

## FINAL

### Epiphany Lutheran Church Church Council Meeting January 14, 2025

**Attendance:** Pastor Brad Gee, Dianne Mawhirter, Ray Holmes, Josh Thornton, Cindy Ganem, Lynn Rigelman, Ashley Turner, Mike Poyer

**Excused:** William Lytle, Dell Moller, Jeff McCullough

**Guest:** Ian Boden

**Call to Order:** Dianne called the meeting to order.

**Prayer:** Pastor Brad opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Devotion:** Cindy Ganem shared a devotion.

**Council Minutes/Approval:** The December 10, 2024 Minutes were previously sent out for review. There being no corrections or changes, Council dispensed with the reading of these Minutes. After motion by Lynn Rigelman and second by Mike Poyer, motion carried to approve the Minutes with one member abstaining.

**Treasurer's Report/Approval for December 2024:** Josh sent out the preliminary report for December stating the final report won't be completed until the December credit card bills are received and a late gift (dated 12/31/24) from a Required Minimum Distribution is received. In his email, Josh noted the following:

Gifts received to date	\$711,232
Interest to date	<u>11,757</u>
Total Income	\$722,989
Total Expenses	<u>708,523</u>
Net <b>positive</b> for 2024	\$ 14,266

Potentially still to come for 2024:

+ \$8,000 – Additional gift made on Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>

- \$2,265 – Current credit expenses (*worst case as there are some credits  
and some expenses might not go against budget accounts*)

We could finish the year at \$730k total income and \$20k net positive for the budget general fund. This validates the budget for 2025 is in-line with how 2024 finished.

Since Council has several new members, Josh then explained how the monthly Treasurer's Report is laid out. It was noted that the Benevolence percentage needs to be changed to 8%.

Since this was not a final report, Council deferred voting on the report until the February meeting.

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**Pastor's Time:** Pastor Brad noted that the sermon themes in February will be focused on stewardship, based on the Psalms. He is working with the Art Team on their upcoming events.

### Committee Reports:

**Children, Youth & Family:** Confirmation is ongoing. January saw another successful Nerf Night with plenty of kids and adults participating and there will be another FAFSA Planning on Jan. 19. Ali will be attending the ELCA Youth Ministry Extravaganza in Louisville, KY on Jan. 26. In February, there will be a College Search & Planning Workshop, the Junior and Senior High youth will attend the Capital Bowl Retreat at Capital University, Little Lights will be singing on the 16<sup>th</sup>, and a Love Craft Event will be held between services on the 9<sup>th</sup>. Other upcoming events include a Mock Interview workshop led by a Central High School Counselor and a Euchre/Bunco tournament.

**Congregational Events:** Nothing reported.

**Finance:** Josh passed out a Fund & Allocations report showing funds which either are designated for a specific purpose or are available to be used for upcoming projects. As to the Memorial Fund, he notes we need a better system when families make general donations to that Fund so we know how the family wants the donation to be used. After reviewing this report with Council, Josh Thornton made a motion to move the money in the Capital Campaign Mortgage Fund of \$73,762 into the Unrestricted Savings Fund and to change the title of that Fund to Operating Reserve which money would then be available for use if Epiphany had a severe financial crisis. Ray Holmes seconded the motion and it was unanimously passed.

**Preschool Board:** Registration for the 2025-2026 school year will open to current families on Jan. 21, church families on Feb. 2, and to new families on Feb. 9. They have raised almost half of the money needed to enlarge/enhance the outside play area. The Preschool Director is going to create a reading program for children who are beginning to read to help with their kindergarten readiness. Feb. 2 is the Preschool Sunday. There will be another Art Show in April.

**Property:** Nothing reported.

**Social Services:** 31 households purchased \$10,480 from the Christmas Gift Catalog (18<sup>th</sup> year of this service). 628 items were collected for Undie Sunday which were divided up to be donated between several charities. Souper Bowl Sunday is on Feb. 9.

**Welcome & Outreach:** For Christmas Eve services, bags were handed out with Epiphany's refrigerator magnet and some mints. They are asking Council if they have any feedback on the handout. (*Council had none*). If feedback is positive, they will do something similar in 2025 but will change up the magnet or add a bookmark. Upcoming events they are helping with: next New Member reception and handing out Welcome Bags at the Preschool Sundays on Feb. 2 and Apr. 6.

### Other/New Business:

Sign up for 2025 devotion schedule: Sheet was passed around but we have some months still open.

Council Installation: Commissioning of the 2025 Council will be held on Jan. 19 at the end of the 9a and beginning of the 11a services.

Annual Committee Reports: **These are due to Dori by Jan. 24.**

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Council Retreat: Pastor Brad and Dianne would like to hold a retreat on a Saturday in February, possibly at Jacob's Porch. This will give Council a chance to talk about possibilities for Epiphany's future, learn more about each other, and tour Jacob's Porch since they are one of our Benevolence Partners. Tentative date is Saturday, Feb. 22. More information to come.

*Note: At this point in the meeting, Ashley and Ray had to leave.*

Carpet replacement for the Quad and Nursery Rooms. Ali Adams, on behalf of the Children, Youth & Family Ministries Vision Team and the Preschool, sent a letter to Council asking that as additional funds become available, Council approve replacing the carpet in the Quad and Nursery rooms. After discussion, Josh Thornton made a motion to get quotes on replacing carpet in the Quad, Nursery and Youth rooms, using undesignated funds that are available, and with second by Cindy Ganem, motion unanimously carried. Dianne will ask Roger McLoney, Property Chair, to arrange for those quotes and report back to Council.

August 2025 Internship. Pastor Brad presented information on a possible intern to start in August 2025 when our current intern, Ian Boden, completes his 2-year internship with us. After discussion, Josh Thornton made a motion approving this new internship to begin approximately in August 2025, using funds from the Ed Otte Estate gift and establish additional funding to cover any remaining costs, and with second by Lynn Rigelman, motion unanimously carried.

Jacob's Porch Trustee. As part of our partnership with Jacob's Porch, we are required to provide its Board with two trustees—one who will have voice and vote on the Board and one who will assist with administrative type duties; each position serves a 3-year term. Dianne has been on the Board and will be resigning. Congregational member Cheryl Ricketts is currently serving in the administrative role. Pastor Brad has agreed to serve as the Board trustee beginning Feb. 1, possibly until another replacement can be found. After motion by Josh Thornton and second by Mike Poyer, motion unanimously carried appointing Pastor Brad as the Jacob's Porch Board trustee.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, February 11th, at 7:00p. Dianne will have the devotion.

**Adjournment:** Dianne led Council in the Lord's Prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

*Cindy Ganem*

Cindy Ganem, Secretary