luncheon
- f. Feb. 10-11 – Do Days
- g. Feb. 18 – Church Council
- h. Feb. 26 – Ash Wednesday

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paige Markegard, Secretary

CROSS OF CHRIST CONGREGATION COUNCIL