

## **2023 Annual Meeting Minutes - North Buffalo Lutheran Church - Sunday Jan 28th, 2024**

The Annual Meeting was called to order by President Mark Fillbrandt at 10:25am and a quorum was met. Larry Anderson moved to accept the meeting agenda as presented, seconded by Loren Ingebretsen. **Motion Carried.**

Church Secretary Brian Kleespies read the minutes from the 2022 Annual Meeting. Vicki Anderson voted to approve the Secretary's minutes, seconded by Tracy Ellenbaum. **Motion Carried.**

### **Pastor's Report:**

Pastor Mark thanked Welca for their service throughout the year. He recognized the church council contributions, stating we had much better attendance, with a good year of both discussion and service. He recognized Tracy Ellenbaum's service as past Treasurer. He also recognized Alex Swanson for taking on the Treasurer's role and thanked Brian Kleespies for taking on the Secretary role. Additional thanks went to Sarah Edwards for taking on many functions throughout the year. A big thank you for the past committee members, and for such strong financial support from the congregation. This included overwhelming support on the roof funding. He stated that 2024 will greatly represent that North Buffalo is a welcoming church.

### **President's Report:**

President Mark Fillbrandt gave a heartfelt thank you to all that have helped on the Church Council and to the congregation for all that have been willing to participate in so many church functions. He said that great giving and support are a very big deal and that he appreciates it.

### **Financial Review:**

Larry Anderson and Loren Ingebretsen - Loren stated that after review, the church financial documentation was in good order and that, other than a few changes to the accounting software, everything looks great.

**Financial Statements:** Alex Swanson thanked Tracy Ellenbaum for helping him roll out the Treasurer's position and duties to make it easier to transition. He presented the budget and explained a few key points throughout. He mentioned the salary adjustments made for Pastor Mark's salary and that tax implications are the reason. He stated that the total dollar amounts come out correctly for the salary at the end. He stated that lawn care is always budgeted and can be a little low depending on fall weather. He reminded everyone that the Secretary's (paid) position was eliminated and thus why the dollars there are sitting at zero.

Additionally, Alex did mention that insurance came out around \$2000 over budget based on premium increases. Alex also mentioned that there were issues with the church accounting software (it had not been updated since 2018), and this was creating posting issues. He said he has since updated the program so this does not happen again in the future.

The summary for the year indicates a net profit of approximately \$16,000 for the year. He also stated that about \$70,000 has been invested into Certificates of Deposit, which will provide a bit of additional income going forward. The full budget and statements were available to the congregation.

Alex stated that the Orval Hurner fund has sat at around \$20,000, and because the council chose to take dollars out of it to invest in a CD, the total is showing as it does.

For the giving breakdown, he stated that there are approximately 92 total giving units at North Buffalo, with 27 not currently giving, but those 27 are also not active with the church currently. He also stated we had around \$3900.00 in unmarked cash, which could account for some of those 27 giving units.

A motion was made by Larry Anderson to accept the Treasurer's report, which was seconded by Vicki Anderson. **Motion Carried.**

Committee reports were listed within the annual report for the congregation. Pastor Mark asked that anyone with questions should contact any member of the committees for further information.

**Old Business:**

None

**New Business:**

Approval of the 2024 Annual Budget

Alex presented the General Budget report for 2024 with just a few items of note that were pointed out. Alex did mention that in line 42 they increased the amount by \$1000.00 to account for potential cost increases.

He stated that the council voted for three percent increases for each salary position except for Pastor Mark, who chose to not take an increase for the coming year.

A motion was made to approve the 2024 budget by Karen Harmonson, seconded by Charlie Brendemuhl. **Motion Carried.**

**Election of Church Council and Organization Representatives/Delegates:**

Sarah Edwards, Charlie Brendemuhl, and Loren Ingebretsen were nominated.

Paul Fossum made a motion that nominations cease and that a unanimous ballot be cast for the full slate of candidates to their respective positions, seconded by Larry Anderson. **Motion Carried.**

Loren Ingebretsen mentioned the sink in the basement that needs repair. Mark Fillbrandt stated that this will go to the property committee at the next council meeting.

Alex Swanson made motion to adjourn the annual meeting, seconded by Lorraine Dejong.  
**Motion Carried.**

The meeting was adjourned at **10:57am**. Pastor Mark led us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Brian Kleespies, Church Council Secretary