



*Calvary's mission is to
lead all people to a lifelong faith
in Jesus Christ.*

Unapproved Council Minutes February 19, 2019

Members present: Pastor Hans, Sarah Suchy, Katie Rentschler, Bruce Luehmann, Deb Dittberner, Tyler Geyen, Jana Berndt, Kathy Hungness, and Jennifer Rentz

Members Absent: Bonnie Schnell and Marc Sugden

Pastor Hans led us in devotions relating to reaching people that no one else is reaching. The council engaged in a "getting to know" exercise to help us learn more about each other. President Deb Dittberner called the meeting to order and reviewed the agenda. There were no changes or additions to the agenda. An updated Constitution of the Calvary Evangelical Lutheran Church, internal controls policy, and 2019 Council roster was distributed to council members.

Strengthening Our Mission and Vision for Ministry

Worship: Worship statistics continue to climb! 500 more people worshipped at Calvary at Christmas compared to the previous year. From Thanksgiving to Christmas we saw an average weekly increase of 15% in worshippers compared to the same time a year ago. There was a 25% increase in the amount of people worshipping each week at Calvary from the start of the New Year to February 10th of 2019 compared to one year ago. The Faith for Life Speaker, Ryan Leak was well attended. Attendees had many positive comments regarding his presentation. The current worship theme is "Twisted." This theme is about Bible passages that are often misunderstood or misused.

The **Lenten** theme will be "The Ultimate Exodus" which is based on the Old Testament Exodus. The theme relates to the things that have us enslaved and how God wants us free. There will be two services on Wednesdays: 5:00 pm traditional Lenten service (was the former noon Lenten service) which we will utilize the Holden Evening Prayer liturgy and a 6:15 pm regular Wednesday worship. There will be a soup and sandwich meal from 4:15-6:00 pm as well.

There will be four **Easter** services: Saturday, April 20 at 6:00 pm, and Sunday, April 21 at 8:00 am (traditional), 9:30 am, and 11:00 am. Easter is falling late this year so we are expecting large attendance. Previously, when Easter was late we had over 800 people attend the 9:30 service alone and unfortunately people left because of the limited space. We will strongly encourage our regular attendees to attend one of the other services, rather than the 9:30 am service to accommodate the influx of more attendees at that time.

Reminder 95 days until Calvary at the Lake!

Connect: Next Steps gathering was February 10. 20 + people from this group joined Calvary. **Take Stock in our Youth** (shares) will be happening March 30-April 7. These "sales" will help kids attend the Houseboat trip this

summer. Registration for the Houseboat trip this summer has begun. Hochhalter's, Dahls, Jess Kriel, and Nicole Fetting have agreed to be chaperones. The Elevate **small groups** that have been meeting throughout the school year will try and meet once a month in the summer to keep the relationships going. Joanna Green will be working with the small groups leaders.

Serve: **Luther Crest Bible Camp** registration is open. **Calvary Preschool** registration continues. It is open to the public now. The preschool is about 2/3 full. The next **Backpack Attack** will occur on April 7 between services.

Supporting Our Mission and Vision

Consent agenda: Motion made, seconded and carried to approve the Consent Agenda. This consisted of January meeting minutes, annual congregational meeting minutes, January 27, 2019 meeting minutes, staff reports, and fund approvals. The fund approval was for \$1429.00 from Building Dedicated Fund for boiler valve and pump repairs.

Old Business:

Staffing: Search for the Executive Pastor continues to move forward. New classes will be offered at **Calvary Preschool**, including all day for 4-5 year olds. Calvary Preschool will be able to accommodate an additional class of students. There are posted positions for Preschool teachers and assistants. Check out more about our hiring and classes for the 2019 school year at calvaryalex.org/preschool. The one year **CYF Ministry Internship** position held by Joanna Green is soon to be expired. We discussed the CYF Ministry position. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve Joanna Green to a fulltime Coordinator of Children Youth and Family Ministry beginning April 1. We discussed the growing need for tech support and the future need for a tech support staff member.

Building Project: The Building Planning Team reports in three months we will hold the next congregational vote. RFP's was submitted to 4 builders, (Keeping in mind Calvary has a strong preference to keep the work local). The 4 builders were: Innovative Builders, Srock Construction, Tradesman Construction, and Nor Son. Tradesman Construction declined the RFP. Interviewing of the 3 builders will take place on 03/01/2019. Thanks to Tom Walholz for volunteering to help with the interview design. The interview team will consist of members of the BPT, Cory Hodgson and Jay Sieling; Financial team Brent Iserman; Craig Andrews from the congregation, Katie Rentschler, and Pastor Hans. After the builder has been selected the work to refine costs will begin and more precise design development with JLG will occur. A subset of user groups will help define needs in the specific areas.

The **Financial Feasibility Team** continues to meet. Financial Coach Tom Jolivette from Kairos & Associates is working with the Financial Feasibility Team to put together pieces/tools to help with the appeal. The congregational meeting to vote on the Phase Two building project to approve builder selection and refined costs and to begin the appeal will occur on May 19, 2019.

Calvary was approached by two property owners adjacent to the church who are planning to sell their property and inquired if Calvary was interested. This was discussed and no further action was taken.

New Business:

Composting proposal: Discussed Calvary being a site for organic composting. Pope Douglas Solid Waste received a grant that will help companies and organizations implement. Katie Rentschler has been in contact with them and explained that Pope Douglas Solid Waste supplies the containers, liners, signage, and weekly pickup. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to appoint Katie Rentschler (as part of operations) to implement organic composting on a limited trial basis until the end of the school year and then reevaluate the process.

Council meeting attendance was discussed per Calvary's constitution. **East and West Moe** churches are without a pastor and reached out to Calvary to see if we would consider partnering or providing leadership. We discussed and see this as a great opportunity once we secure an additional pastor, and could utilize Calvary members who are attending seminary. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve up to \$3000.00 for purchasing and installing **Sanctuary spotlights**, for which the dollars have been given by a member of the congregation already.

Treasurer's Report: Bruce shared the January financials. January was a great month and February is looking great as well. Motion was made, seconded, and carried to approve the January financials. As approved at the January Council meeting the building remodel and expansion dollars were moved into a separate money market account where the money can earn some interest.

Payroll Secondary Signers: Motion was made, seconded and carried to have Deb Dittberner as a secondary signer on payroll and update all officers on the bank account in April.

Top Three Takeaways: They will include celebrating worship attendance, building project update (May 19 vote, March 1 builder selection and preparing for the appeal), and preparation for a big Easter.

The meeting was adjourned. We closed in prayer. The next meeting date is March 19 at Bonnie's home.