

St John Voters Meeting Minutes September 29, 2013

President Ron Rathe called the meeting to order. Pastor Wolter opened with a reading from Colossians and with prayer.

Roll call was answered with twenty-six voters present.

June meeting minutes were presented for review. Motion made and seconded to approve the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Correspondence the church has received from groups seeking donations was reviewed. Voters declined the opportunity for the church to contribute to these organizations, by consensus, as members have the opportunity to do so individually, if so desired.

Synod is seeking response to a proposed constitutional amendment involving the change of "Circuit Counselor" to "Circuit Visitor" (Article 12, Paragraphs 3 & 7). This is a historical term to affirm the intent for this individual to visit the congregations. Motion made and seconded to vote for approval of this change. Motion carried.

Clergy in the circuit desire to increase involvement and Lutheran presence in Prison Ministry. Due to proximity and interest, the Circuit Pastors felt that Pastor Wolter would be a good choice to attend more extensive training that would allow for further ministry opportunities within the prison system. This would consist of "officer" training (40 hours a week for four weeks) in Lincoln, for which transportation would be provided. It is ongoing and can be entered into at the individual's convenience but must be completed within a four week period with recertification (about a week's worth of training) required annually. Upon completion, Pastor would have increased flexibility and access, to basically visit anyone/anytime, within the facility; whereas his current volunteer status simply allows him to conduct worship in the chapel and bible study with a maximum of four inmates. He would also then have the ability to distribute religious materials. The Circuit Pastors will help cover his parish duties, in order to facilitate his attendance of this training. A motion was made for Pastor to attend this training as long as it doesn't interfere with St John's ministry. Motion was seconded. Motion carried.

President's Report: President Rathe reported that the next meeting of the Joint Parish Council will be held on October 23 at 7 pm, location yet to be determined. Any information that the congregation would like to have shared/discussed should be provided to Parish Council members in advance of this meeting.

President Rathe also indicated that there are a number of St John committee members who have served beyond their three year appointment and he will be looking to appoint replacements for these individuals in the near future (hopefully by year end for January 2014 installation).

Treasurer's report presented for review. Discussion followed, specifically regarding Health Insurance Account 104 and Utilities Allowance Account 110. Motion made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report as presented. Motion carried.

Board of Education: First month of Sunday School has gone well, the program has been blessed with teachers. The board will begin working on the Christmas program in the near future.

Board of Elders: A slate of candidates was presented for church offices/ boards along with a list of voting members. Elections will be held at the December 2013 meeting and additional nominations may be made from the floor at that time.

Board of Evangelism, Fellowship, and Mission: The board extended a thank you for assistance with the float in the fair parade. They are planning to have a Christmas tree on the town square again this year.

Board of Stewardship: There was a recent meeting with the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) regarding savings programs. In particular, the child's savings program.

Board of Trustees:

Motion made and seconded to approve the board reports as presented. Motion carried.

Beautification Committee: Maintenance work to be completed.

Memorial Committee: There was one new memorial gift.

Preschool Committee: There are currently 13 students. The parents are very complimentary of the teaching staff. The Assistant leads Bible time on Wednesday, in addition to chapel conducted by Pastor.

Youth Committee:

Old Business: None.

New Business: Discussed

Motion to end the meeting made and seconded. Motion carried. Meeting closed with the singing of the doxology.

Cheryl Bartels, Secretary