

## **Minutes of St. John Lutheran Church + Bingen Voters Assembly Meeting**

**Date and Time:** October 10, 2011, 8:00 p.m.

**Called to Order by:** President Lynn Selking

**Devotions:** Pastor Peter Brock opened with the “Early Evening ” prayers on page 297 of the LSB. The Hymn 707 “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” was followed by a reading from 1 Corinthians chapter 1. A prayer followed.

### **Recording Secretary’s Report:**

The July 11, 2011 Voters Meeting minutes were approved as presented.

The August 14, 2011 Special Voters Meeting minutes were approved as presented.

**Treasurer’s Report:** Delin Kleine reporting for Jay Witte presented the Treasurer’s report for the 9 months ending September 30, 2011 (attached). Through the first nine months of the year, contributions to Salaries and Maintenance were \$245,635.11. Expenses were \$396,008.25 resulting in a total short fall of \$132,476.65 or 14,719.62 per month. One year ago our deficit at this time was \$74,320.18. Currently, actual expenses are currently 4.7% under budgeted expenses. The \$132,476.65 shortfall is in addition to the \$27,728.10 carry over shortfall from 2010.

**M/S/C** To increase our borrowing capacity by \$30,000.00 for a total of \$150,000.00 with funds to be secured from the Henry Bultemeier and Herbert Mailand Estates

To date the congregation has received \$7,993.00 in Thrivent Choice funds. Delin summarized the current Thrivent program and encouraged all members to designate St. John – Bingen as the recipient of the gift.

Delin then presented the “Proposed Revision to the 2011 Budget”. Due to the following changes an update was necessary.

1. Pastor John Dreyer accepted a call to the Seminary reducing those salary, benefits and expenses.
2. Pastor Peter Brock was called to be pastor, which increased his salary and benefits.
3. The Church Secretary will no longer be donating her time and will draw the budgeted salary the last 4 months of the year.
4. Effective July 1, 2011 the mileage reimbursement rate increased to \$0.555 per mile.
5. The organ expense was greater due to paying the deductible from the lightning strike.
6. The approved parking lot sealing and repairs cost more than originally budgeted.

These changes reduce the budgeted expenses from \$528,011.00 to \$502,703.00. Based on these revised numbers and our current deficit, contributions through the last 3 months of the year will need to be \$265,000.00 to pay all of our expenses and balance the budget.

Tim Scheumann reported that once again the water tests at Wyneken have passed. Thus, the summer program of running water and flushing the system on a weekly basis seems to be correcting the issue. Therefore, a new well is no longer under discussion. Bingen currently has \$10,033.00 in the new well fund. Approximately, \$7,000.00 was from the scrap drive.

**M/S/C** To use the new well fund monies to help retire the 2010 deficit

**M/S/C** To accept the Treasurer's report as presented

**Financial Secretary's Report:** Delin Kleine presented the report for the 3rd quarter of 2011 (attached). Delin noted that in the third quarter Bingen received \$4,581.00 from the Thrivent Choice program. The Westfield claim was the amount paid on the carillon from the lightning strike. The insurance company paid us and we then paid for the new carillon. The scrap drive has raised \$2,900.00 to date and is ongoing. Total contributions thru the 3rd quarter were \$269,298.76. This is up approximately \$7,000.00 over 2010. However the budget for 2011 is larger.

**M/S/C** To accept the Financial Secretary's report as presented

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Peter Brock presented the membership changes since our last meeting (attached).

There were two adult confirmations – Daniel Griffin on July 24, 2011 and Timothy Rebber on July 31, 2011.

There were two affirmations of faith – Camille Marie Oetting on August 24, 2011 and Theresa Hammond on September 6, 2011.

There were seventeen baptisms – Camden Michael Selking and Anna Modjeska Geiger on July 31, 2011, Gracie May Berning on August 14, 2011, Jerod Douglas Rogers and Aimee Elizabeth Rogers on August 21, 2011, Jesse Michael Howard on September 4, 2011, Adalynn Rose Schreiber on September 11, 2011, Lukas Benjamin Bakle, Alexander Elijah Rogers, Braden Christopher Anderson, Amaya Marie Rogers, Nolan Wayne Rogers, Ellyanna Solena Rogers, Isabel Nichole Hammond and Natalie Marie Hammond on September 18, 2011, Raelee Evelyn Oetting on September 25, 2011 and Alisha Ann Berning on October 2, 2011. There was one marriage – Marissa Scheumann and Matthew Feipel on September 24, 2011. One member was transferred to her eternal glory – Julia Ann McDougal on August 7, 2011.

