

**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting Minutes  
October 21, 2022**

**Present:** Jill Thompson, Sharon Misuraca, Jan Thompson, Bob Fingland, Larissa Hautekeete, Greg Mueller, Lanny Schnipper, Gene Unverfehrt, Pr Josh Brecht, Pr Amy Stewart, Pr. Varinia Espinosa

**Excused:** Troy Larson, Paul Davis

**GOALS for Meeting:**

1. Council members deepen their sense of belonging to each other as those journeying in faith.
2. Council members know the key activities that are moving forward the congregation's spiritual growth
3. Council members will establish policy, fiscal tactics to achieve Belonging strategy and suggestions for ministries.
4. Council members are prepared to lead a group through the strategic planning and consideration of budgets that support 4 strategic areas

**6:00 Dinner:** Sharing a time when or place where God spoke to you in a meaningful way.

**6:50 Welcome and Devotion:** Lectio Divina/Scripture from "Spiritual Growth" section of the strategic plan, led by Pr. Amy

**7:00 Agenda:** Motion made to approve by Gene Unverfehrt, Seconded by Sharon Misuraca, Passed Unanimously,

**7:03 Consent Agenda:** (See Report Package):

A motion to accept the Consent Agenda (report package), with typo corrections on the 9/19/2022 Council Minutes, was made by Lanny Schnipper, and seconded by Bob Fingland, Motion passed unanimously.

**7:07 Strategic Focus:** Pr. Amy presented Spiritual Growth opportunities to date: Worship, Bible Studies and small groups, chapel with nursery and preschool, Wednesday night faith formation (all ages of kids and numerous adults), Sunday School (2 years through middle school), 3 Adult Ed groups on Sundays, Parent Fellowship group on Sundays, Facebook posts, pod casts, Bible app, being more intentional with devotionals (Staff, Council, other groups), small group ministry, GSLC library, and various Digital, in-person, at home opportunities. Policy opportunity needs/changes: giving permission to staff to create digital content, expectation that people who lead groups or sit on council are engaged in spiritual growth, expectation of members,

Fiduciary needs/changes: a budget for the library to support theologically appropriate curriculum/books etc. for Bible study, money for Speaker Series, money to help with retreats, musical performances, increasing funds for continuing ed for staff (\$2000)

Ministry Opportunity suggestions: invite small groups to view digital offerings to create common studies, first 6 months after people have joined to help them get plugged in, Speaker series, retreats, offering musical performances, continuing ed for staff, and who the suggestions should be shared with

**7:48 Policy – Fiduciary Responsibilities:**

Budget Updates: we are currently comfortable on expenses, as lower expenses occurred due to staff vacancies, but are significantly below what the budget had counted for giving. PPP has been forgiven, and an ERC Employee Retention Credit has been submitted. Stewardship team is getting ready to send out letters.

**8:00 Budget Responsibilities:**

Lutheran College Scholarship Committee approved a renewal scholarship for \$500 for Cora Hautekeete, which needs approval from Council. Greg Mueller made a motion to approve, Gene Unverfehrt seconded, Motion passed unanimous, with one abstention.

Special Seasonal Offerings: three times a year: Lent/Easter, Thanksgiving (Wartburg), Advent/Christmas (Lutheran Campus Ministry) Larissa Hautekeete moved to approve, Bob Fingland seconded, Motion passed unanimously.

**8:04 Strategic Focus-Retreat Preparation:**

Saturday morning will be a training on getting volunteers. Attendees are Council members and representatives of small groups

Saturday afternoon will be small groups, facilitated by Council

Tips for facilitation: all voices should be heard, help keep focus on 4 areas

4 Focus Areas: How can groups contribute to each area?, 3 year plan, fiscal implications for their plan

**8:35 Assignment for next month:** Bring ideas for the fourth area: Children/Youth/Families

**8:40 Closing and Prayer:** Motion to adjourn was made by Bob Fingland, and seconded by Gene Unverfehrt, Motion passed unanimously. Closing Prayer offered by Pr. Varinia .

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Thompson  
Congregation Secretary