

Silver Lake Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Minutes Pending Approval

December 17, 2024

Present Carol Bergo, Enos Loberg, Mike Thompson, Larry Larson, Kathy Kreuscher, Al Wogen, Melanie DeVries

1. Meeting called to order and devotion – Carol Bergo, President
2. Secretary's report – Motion to accept – carried.
3. Treasurer's report - read by Kathy– Motion to accept – carried.
4. One in Christ Report
 - a. Current Bible Study – “Making Sense of the Scriptures”, Wed 10 am at Salem; “Gomer, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Job” Thursday 3:30 at Wbg
 - b. Mission Sunday – feedback – with the farewell, communion, and presentation – got kind of long but altogether a great service.
 - c. Thanksgiving Eve worship 7 pm Wednesday – feedback – no feedback.
 - d. OIC 2025 budget – approved by all.
 - e. Parish Council Terms – Completion of terms (after January 2025 meetings) – Bethany – Becky Martinson; Lunder – Roger Larson; Silver Lake – LeAnn Hagen
 - i. Carol Bergo will reach out to LeAnn to see if she would consider another term. If anyone from SL wants to volunteer, please let Denny Kreuscher or Carol Bergo know.
 - f. Congregational Meeting – Sunday January 19, 2025, after worship
 - g. Council Meetings – Council was asked if we would consider decreasing Pastor Bill's participation in our meetings. Motion was made to ask Pastor Bill to attend 2/year - carried. Dates TBD.
 - h. Transition Conversations
 - i. Call Committee meets with Rev. Steve Brackett – January 22nd @ SL.
 - ii. Worship
 1. We are going to try and cover all our worship services with our pastor, lay leaders, and occasional supply preacher from outside our parish. If we are unable to cover that way, would like to have a lay person from each congregation to be a worship leader – Silver Lake Council discussed. Melanie agreed to fill in if necessary. If anyone else would be willing, please let a council member know.
 2. Communion will only be served when an ordained pastor is present.
 - iii. Confirmation – We have two lay volunteers who are teaching the 8th grade Catechism class that Pastor Randy led.
 - iv. Denny wanted to remind congregation that hospitals offer in house Pastors/clergy. Consider using them first but call Pastor Bill if an emergency.
- i. Worship
 - i. Christmas Celebration – December 22 – Bethany and Lunder; Christmas Eve worship – 4:00 pm Winnebago and 7:00 pm Silver Lake – would like to have communion; Christmas Day – 10:30 am Winnebago
 - ii. Lent
 1. Recommendation is that each congregation host two of the 8 services (8 services for four congregations).

- a. Communion is served on Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday – midafternoon – Silver Lake or Wbg – following tradition and Evening – Lunder or Bethany – following tradition.
- b. There will be no meals served.
- c. They are considering flipping worship with confirmation and having worship 5:30 – 6:15 and confirmation 6:30-7:30 – This would give us some daylight driving time to worship. (not decided yet)
- iii. Easter Sunday 4/20 – Suggestion was: Silver Lake and Winnebago will have Sunday morning worship and Lunder and Bethany would attend SL and WBG respectively – Question about whether to have communion – Motion was made to ask for communion on Easter Sunday – motion carried.

5. Old Business

- a. Elevator – still waiting on Category 5 inspection by Otis – bill already paid – Carol will call to check on this.
- b. Liability insurance – premiums have gone down from \$4596 to \$925 – No policy available yet.

6. New Business

- a. Discussion of budget for 2025 – to be discussed at yearly meeting January 19.
- b. Dan DeVries has volunteered to do electrical work at parsonage – list of things that need to be done was compiled by Mike.
- c. Will ask Dan to fix pop-off valve on boiler – leaking a lot. Fix lights in basement that are not working (change ballast).
- d. Carol will find out how it will be decided if church is cancelled and how this will be communicated.
- e. Discussion about possibly changing days/times of council meeting. Considering after church or switching to Thursday.
- f. Communion will be second week of the month at SL
- g. Motion to change fellowship meals to 2nd week of the month to be in line with communion dates – motion carried.
- h. Next fellowship January 12 – Main Street Family Restaurant, 2306 E. Main St, Albert Lea, MN
- i. Next Meeting January 21, 6:30 at Silver Lake.

7. Adjourn/Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted: Melanie DeVries Secretary