

St. Mark Lutheran Church
Connecting People to Jesus
Annual Voters Meeting Minutes
November 15, 2020 (12:00 PM)

The November 15,2020 Voters Assembly was **called to order** at 12:00pm by Vice-president Chuck Kuntz in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Pastor Jay led us in prayer.

Confirm a Quorum is Established: Jolene Scalzo confirmed there were 35 members signed in, so a quorum was present for the meeting.

November 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes: Chuck asked for a motion to approve the minutes from last year's voter's meeting which was made and seconded, motion passed.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Munderloh presented some highlights from the past year's treasurer's report ending October 31, 2020.

- Offerings are \$23,000 over what was budgeted.
- Mike sees the offerings increase by 7% over year to year since 2019. He feels this has been impacted by on-line giving as 30% of offerings are done on-line.
- Preschool/Child Care (PS/CC) tuition planned was \$48,000 versus actual income of \$84,000. It took lots of work to get PS/CC up and running but it is doing well.
- Expenses have been over the 2020 plan. This in mostly influenced by staff/personnel changes, PSCC expenses that have been over budget as more teachers are required for more students. During the initial phases of the Covid-19 pandemic, there were 3-4 teachers working whereas the teaching staff has been full staff since August with eight (8) teachers.
- Marketing expenses are decreased as Chip Thompson that was hired is now performing that function.
- Tech and media expenses are raised as there were upgrades done to the streaming technology.
- The net gain of income over expense is \$108,304.

- Members of the Parish Leadership Council (PLC) remember the bleak times when the budget ended with a negative balance, so it is much easier to deal with this positive balance as we have had in the last 2-3 years..
- Cash on hand \$208,543 versus \$36,726 in 2019.
- The PPP loan listed for \$44,100 is from the government for the Covid-19 assistance. It is a forgivable loan if certain parameters are met. Mike applied for this in September but may take until spring before approval is given as several levels of government need to review the application.
- Reserve funds for the maintenance escrow is less than anticipated as money was used to repair the upper parking lot's dip and resurfacing the entire lot for preventative care.
- The Lutheran Church Extension Fund loan was combined with the gathering space construction loan into a twenty (20) year loan. The resulting balance is \$885,000 which is due 02/13/2040. The monthly mortgage payment decreased by approximately \$1000.
- The listing for ECHO college ministry is from the money transferred from Living H2O ministry when St. Mark took over the ministry in addition to a monthly grant from the Nebraska District.

A motion was made to approve the October 31, 2020 treasurer's report, seconded, and passed.

Election of Parish Leadership Council Members: Chuck chaired the nomination committee that reviewed candidate profiles submitted for the board. He as assisted by Liz Messel and Josh Hugen. The slate submitted for consideration is: Jolene Scalzo, Lisa Buchele, Gale Suhr, Gerry Burke, and Andy Rygol. A motion was made to accept the slate, seconded, and passed.

Strategic Plan Update / Ministry Plan 2021 and Beyond:

- Pastor took time to introduce the staff members that were present: Kelly Thompson and Chip Thompson. Additional staff not present: Darren Clark, Kirsten Suhr, and Julie Kyriss.
- Pastor stated that the priority for 2021 will be the Preschool and Child Care Ministry (PSCC) led by Julie Kyriss and the Children & Family Ministry led by Kirsten Suhr. Julie estimates there will be 100 children in PSCC next year. Pastor recounted a testimony for the PSCC: During the Covid-19 shut down, there were three families that continued to send in tuition even though they did not send children. When those families were contacted, they

indicated they were intentionally sending the tuition as they were so thankful for the opportunity to attend preschool here.

- IMMPACT Ministry and ECHO Ministry were not in the plan last year. Revitalization of a ministry is always difficult but with persistence, the ministries are growing.
 - Regan Burke is a student at UNO and is a leader in trying to promote ECHO. There are eight (8) students that have attended events intermittently.
 - The IMMPACT ministry has had five (5) students attending. They are trying to set up some childcare as some students are young mothers.
- Technology/Streaming is another focus. Much work has been done to update the network, phone system, and security system which were all needed. Some of the excess cash in the budget will be used to set up a multiple platform streaming service.
- The Eternal Connection radio program is doing well. Pastor reported that there have been some solicitations from other markets across nation to spread the message. Pastor met District President Snow who felt the district should start to promote this program instead of duplicating their outreach efforts.
- In response to a question about programs for senior citizens, Pastor replied that the time is not right to restart small groups and senior programs. He has not been able to visit seniors in many of the nursing home facilities over the past nine months.
- There were 55 new members that have joined St. Mark in 2019 and 20 so far this year.

Approve Budget for 2021: Mike Munderloh explained some of the pieces of the budget for 2021.

- The income anticipated for 2021 is \$545,000 from offerings, \$150,000 from the Concordia lease, and \$159,700 from preschool tuition.
 - Concordia has signed another two-year rolling lease that contains a clause that either party can terminate the lease with adequate notification of the other.
 - Omaha Japanese School (OJS) has agreed to terminate their lease since St. Mark needs their reserved space for storage to use for other activities. OJS have not been meeting here since March 2020.
- The increase of income is projected to be about \$100,000.

- The largest expense category of the budget is for personnel. PLC sets Pastor Jay's salary, Pastor Jay sets the salary for the rest of the staff.

Julie Kyriss' contract has been increased from 32 hours per week to 40 hours which results in increased pay and benefits. Some increase is for the anticipated increase need for more teachers in the PSCC if enrollment increases.

- Marketing budget is decreased since Chip is doing everything in-house.
- The tech & media budget is increased due to additional upgrades needed. A program is being investigated to do payroll services instead of doing manually as is done now.
- The anticipated excess of income versus expense (\$39,189) would be used to restart celebrations, i.e. Easter and Christmas.

Mike made a motion to approve the 2021 budget of \$828,511. This was seconded and motion was carried.

Pastor closed the meeting with prayer.

Chuck requested a motion to adjourn the meeting which was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 12:34pm

Respectfully submitted,
Jolene Scalzo