



Rooted in God's grace, we joyfully witness and serve.

Core Values

*Intimacy With God
Inspiring Worship
Intentional Faith Development
Compassionate Outreach
Caring Community*

Church Council Meeting Minutes

November 19, 2024, 7:00 PM

2024 Elected Church Council Members	Executive Committee	Voting Representatives
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bill Stoll 2. Brian Fisher 3. Chrissy O'Farrell 4. Rick Gardner 5. Tom Neuhaus 6. Tracy Blois 7. Becky Gilbertson 8. Fred Antrim 9. Jeanne Kuchera-Sikoff 10. Robert Mejia 11. Jim Prosser 12. Vicky Edell 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Stoll (President) • Tracy Blois (Vice President) • Rick Gardner (Treasurer) • Chrissy O'Farrell (Secretary) • Brian Fisher 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Henry Moraga (CDC Liaison)

Call to order

The meeting was on Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by President Bill Stoll.

Council Members Present

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Bill Stoll | 6. Fred Antrim |
| 2. Chrissy O'Farrell | 7. Jeanne Kuchera-Sikoff |
| 3. Rick Gardner | 8. Jim Prosser |
| 4. Tracy Blois | 9. Vicky Edell |
| 5. Becky Gilbertson | 10. Brian Fisher |

Voting Representatives Present

1. Henry Moraga

Staff Members Present

1. Joe Zimmerly
2. Pastor Scott Maxwell-Doherty

Devotion: Led by Becky

Determination of Quorum

(C12.06) majority of members of the council-majority is defined as one over one-half (7).

- Number of council members present: 10
- Number of voting representatives present: 1
- Number of council members and voting representatives present: 11 of 13

Caring Conversation: Check In



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Approval of Minutes

Motion by Jim: *"to approve the amended minutes from the October 22nd, 2024 meeting. Amendment breing to add a line to thank Tom LaCalamita, Nick Zook-Brimer, Craig Blois and Gordon Henry for installing the new lights at the cross"*

- Second by Tracy
- The minutes are approved via a hand vote, none opposed

Acceptance of Consent Agenda

Motion by Rick: *"to accept the consent agenda for November 19th, 2024."*

- Second by Becky
- The consent agenda is accepted via a hand vote, none opposed

Information: Property Committee (Jim)

Discussion

- Remote control camera installed - risers will be removed
- The church has seven heaters - four of which are located in the sanctuary. Lenox units, not since covid have they been inspected or serviced. Other heaters are in attic, luther hall, nursery - easily accessible and don't require action, but 4 in sanctuary need to be serviced

Motion by Property Committee: *"to approve the expenditure of \$2,750 from account 34001 for parking lot lighting work, tree trimming and any contingency costs."*

- The motion is accepted via a hand vote, none opposed

Motion by Property Committee: *"spend up to \$1,000 from the prayer garden dedicated fund (acct 35367) to replace the drip irrigation in the prayer garden as well as tree trimming and cleaning up the garden."*

- The motion is accepted via a hand vote, none opposed

Motion by Property Committee: *"spend up to \$1000 from account 34001 to have the sanctuary heaters inspected and perform any necessary work up to that amount."*

- The motion is accepted via a hand vote, none opposed



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Information: Grant (Jeanne)

Discussion

- Grant for safety hardening - excess of \$250k
- Lighting in the parking lot as well as security cameras and fencing were in that request
- \$205k was included in the grant request. Hope to receive an answer within the next ten days. If granted, needs to be used by December 1, 2024 - December 31 2023

Information: 2025 Council (Bill)

Discussion

- Nominating Committee working to gather council members
- Looking to fill with four people - if there's any interest or nominations, please let contact Marylin Gardener

Executive Session

Motion by Chrissy "*to enter executive session.*"

- Second by Brian
- The motion passed

Entered Executive Session at 7:42 pm

Motion by Brian "*to exit executive session.*"

- Second by Henry
- The motion passed

Exited Executive Session at 8:38 pm

No action was taken during Executive Session

Reports

- Pastor's Report: No Pastor's report this month
- Children, Youth and Family Report: Joe Zimmerly – report below
- Treasurer's Report: Rick Gardner – report below



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Upcoming Dates

- Next executive committee meeting: [December 5th at 7:00pm via Zoom](#)
- Next council meeting: [December 17th at 7:00pm via Zoom](#)
- Wednesday, December 4 – Church decorating 4:00pm; Cross Lighting 6:00pm

Motion to Adjourn

Motion made by Brian: *“to adjourn meeting”*

- Second by Henry
- The motion passed unanimously by hand count, none opposed

Meeting Adjourned at 8:47pm

DEVOTIONS			
FEBRUARY Bill	MARCH Tracy	APRIL Chrissy	MAY Jim
JUNE Tom	JULY Brian	AUGUST Jeanne	SEPTEMBER Rick
OCTOBER Fred	NOVEMBER Becky	DECEMBER Robert	JANUARY 2025

