

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

24 February 2011

I. Call to order

President Don Darsow called to order the Council Meeting of the Redeemer Lutheran Church LCMS at 7:00 pm on February 24, 2011 in the Fellowship Hall.

II. Opening Prayer

Pastor Todd Schroeder opened the meeting with the "Communion on the Moon" devotion from the July 21 edition of "Guideposts" and prayer.

III. Attendance

Council members present:

Don Darsow – President; Sash Eirich – Vice President, Wally Kelly – Secretary, Dan Neibuhr – Board of Elders, Denise Rogers – Stewardship, Dave Niesen – Head Trustee, Shirley Mellick – Congregational Care; Todd Schroeder – Pastor, Kimberly Shaver – Treasurer, Tom Valenti – Evangelism,

Others present:

Bev Darsow – Fellowship, Marge Valenti – Board of Education, Rebecca Redeker, Business Trustee

IV. Order of Business

Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

The minutes from the January 27 Council meeting were approved with a spelling correction.

Officer/Board/Standing Committee Reports

Treasurer: See the attached "Treasurer's Report as of 02/24/11".

Giving is \$4,247 behind expenditures fiscal year to date. Spending is typical of other years but giving is 46% of the total budgeted value as opposed to between 51% – 52% typical for prior years.

The Budget Committee will give the status of the budget at the voters meeting on February 27.

President: Candidates for the nominating committee are Sash Eirich (chair), John Strege, Denise Rogers and Pastor Todd. All have been contacted and have consented to serve. A motion to accept these members for the nominating committee passed.

The need to form a financial review committee was discussed. Elmer Peterson has consented to serve. Other possibilities were mentioned. Action on this item was deferred to the March council meeting.

A voters meeting is scheduled for February 27.

Vice President: No Report



Pastor: Tentative dates for the Council retreat are the 13th & 14th of May or the 20th & 21st of May. The retreat will be scheduled for May 20th and 21st to avoid known conflicts on the 13th and 14th. The location is to be determined (the Brojte Orchar was mentioned as a possibility).

Meetings are going well with the Board Chairs.

Ash Wednesday services are scheduled for 12:00 and 7:00PM on March 9.

Groups responsible for preparing soup – suppers during lent are encouraged to keep it basic.

Cottage groups are being set up. Meetings will be regional.

Pastor will be on vacation from March 25 through April 5. Pastor Werfelmann and Pastor Bertermann will cover.

Pastor Linnemann, Northwest District President has a goal to visit each parish within the district. Pastor Adams will represent the district and will meet with Council on April 28, the scheduled April Council meeting. Council will meet early and plan to complete the business portion of the meeting prior to meeting with Pastor Adams at 7:30. Seven questions will be asked of council, the first three with Pastor present, the remainder without.

The Elders will help with Lenten services. Pastor will open and close the service, the Elders will be responsible for the rest. The message during each service will be a dramatic reading.

A new prayer policy, recommended by the district president, has been implemented at Redeemer as the result of a lawsuit until further direction is received, to avoid violating personal privacy. The policy will be explained in the March Rays newsletter.

A motion for Council to issue a statement of support of this action until such time as additional information indicates it can be modified passed.

Council was directed to speak with Pastor first before giving work to Gwen so that it can be properly prioritized and scheduled.

An Email was received from Herb Debban, Eunice Debban's son, offering to let the church conduct an estate sale of Eunice's effects with all proceeds going to Redeemer. The Treasurer will check on sales tax issues before the church responds.

Pastor will need to take a few days off to visit Virginia Mason Clinic relating to continuing health issues.

On April 10, Pastor Tom Baker from the St. Louis area will preach both services and conduct the Adult Education. A potluck and seminar on Law and Gospel will be scheduled at 4 PM for the whole circuit. More information will be presented in the Rays.

The \$400 LCEF award will be deposited following correction of the payee on the check.

Money is being accumulated for all who have life insurance through Trivent that can be given to the church or a charity. \$50 to \$80 per member is available for donation as specified by the individual policy holder.



Board Reports

Elders: See the attached Board of Elders meeting report.

The Board of Elders has reluctantly accepted the resignation of Guy McCoy. Dan Niebuhr has been affirmed as the new Head Elder. Mark Rogers is the new Vice Elder.

Council recommends filling the vacancy at the May 21 voter's / election of officers meeting. The term remaining will be 2 years.

The Helping Hands fund is low.

The Elders have not evaluated the unused funds in the nursery fund. This will be considered at a later Elder's meeting.

Trustees: See the attached Trustee's Board report dated 10 Feb 11.

The Trustees will update the voters on the status of the Arrowhead property at the February 27 voter's meeting.

Education: See the report dated February 10, 2011.

The Board of Education is waiting to hear from two individuals regarding a commitment to lead Vacation Bible School. Vacation Bible School will be scheduled for evenings this year.

Consideration of a special offering for VBS is planned for the next Budget Committee meeting.

Evangelism: See the attached report dated February 2011.

Evangelism training is scheduled for February 26. A dinner is scheduled at Round Table Pizza on February 25 between 6 and 8 PM where people from Redeemer can meet Pastor Freeman (who will be conducting the workshop). 44 attendees have signed up with 22 from Redeemer.

There will be an Easter mailing to the same new residents in Richland as were contacted at Christmas.

A banner will be placed in front of the church giving Easter worship times.

Two concerts are planned for summer.

Stewardship: See the Email Report dated February 22, 2011.

The talent survey will be distributed during the Easter themed "His Love, Our Response".

The Stewardship Board will be more visible due to the budget sortfalls.

The Budget committee has given the Stewardship Board direction for a Stewardship drive with a stated goal to "Grow a Pastor". A chart will be prepared that will show the giving level. Once Redeemer's needs have been met, any surplus is proposed to be used to support the LCMS seminaries. (See also new business). This will be discussed at the February 27 voter's meeting.

Youth: Report by Denise Rogers

The youth sold flowers for Valentine's day.

The Youth will be doing the Easter breakfast.

Congregational Care: See the report dated February 10, 2011.

Five people are now being transported to worship services by taxi.

Community Service: No Report.



Fellowship: The Fellowship Board will provide sandwich makings at the February 27 Voter's Meeting. The congregation will bring salad and desert. The need for cleaning in the church was discussed. The Trustees will consider and report at a future Council meeting.

Unfinished Business:

The Arrowhead property has been taken temporarily off the market due to conflicts with the tenants needs. The tenants will be vacating the property late March or early April to take a job in Texas. The Board of Trustees anticipates placing the property back on the market during late March.

New Business

The budget committee reported that 87% of Redeemer's budget is spent just to keep the doors open. Some budget categories are near spent. The individual boards should review their budgets to identify items that may overspend and areas where savings can be made.

An energy audit is available from the City of Richland. The Budget committee will examine and come back to council with findings and a recommendation.

Discussion ensued on how moneys collected in excess of Redeemer's needs (see the Stewardship Board report) should be committed. A motion was made and seconded to give any surplus money to LCMS seminaries. An amendment to the above motion passed that would require the money to be used in the following order of priority:

1. The money would be given as a scholarship to a seminary student or students known to Redeemer Lutheran Church.
2. The money would be given as a scholarship to a seminary student or students that are from the Northwest District.
3. The money would be given as a scholarship to a seminary student or students from the LCMS membership at large.

The amended motion passed.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn was made, seconded and approved.

Closing Prayer: The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Wallace Kelly, Secretary