**M/S/C** To accept Dean Hoffman and son Jonis as members transferring from St. John, Flatrock, Monroeville, IN

**M/S/C** To accept Andrew Gavrun and wife Jessica as members transferring from Immanuel, Waterloo, IA

**M/S/C** To grant a 1 year associate membership for the following field workers – Seth DeBartolo, Joshua Woelmer, Matthew Jukola and Jennette Morrisson

**M/S/C** To transfer Donald Schueler, wife Amy and children Brandon and Benjamin to St. Paul, Fort Wayne, IN

**M/S/C** To transfer Grace Strahm and children Joshua Wauchek and Kason to Trinity, Fort Wayne, IN

**M/S/C** To transfer Pastor John M. Dreyer to Shepherd of the City, Fort Wayne, IN

**M/S/C** To transfer Joel Yoquelet wife Dawn and children Madison and Preston to Bethlehem, Ossian, IN

**M/S/C** To grant Doug Schieferstein a peaceful release at his request

As of October 10, 2011 there were 810 souls and 642 communicants.

Pastor welcomed Andrew and Jessica Gavrun as our organist and choir and hand-bell directors. The Mission Festival II was held on September 11, 2011 with Professor John Pless as the guest Preacher. Thanks to the Evangelism Committee and Lynn Selking for help with the balloon release, refreshments and special mission presentation. The festival in the grove was well

attended. Special thanks to the Selking family for the donation of the calf, Richard Hoffman for roasting it, Roger and Fay Koenemann for the homemade ice cream, the youth group for the cotton candy and the social committee for organization, set-up and tear down.

On September 18, 2011 a congregational study was held on Woman suffrage.

The field worker assignment service was held on September 26, 2011. Installation service was October 2, 2011. For 2011-2012, Bingen was assigned Seminarian Matthew Jukola from Denver, CO and Deaconess Jennette Morrison from Des Moines, IA. Also returning are Seminarians Seth DeBartolo and Joshua Woelmer.

The first Sunday of every month is Baptismal Remembrance. We will remember the Baptismal birthday of every member in the Church service and those 8<sup>th</sup> grade or younger during the Sunday school opening in the Parrish Hall.

October 30, 2011 is Reformation Sunday with both services festival Divine Services.

The Advent Season will again include the Divine Service, setting IV and the Morning Prayer liturgies.

This year will include midweek Advent services on Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. featuring the "Songs of Christmas". There will be special music at the services featuring the Adult Choir, Wyneken Choir and Hand bell Choir. Prior to the service at 6:50 p.m. will be a hymn sing.

The Service of the Sacrament will be offered after the Advent Evening Prayer.

The Youth group has had several activities and more are planned. On August 13, 2011, they attended the Deep River Water Park. At the August 28, 2011 BAG night the newspaper recycling shed was emptied. The youth thanks all members who donated their papers. There were BAG nights on September 11, 2011 and October 9, 2011. On September 25, 2011 the youth volunteered at Woodcrest Nursing home. There were many favorable comments from the staff and residents.

In response to a question regarding the current distribution method for Holy Communion, in which the Pastor dismisses everyone from the Lord's Table after all have communed, Pastor explained that the only feedback he has personally received from the members thus far has been positive. Pastor then encouraged any members with questions or concerns about the distribution practice to contact him or one of the elders.

**Elders' Report:** Phil DeBolt reported on the proposed "Youth and Family Life Coordinator" position, which will provide help for Pastor Brock. St. Paul, Preble and Zion, Friedheim have been contacted about sharing this individual. The Elders and the Church Council of these two congregations have expressed positive comments and are interested in pursuing this. There may be some possibility of a Lutheran Foundation grant to help with the salary.

Phil then reported that Andrew and Jessica Gavrun have accepted the Music Director position on a temporary basis through the end of the year. The Gavrun's wanted to make sure that they could handle the workload prior to making a permanent commitment.

**Trustees' Report:** Lucas Lepper reported that Fred Sauer has fixed the roof leak near the steeple.

**Deacons' Report:** No Report

**Wyneken School Board:** Tim Scheumann reported that the new health plan for the teachers is on track to become effective as of January 1, 2012.

There are 185 students in kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. With 42 students in pre-kindergarten, total enrollment is 227.

Tim then reported that a web-based program called RenWeb would be used to communicate grades to parents on an ongoing basis.

Next Tim reported that Wyneken would be advertising the snow removal contract for those that are interested.

The Board has changed the policy from 5 years to 8 years on the required time a teacher needs to have completed their Colloquial studies. This is because the study program is now 8 years. Tim then reported that the School board has been made aware that some of the activities we have as an Association such as 50/50 raffle and the Indiana Gaming Commission regulates other similar fund raising activities. In order to be in compliance, the PTL is recommending the Association get a license that covers this type of low-end gaming. This would allow us to continue with our fund raising activities without concern. Todd McBride "PTL President" has been researching this over the past few months. If a license is needed, there will be a portion of the Association By Laws that will need amended. The wording for that will be proposed at the next Association meeting in August of 2012.

