

**Christ the King Lutheran Church
Congregational Semi-annual Meeting
November 14, 2021**

The semi-annual Meeting was called to order at 9:58 AM by Molly Bodewes, the council president. The agenda was presented, and Wendy Gonzalez made a motion to approve the agenda. It was seconded by Susan Johnson and was approved.

The minutes from the May Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting were available online for everyone to review. Jigger Staby moved that the minutes be approved. It was seconded by Holly Langren and was passed.

Gary Rollstin gave a little talk to the congregation about the Mission Endowment Fund (MEF). He pointed out that MEF applications are in the back of the church or on the church website, where anyone could apply for an individual or organization to be considered for funding. He emphasized it is important that we make our wishes known as to how these funds should be used and the application is the communication tool to do this. The fund has about \$10,000 to give away this year.

Pastor Tim then gave us his thoughts that were based on the scripture from John 14. Pastor Tim, like Thomas, just doesn't know where we are going. Things have changed so drastically in the past 20 months. He suffered from being alone and not being able to see the faces of our members during the Pandemic. Our outside worship services helped. Then inside services started with big boards in the pews to keep us separated. Slowly even all this has changed. All these changes meant a lot of extra work for the staff and production volunteers. Pastor Tim is now beginning to feel that we are moving somewhere. We are not yet out of the Pandemic, and our congregation in the last 20 months has changed. Our young families have not yet come back to church, and we must find out how to minister to them. Thomas asked Jesus, "Where are we going." Jesus answered, "I am the Way. Follow me."

Pastor Tim feels in analyzing this important scripture that Prayer and Discipleship are the definitions of the Way. He thinks that he worries too much about his praying. Others have advised him that he shouldn't worry and analyze his prayers but should just do it. He feels that discipleship is very important in our church. It draws people in as their whole self. He advises that we all must join him in praying and must walk with him in discipleship especially this summer when he is gone on his renewal leave.

He then led us in a beautiful prayer stating that we didn't know exactly where we are going, but that we will try to follow Jesus.

Beth Stelz talked and presented slides from our 2021 year to date financial status and the 2022 budget on behalf of Treasurer Dan Graves who was away on vacation. She introduced all the current council members and talked about the duties of each of the M-

Teams. To promote communication between the council and the congregation the council members who were in attendance in the church stood up to make their faces known, and the others were recognized through Zoom.

She pointed out additional income sources above and beyond individual contributions by CtK members and friends. We receive \$10,000 rental income annually from the Family Center that occupies our downstairs. She suggested that all of us who buy through Amazon should assign our SMILE dollars to go to CtK. She suggested that all of us who shop at City Market should assign our Community Rewards beneficiary as CtK. Thrivent members can tap into the Action Team and Choice Dollar programs as ways to financially support church ministries. She will be glad to help each one of us fix our payment accounts so that these donations will happen automatically. We just need to call her to get the help.

Beth then opened everything up for anyone to ask questions.

Paul Plvan inquired about the percentage of salaries compared to total expenses. Paul estimated it to be over 60%. Following the meeting, Beth confirmed the compensation (including salaries and benefits) to be approximately 67% of total expenses.

Ann Duft asked about the \$50,000 transfer from our checking account to our investment account. Beth explained this \$50,000 was a movement to a higher interest bearing, yet liquid money market account. This transfer was not an indication the council would not be spending surplus funds. Ann prompted the idea of giving an additional benevolence to the Rocky Mountain Synod. Beth offered to present this idea to the Church Council at the next meeting.

Ann asked for a comparison of income between 2021 and the 2022 budgeted income. The underlying concern was the growth of the church, considering a decrease in income expectations between the 2021 and 2022 budgets. Following the meeting, Beth confirmed these numbers, as she estimated the amounts during the meeting. The below paragraph is a more thorough explanation to address the concern.

Although the 2022 budget is based on contributions being lower than the 2021 budget by \$15,424, this was based on a 2021 end of year income forecast of \$323,600. So the budget represents a 4% increase over anticipated contributions, or a \$13,000 increase in income. Another contributing factor to these decisions were total expenses year over year. The 2021 budget was based on expenses of \$370,924, while the forecast as of September 2021 indicates total expenses being much lower. This is not necessarily a reflection of decreased ministries, but a change in expenses and in some cases implementation of efficiencies. Another indication of the council planning on growth versus decline is the plan to reintroduce the Stephen Ministry Program

Ann Duff also asked that one of the pastor's reports put her on edge because our membership numbers seem to not be growing. She wondered what in this 2022 budget was doing to address this important issue. Beth turned the discussion over to council

member Gary Henschen to speak. Gary is the chairman for the Strategic Planning Committee that is actively working to address this issue. They are taking a very proactive position to get things moving again. He pointed out that there was a planning committee that will be announcing its work in January 2022 to develop “reviving” the congregation.

A motion was made by John Condie to approve the 2022 budget as proposed. Paul Pane seconded the motion, and it passed, with two members who were opposed.

Molly urged all of us to work on planning the growth of our congregation in 2022.

The closing prayer was led by Pastor Tim.

A motion to adjourn this meeting was made by Holly Langren and was seconded by Wendy Gonzales. The motion was passed.