Joe Zimmerly - Children, Youth and Family November 2024 - Council Report

TheOasis

I attended TheOasis in Palm Desert in October and had a wonderful time. We got to experience four worship services including Holden Evening Prayer. We heard from Adam Braun of PLTS and the Rev. Dr. John Nunes of Cal Lutheran. Although this event is meant to provide a prayerful and restful space for the attendees, I am really focused on embracing the words “Mission” and “Metrics”. The Rev. Dr. John Nunes spoke on his experience in religious higher education where they have to focus on those two words going forward. The mission of our work stays the same, the way in which we do it, the “metrics”, needs to change. Some sample questions expressed were, “Why are we focusing on a program that isn’t giving life?” and “Is



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there a way we can reach our community and neighbors differently?" Mission and metrics are the words I will ground myself for the work that prevails in 2025.

Middle & High School Youth

Our middle school youth have been meeting weekly gaining a basic knowledge of the Lutheran faith. The Ten Commandments, Catechism, Martin Luther, and a few other key concepts that are important in forming faith in young lives. We have also had fun making Christmas Cookie Jars with the high school youth on Wednesdays as we prepare to sell them on December 1st. All the proceeds raised will be split 50/50 with victims of the Mountain Fire through our Mount Cross Cares ministry. We will also collect separate donations to support those affected by the fire.

Our high school youth will be meeting on December 14th to walk around Gemini Street and then on December 18th for Christmas Caroling. As mentioned, the high school youth have been helping on Wednesdays making cookie jars and helping "pass the faith" afterwards when we are teaching with our Confirmation students. It is truly a fun group to be part of.

Children's Ministry

December 15th is our Advent/Christmas Play during worship which is different from previous years. Children of all ages have been invited to participate in practice each week after worship. They will be singing "Away in a Manger", "Silent Night" and a few other familiar songs as they tell the Christmas story. We are excited to see all their hard work come together!

Treasurer's Report Through October 2024

Budget Performance (through October 2024):

Gross income for October was \$43,060 (114% of budget versus 115% last month).

Gross income YTD was \$389,916 (103% of budget versus 102% last month).

Pledged giving for October was \$14,843 (56% of budget versus 117% last month).

Pledged giving YTD was \$249,940 (95% of budget versus 99% last month).

Expenses for October were \$40,073 (92% of budget versus 91% last month).

Expenses YTD were \$422,411 (97% of budget versus 98% last month).



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Net income for October was $\$43,060 - \$40,073 = \$2,987$ (compared to budget amount of $-\$5,855$).

Net income YTD was $\$389,916 - \$422,411 = -\$32,495$ (compared to budget amount of $-\$58,547$).

Calculated reserves were $\$119,003$ compared to $\$116,185$ in September.

Analysis:

1. Our financial performance in October was good with gross income well above budget, expenses below budget, and a positive net income.
2. Our reserves have been climbing for two months running and now sit at $\$119,000$, well within the healthy range. However, reserves are down for the year by $\$33,000$. At this pace, we will lose about $\$40,000$ for the year, less than the anticipated $\$70,000$ loss.

[Balance Sheet](#)

[Budget Performance](#)

Consent Agenda - November 2024

Please notify the Office Manager of any changes in meeting days, times, or locations

Pastor's Report

Communications Coordinator - Carina (carina@mountcross.com)

Music Director - Carol (office@mountcross.com)

We have been blessed during Pastor Scott's time here to have him sing with our choir, adding to the bass section. He also very generously made me a wooden conductor's stand to replace the two plastic step stools I've been using - so thoughtful!

Our November Taizé prayer had to be postponed a week because of the lack of power from the Mountain Fire, but we're building a small but steady group of participants from both Mount Cross and St. Columba's for this contemplative worship.

November has been busy with preparing for our December 8 Advent/Christmas Music Ministry program. This year, we are doing a separate Music Ministry program and the children will present a program during worship on December 15. We'll feature our Handbell Choir, our Choir, our Praise Band, and various singers and instrumentalists. I'm grateful for the enthusiasm and generosity of our talented ministers - we are blessed!