**St. John's Board of Education:** Fred Kunkel reported that Sunday school is going well.

**Board of Stewardship:** David Caston reported that Board is meeting and discussing the current deficits along with some new ideas. Among these are an all member canvas, stewardship programs, etc. The board is looking for additional ideas and any feedback is welcome.

**The Planning Board:** No Report

**Board of Evangelism:** No Report

**Wills Committee:** No Report

**Cemetery Committee:** No Report

**Lutheran Laymen's League and Lutheran Hour:** Mike Fifer reported on the fall rally of the Lutheran Laymen's League held on October 9, 2011 at 3:00 p.m. at Zion Lutheran Church Friedheim. The speaker was Pastor Keller who ministers to the Burmese in Fort Wayne. The orphan grain train collection that was taken up in the spring was very good and will be distributed in the country of Georgia. A rule change concerning the congregational ambassadors (representatives) to the LLL circuit states that not only must they be a congregational member; they must also be an LLL donor. The Lutheran Hour sign in the Bingen grove has been refurbished on one side. The group would still like it to be two sided. Mike told them that they need to contact Bingen for approval of this.

The spring rally is to be held at St. John's, Flatrock on April 15, 2012 pending their approval

**Men's Activities Committee:** No Report

**Lutheran Foundation:** Lynn Selking announced that he appointed Teegen Brock to the Board. Pastor Brock reported that the church is trying to take advantage of the funds and grants that are available.

**Old Business:**

Recording Secretary Jeff Kiess presented and read the "Proposed Constitution Amendment" (attached) to Article V of the Constitution of St. John Lutheran Church that was presented and read in the July 11, 2011 Voters meeting. Thus complying with Article XIII of the Constitution of St. John Lutheran Church page 12, which states that an amendment is to be read and discussed at a regular Voters meeting and then voted on at the next regular Voters meeting.

President Lynn Selking called for a ballot vote.

Pastor Brock reminded the Voters Assembly of what had been explained and discussed at the Congregational Study regarding Woman Suffrage, noting that God's Word neither commands nor forbids the suffrage of women in the modern Voters' Assembly. Pastor then explained that because the St. John Constitution requires a majority vote of two-thirds of the members present, an abstaining vote would therefore count as a "no" vote for practical purposes. Because of this, and to be consistent with Holy Scripture's silence on the matter and the pastoral commitment to offer only what Holy Scripture offers, Pastor Brock excused himself from the room.

President Lynn Selking then called for a quorum. There were 48 voting members present; therefore passage of the amendment requires 32 votes in favor of.

President Lynn Selking reported that the vote was 40 yes and 8 no. Therefore the Constitutional amendment passed.

Recording Secretary Jeff Kiess presented and read the "Proposed By-Law Amendment" (attached) to Article III, Duties of Officers, St. John Congregational Board of Education, of the By-Laws of St. John Lutheran Church.

President Lynn Selking then called for a quorum. There were 48 voting members present; therefore passage of the amendment requires 32 votes in favor of.

President Lynn Selking reported that the vote was 36 yes and 3 no. Therefore the By-Law amendment passed.

Upon passage of the amendments it was noted that under the bylaws of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod 2.4.1 (a) A member congregation which revises its constitution or by laws or adopts a new constitution of bylaws shall, as a condition to continued eligibility as a member of the Synod, submit such revised or new constitution and /or bylaw to the district president and 2.4.1 (d) Upon favorable action by the district board of directors, the congregation shall be notified that the changes are acceptable to the Synod and that the congregation is entitled to continue to function as a member of the Synod in good standing under the new or changed constitution or bylaws. Furthermore, 2.4.2 A copy of the signed constitution shall be forwarded to the secretary of the district. Acceptance by the district board of directors shall be reported to the next regularly scheduled convention of the district.

**New Business:**

**M/S/C** To appoint the following individuals to the Nominating Committee: Lynn Selking, Roger Koenemann, Fritz Bultemeyer, Roger Hormann, Don Gresley and Lloyd Brenneke.

**M/S/C** To appoint the following individuals to the Church lighting Committee: Roger Hormann, Rick Johnson, Kenton Kleine, Chris Mahlan and Jan Witte

**M/S/C** To name Mike Fifer (with Robert Thorn as alternate) circuit forum representative and a lay delegate to the Indiana District Convention

**M/S/C** To Adjourn at 9:38 p.m.

The Lord's Prayer was prayed in unison and Pastor Brock gave the Benediction and Blessing.

**Members Present:** 49

**Others Present:** 5

Respectfully Submitted  
Jeffery L. Kiess