

Church Council Agenda
Tuesday, December 6, 2011 - 6:30 PM

Meeting Location:
Fireside Room

Devotions:
Barb Hargis

Treats:
Rita Stacey

OUR MISSION: Inspired by God's grace, we open our hearts to all in faith, prayer, fellowship and service through Jesus Christ.

1. **Call to Order** - Our Savior's December 2011 Council meeting was called to order by Council President Lennis Larson. Members present were, Lennis Larson, Eric Skavang, Collin Cantalope, Karen Otterberg, Annette Johnson, Barb Hargis, Pam Englund, Rita Stacey, Dylan Wilde, Beth Nielsen. Ministerial staff present Pastor Karen Matuska and Lay Minister, Laura Campbell.
2. **What's on Top or What's the Buzz?**- No discussion
3. **Devotions** – Barb Hargis
4. Action Item – **Approve Agenda** - Eric Skavang added Info Item #13 Fundraiser Update. Annette Johnson added Info Item #14 Good Shepherd Clinic Update. Lennis Larson added Action Item #15 Lutherans Outdoors. Barb Hargis moved to approve the amended agenda, Annette Johnson 2nd, motion carried.
5. Action Item – **November Council Minutes** - Council members reviewed the minutes from November's meeting. Beth Nielsen moved to approve the minutes, Karen Otterberg 2nd, motion carried.
6. Action Item – **November Treasurer's Report** - Offerings for the month of November were down. Budgeted for the month was \$37,724.83 and actual offerings totaled \$32,469.02. Spending is down so far this year in part because of no senior pastor salary going out. Insurance is due in December so that will bring spending up a little but income versus spending will still be okay by the end of the year. Julie Lee, office manager, would like to have someone audit the books for the year. She will check around to see if there is a church member who would be willing to do that. Beth Nielsen moved to approve the treasurer's report, Collin Cantalope 2nd, motion carried.
7. **Ministerial Staff Reports – Pastor Karen** reports the church office has been busy with people during the month of November. People needing assistance, planning baptisms or funerals, needing to talk or wanting to share ideas. The **Milestone Ministry** has handed out the story cubes to the 1st graders and 5th graders have received their first communion. **Peer Ministry** is showing an increase in numbers and activities. The high school group is handing out compliment cards and starting home ec type lessons. They are always searching for ways to bridge the youth to the rest of the Spearfish community. The **Worship Committee** met to plan Advent and Christmas worship services. Pastor Arley Fadness will preach at the first two Christmas Eve services with Pastor Karen preaching at the last two. There will just be one worship service Christmas Day, led by Pastor Karen. Pastor Karen and her husband, Trey, will furnish brunch following that service.
Pastor Karen reminded us that although we are seeing some difficult times financially in the church, so are most non-profit organizations. This is a time for us to focus on our ministries and to remember God is with us and is guiding us, we have no need to fear our future.
- Lay Minister Laura Campbell - Adult Education** continues with two offerings, *The Red Jell-O Conversations* provide an opportunity for people to come any Sunday and join the discussion of the day. *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart* provides new Friendship Ministers for a ministry that is always expanding at Our Savior's. Laura reported that the **Julefest** was again a great success, raising about \$8000 for WELCA. **Kids of the Kingdom** Sunday School Program will be Sunday, December 11 at 10:45. Over 100 **Angel Tree** tags were taken from the Angel Tree. Gifts will be distributed December 14. Laura reminded Council that Our Savior's will be serving the Spearfish Food Pantry during the month of December. She thanked everyone who has been involved in all the activities at Our Savior's and is thankful for all the behind-the-scenes discipleship she sees taking place every week. She too reminds us that God will show us how he plans to use us today and in the days ahead.
8. Action Item – **Constitution By-Law Addition** - Collin Cantalope moved to add Call Committee to Our Savior's By-Laws. The addition would be B8.01 under Committees of the Church Council. In addition, B8.08 also found under Committees of the Church Council, would read "Call Committee: When a pastoral vacancy

occurs, a call committee of six voting members and two currently serving Council members shall be elected by the Council. Terms of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called pastor.” Dylan Wilde 2nd the motion, motion carried. The additions to the By-Laws will now be presented for the congregation’s approval during the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Congregation.

9. Info Item – **Visit by Susan Marone** - Lennis announced Susan’s visit has been changed to December 20, 2011, 6:30 pm. She will visit with Council and members of the congregation to explain the call process, answer questions, and discuss the importance of having an interim pastor while we search for a new senior pastor.

10. Action Item – **Adopt Proposed 2012 Budget** - Proposed Budget brought to Council is \$422,047. At the time of this meeting stewardship pledges for 2012 along with an estimate of offerings that were not pledged but will hopefully come in, give a total income of \$397,581 for 2012. Eric Skavang explained, in the past Pastor Kent would come up with the estimated amount above what was pledged. This year that amount was figured by office manager, Julie Lee, with help from Laura Campbell. Council spent the next hour debating and discussing cuts in the budget. It was the goal of Council to not cut staff or current wages paid to staff. Council reviewed the proposed budget line by line, taking into consideration what was spent in each area in 2011. With input from Pastor Karen, Laura Campbell and any committee leaders present, Council was able to get the proposed budget down to \$407,503. That amount still shows a deficit in the budget but it is the hope of Council that that deficit will be covered with additional offerings not yet pledged.

11. Action Item – **Election of Nominating Committee** - Dylan Wilde made the motion to have Beth Nielsen and Collin Cantalope represent Council on the Nominating Committee. Rita Stacey 2nd, motion carried. Three voting members of the congregation will be nominated at the Semi-Annual Meeting of the Congregation December 18.

12. Action Item – Beth Nielsen offered to host the **Council & Spouse Christmas/Epiphany Celebration** on Sunday January 22nd. Members of the Council will the furnish food.

13. Info Item - **Report on Thanksgiving dinner** - Eric Skavang reported the Spearfish Food Pantry and the local Backpack for Kids Program will each receive \$1393 from monies raised at this year’s Thanksgiving dinner along with carry over funds from last year’s dinner. \$100 will also be used to help pay to get carpets cleaned in the Fellowship Hall.

14. Info item - Annette Johnson reported that Our Savior’s receptionist, Lisa Williams, will be asked to monitor the types of calls she receives concerning the **Good Shepherd Clinic**. Myrna Schamber will educate patients on how to follow up with their visits, instructing them **not** to call the church for test results or with questions.

15. Action Item - Lutherans Outdoors - Lennis read a letter from Lutherans Outdoors inquiring as to whether or not we would be making a contribution to that ministry. Beth Nielsen moved to give the same amount as last year, Dylan 2nd, motion carried.

At this time, Dylan Wilde asked to add another Action Item to the agenda. He moved to have B4.01 of the By-Laws changed to read, “The annual meeting of this Congregation shall be held in November, and the semi-annual meeting of the Congregation shall be held in April.” Eric Skavang 2nd the motion, motion carried. This amendment would need to be brought to the congregation for approval. Dylan Wilde moved to amend the agenda for the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting adding this change to the By-Laws, Barb Hargis 2nd, motion carried.

The December Church Council meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Englund
Church Council Secretary

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 2012 @ 6:30 pm in the Conference Room
Devotions: Karen Otterberg Treats: Collin Cantalope