Youth Report - Joe

October 2024 - Council Report

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Deacon Cecelia Report-Senior Adult Ministry

Treasurer's Report - Rick

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[Balance Sheet](#)

[Budget Performance](#)

Committee Reports

Audit Committee

Worship & Music -

Meeting at 2:30 on Dec. 4 followed by sanctuary decorating

Adult Ed –

Altar Guild -

Budget & Finance

Care Team - [Susan Prosser](#)

Endowment - [Brian](#)

FFF - [Tracy](#)

Welcome/Fellowship Committee

Personnel - [Tom](#)

Regrettably I will be unable to attend the 11/19 meeting. Efforts to review and revise the Employee Handbook (to the extent necessary) continue, albeit slower than I hoped and expected, for which I apologize. I also am seeking to get an understanding of how, when, and by whom staff performance reviews are done. Bill Stoll has provided some history and guidance and the return of Pastor Julie I expect will also be of help in the process. Also, though not technically an employee, Deacon Cecilia's position also is due for review and evaluation.

Property – [Jim Prosser](#) PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT (11/19/24)

The Property Committee met on November 14, 2024. In attendance were Marilyn Gardner, Cy Johnson, Joan Brundage, Mary Kienitz, Craig Blois, Tom LaCalamita and acting chair/Council Liaison Jim Prosser. Amy Vega was absent.

Playground Improvements. The committee discussed the new shed installed by the CDC. Unfortunately, the roof on the new shed, in part, slants toward the exterior wall of the Parrish Life Center. It was the consensus of the committee that CDC needs to install a gutter so that drainage from the rear portion of the roof is directed away from the PLC wall.

Parking Lot Lighting. The four (4) light pole in the parking lot is not functioning. The committee received two bids to replace these older lamps with new LED “shoebox” fixtures similar to the Cross Lights. (Yesco, \$2357.82 and Economy Lighting, \$3,015.12). Because these lights are 20’ up the pole and because of some possible issues with the wiring, it is not something the members of the committee are willing to undertake. Further, in order to improve the purpose of these lights, the committee requests approval to spend \$250 to trim the two trees nearest the light pole. **Thus, the committee recommends acceptance of the bid of YESCO to do the lighting work (\$2,357.82) and that a total up to \$2,750 be authorized from account 34001 to cover the lighting work, the tree trimming and any contingency.**

Prayer Garden. Marilyn advised the replacement of the drip irrigation in the prayer garden, including tree trimming, plantings, clean up and updating can be completed for under \$1000. **The Committee recommends that the council approve the expenditure of up to \$1000 from the Prayer Garden Dedicated Fund for this project.**

Inspection of Heaters. The church property has seven (7) heaters. Four in the Sanctuary, and one each in the office, Luther Hall and the Nursery. It appears that the four Lennox G16 units in the sanctuary have not been inspected professionally for several years. **The Committee requests that \$1000 be approved from Account 34001 to have these 4 heaters inspected and any additional necessary work performed within the amount authorized.**

Kitchen Issues. As previously reported, the committee received a bid from Trenchless Sewer Repair for \$7500 to apply an epoxy coating to approximately 30 feet of drain line from the kitchen. This work was recommended by the company that inspected and snaked the drain. But, in the process of getting additional bids, it became apparent that there was a potential for damaging the existing line if this repair was performed. Accordingly, the committee believed that bids should be obtained on the cost of replacing the existing 2” line. The committee is seeking one or more bids to replace the line and will report back to council with its recommendation in December.

Church Office Improvements. The removal of the bathroom door into Pastor’s office is complete except for minor paint and caulking of the bathroom baseboard. During the work it was discovered that the water heater in the bathroom was defective and it was replaced at a cost of \$229. We will also be adding a toilet seat cover dispenser.

Workdays. The scheduling of further workdays this year is being postponed. If people was to volunteer to work, there are small projects available, including weeds in the areas adjacent to the parking lot.

Sacristy Door Repair. The repairs have started and should be completed by month's end. The condition of the door was not as good as expected. This is a temporary fix and the door will ultimately require replacement within the next 2-3 years.

Cross Lighting. Tom revised the settings on the lights on November 13 to improve the brightness. The Lighting Ceremony, in consultation with Pastor Scott and Randy Churchill, is now scheduled for December 4 as part of the Wednesday night activities.

Interior Sanctuary Lights. The replacement of all the sanctuary lights, except the 8 up-lights, was completed in late October. One of the stage lights in the second row requires an additional replacement part and will be inoperable until the next opportunity to secure a lift, most likely in conjunction with a different project.

Additional Pavilion Lighting. Craig evaluated a prototype lighting and will be installing a test of 3 lights over the next several weeks. Based on how they perform, a total of up to 12 lights may be installed. If so, this will come back to the council in December.

Safety -

Peace & Justice/RIC - [Becky](#)

Per prior notes, RIC is planning to merge with Service and Missions. Meredith Smith expressed interest in representing RIC. The next SAM meeting is December 2, 2024. Perhaps it would make sense that I become the SAM council liaison in 2025?

Service & Missions -

Stewardship – [Fred](#)

Tech -

CDC