

## St. John's Ev. Lutheran Church

### Annual Meeting

January 29, 2023

Members were provided with copies of the Annual Congregational Report for the Year 2022 which included: the Meeting Agenda, Minutes of the Annual Meeting on January 30, 2022, Minutes of the Quarterly Meetings from October 22-23, 2022, Monthly Financial Statement for December 2022, Proposed 2023 Budget Summary, Senior Pastor's report, Associate Pastor's report, Youth Staff Annual report, Director of Lay Ministry report, Business Manager's report, Membership Statistical Report, Bereavement Annual report, Sunday School Annual report, Altar Guild Annual report, and the Nominating Team report.

President Aaron Clark began with prayer and called the meeting to order at 12:06 P.M.

**Approval of Annual Meeting Minutes from January 30, 2022**-Pam Wittenberg made a motion to approve the minutes for this meeting. Dave Shrum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Approval of the Quarterly Meeting Minutes from October 22-23, 2022**-Cindy Henricksen made a motion to approve the minutes from these meetings. Phil Pennington seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Financial Report**-Treasurer Kathy Myers submitted a written report for December 2022. She reported that the Building & Maintenance expenses exceeded income to that fund in 2022. She directed members to the Business Manager's report for a summary of those expenses. A leak in the wall of the sanctuary has been an ongoing issue. Kathy and Mike both noted that many members donate their time and talents to address maintenance issues throughout the building, saving us on labor costs. In 2022, other funds came in under-budget for the year. Kathy asked members to continue their faithful giving of tithes and offerings. There were no questions about the Financial report. Paul Wittenberg made a motion to approve the Financial report. Keith Stenerson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**2023 Proposed Budget**-Treasurer Kathy Myers then presented the Proposed 2023 Budget Summary. She noted that this budget includes \$50,000 to pay on a loan for the Accessibility Project addition. The budget also includes 3% increases to staff salaries. Brad Wahl made a motion to approve the Proposed 2023 Budget summary as presented. Cynthia Hutson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Senior Pastor's Report**-Pastor Seth Jersild asked members to read his written report in the meeting packet. He highlighted that his ministry focus for 2023 would be Outreach & Evangelism with a special emphasis on reaching people with no previous church experience. He will be forming a team to pursue this mission and he invited interested members to pray about joining this team. Throughout 2023 his teaching and preaching will reflect this emphasis. Pastor Seth also acknowledged Elaine Bennett's retirement from the Lay Director of Ministry position and thanked her for her faithful service growing our lay ministry efforts. Members were encouraged to read the history of Lay Ministry here at St. John's in Elaine's report in the packet.

**Associate Pastor's Report**-Pastor Seth reported that Pastor Patti Morlock sent her love from Texas, where she and Jeff are attending the NALC Pastor's Conference. She is also attending meetings for the Ordination Under Special Circumstance (OUSC) committee that she chairs for the NALC. Please read her written report in the packet.

**All Other Reports in the Annual Congregational Report**-President Aaron Clark asked members to take the time to read over each report.

**Handicapped Accessibility Proposal**-Dan Yeater gave a brief summary of the 21 month timeline of the Accessibility Project to date. He reported that in late December the team received the estimated costs to complete the project which totaled approximately \$1,800,000. At that time he felt very defeated and believed that the project might not be able to move forward with such a great increase in costs. By the end of 2022, we had pledges, grants, and funds available in the amount of \$735,000. In January, Dan received word that St. John's would be receiving additional funds over and above what have been pledged/raised in the amount of \$1,100,000. Praise the Lord! With the receipt of these additional funds there is a very good chance that we will be able to complete the project debt free.

President Aaron Clark read the motion that Council is bringing before the congregation: "The Church Council of St. John's Lutheran Church moves that the congregation will pay up to \$2,000,000 to complete the new Accessibility Wing. If it is necessary to enter into a loan agreement in order to pay for the project, the council is authorized by the congregation to secure a loan of up to \$400,000." Neva Warren seconded the motion. Point of Order: Pastor Don Allman reminded us that transactions over \$10,000 require a written vote by the members present. The motion passed with Yes-100 votes to No-2 votes by written ballot.

Beth Katterhenrich informed members that Trinity Lutheran Church in Ashland, Ohio voted to gift us with a grant toward the Accessibility Project. This is very generous show of support from fellow believers.

Keith Stenerson asked about the status of the sale of the property at 3168 Columbus Street. For now that action has been put on hold.

Mistie Clark asked for clarification of the motion. The congregation had previously approved a loan for up to \$800,000 with a total project cost of \$1,300,000. Aaron and Dan clarified that Council is introducing a new motion stating the increased costs of the project and the increase in the funds we are receiving which is anticipated to result in the need to borrow a significantly smaller amount.

Pastor Seth thanked Dan and his team for their devotion to this project. He also thanked the congregation for their generosity and unity during this process.

Cynthia Hutson reminded members that all pledges and gifts that have been previously committed and are pending are still needed and relied on to fund this project.

**Election of Council Officers, Nominating Team Members, and NALC Delegates**-President Aaron Clark thanked out-going Council members Wayne Beavers, Doug Cress, & Michael Grimm for their service. He asked if there were any nominations from the floor for any of the positions listed on the ballot. Hearing none, he presented the slate of Council members, Nominating Team members, and NALC Delegates. Neva Warren made a motion to approve

the slate of candidates. Pam Wittenberg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

**Church Council:**

Secretary: Karen Bentley

Council At Large: Warren Althoff, Shirley Blake, Karen Grossman, Tammy LeVally, Phil Pennington, Cindy Gonsowski

**Nominating Team:** Ruth Ross, Jo Dimond, Chris Jenkins, Cindy Pennington

**NALC Delegates:** Phil & Cindy Pennington

Phil Pennington asked to add an item of New Business to the agenda. He made a motion that there be some type of acknowledgment of Elaine's service to St. John's. Karen Grossman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Phil Pennington made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Joe Lovell seconded the motion. The meeting ended at 12:36 P.M. with Pastor Seth leading members in singing the Doxology.

Respectfully submitted, Karen Bentley, Secretary