

**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church
16150 E El Lago Blvd, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
Council Minutes for May 23, 2023**

President Erich Korsten called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m. with himself, Pastor Jeff Teeples, Dennis Johnson, Dan Beck, Caroline Meyer in person, and Daryl Stemm, Mike Peterson and Donna Hawkinson via Zoom. Guests were Debbie Vinopal, Marcia Schrage, and Matthew Frable.

Pastor Jeff opened with a prayer and devotion. Pentecost Sunday coming up this Sunday, reminded him to use the good news Peter shared from Acts 2:17-21 as our devotion today; "I will pour out my spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, you old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy..." The Holy Spirit is the gift we celebrate on Pentecost.

April minutes were reviewed. Dennis' name was included twice in being in attendance. Donna will remove one of the names. Dennis Johnson made a motion to approve the April minutes. Dan Beck seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion to approve the April minutes was approved.

Marcia Schrage joined us today to review the Strategic Values Statement for "Accidental Values" and the meaning of our church logo. Pages one through four were approved at the March meeting, but Caroline made a motion to approve pages 1-5. Dan seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving pages 1 – 5 for publication. The meaning of the church's logo was reviewed and recommendations were made to change a few minor items. Final editing will be done at the May 24 SPC meeting. After that review, the council will approve page 6 via email. The "Get Connected" class being held on June 11th will use this document to share what SOTH is about. Pastor also has two sermon series planned for July to review the Aspirational Values and a 6-week series will begin in September to review the Core Values of SOTH. The values document information will also be added to the church website, copies will be available on back tables in church and on the welcome cart for visitors, and Pastor is planning an adult education series to cover these values in more detail this fall. SPC will begin to re-review the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats and will continue to review the remainder of the summer.

Daryl Stemm gave a Finance update. Offerings were good in April thanks to one large donation. We are now at 19.8 weeks cash flow which is good as we go into the slower giving months of summer. The Finance Committee discussed liquidating about \$60,000 to move into our checking account to cover the additional expenditures we will experience this summer with the 5-project fund and the lower attendance & giving we experience during these coming months. They will take the funds from stocks & bonds that have the highest risk. See below for a list of those bonds we will cash in. We'd be recognizing about an \$18,000 loss, but it reduces the risk of a greater loss at a later date. After dissolving these bonds, about three-quarters of our investment monies will be in money markets which are currently bearing over 4% interest and are a much safer risk. Donna made a motion to approve the Finance Committee's decision to sell the investments. Dennis seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion was carried. Daryl is looking to add two people to the Finance Committee. Nothing definitive for new members of the committee.

Debbie gave an admin update.

- We've been having issues with ProPresenter the last couple of Sundays stemming from changes to systems in the sound/video booth area.
- June 19 is the start of the carpet replacement, and July 10 for upholstery upgrade.
- Janitor update – Kristy and Todd Marweg have resigned due to health reasons and relocation. Amanda Sexton and her husband, Scott, have been hired to replace them.
- Paul Oman painting event location was discussed. It was suggested to use the Nursery, and moving a few toys to Parlor.
- Rachel Clausen requested the use of Rooms 5/6 for another Healing Strong class beginning in November. As well, she requested that Claire Morley continues the class that was to end in May to continue on through October. Healing Strong doesn't have liability insurance, and outside organizations are required to have up to \$1 million in liability coverage. The Council agreed that since Rachel is a member of the church, we would not require the additional liability coverage.

Erich shared that there is an LCMC annual gathering October 1 – 4, 2023 in St Charles, MO. Erich wanted to know if we should send someone to attend. Pastor Jeff shared that it is an opportunity to network with other LCMC pastors and members to get views on how they are handling issues of the church of today. Numerous presentations and teaching sessions are also included for \$230 for early registration. Flights are about \$350. Dan made a motion to send Pastor Jeff and Erich Korsten to the conference. Caroline seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion was carried.

The next meeting is June 19 for executive meeting to set the agenda for the regular council meeting held on June 27th at 9:00 a.m. Dan will be absent for the next meeting due to surgery.

Dan made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Caroline seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion was carried. The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna Hawkinson

Recording Secretary

Approved June 27, 2023

Monthly Financial Review

April 30, 2023						
	Current Month			Year-to-Date		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
INCOME						
Offerings	\$68,776	\$50,250	\$18,526	\$228,071	\$246,050	(\$17,979)
Total Income	\$76,220	\$56,320	\$19,900	\$254,743	\$270,366	(\$15,623)
Missions	\$7,004	\$5,025	(\$1,979)	\$22,933	\$24,605	\$1,672
Operating Income	\$69,216	\$51,295	\$17,921	\$231,810	\$245,761	(\$13,951)
EXPENSE	\$52,117	\$50,575	(\$1,542)	\$206,813	\$202,361	(\$4,452)
NET INCOME	\$17,099	\$720	\$16,379	\$24,997	\$43,400	(\$18,403)

Stress Test	4/30/2023	
Current Assets	\$634,767	
Minus Current Liab	\$393,629	
Net	\$241,138	
Expense per week	\$12,165	Based on 2023 actuals
# of weeks	19.8	

	Current
Major Maintenance	\$56,790
5 Project Fund	\$54,676
Fidelity Investment	\$545,622

Notes:

Giving/income over budget ~\$18,500
 Expenses versus budget:
 Insurance < budget ~\$1,100
 Compensation/benefits > budget ~\$1,500

Property < budget ~\$1,700
 Worship > budget ~\$1,700

Notes:

Giving/income under budget ~\$18,000
 Expenses versus budget:
 Comp/benefits > budget ~\$3,400
 Office expenses > budget ~\$1,200

Property (maintenance) < budget ~\$7,100
 Worship (sound) > budget ~\$3,300

Music > budget ~1,700

Message Themes May 28, 2023 – November 2023

Pentecost Begins				
May 28	The Days of Elijah	Acts 2:1-21 1 Kings 18:30-39 John 7:37-39	9:30	Pentecost Sunday
Out of the Salt Shaker and Into the World				
June 4	Team Redemption	Genesis 1:1-2:3 Psalm 8 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 Matthew 28:16-20	9:30	Trinity Sunday
June 11	Team Healing	Hosea 5:15-6:6 Romans 4:13-25 Matthew 9:9-13	9:30	
June 18	Team Light	Exodus 19:2-8 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35-10:8	9:30	Father's Day
June 25	Lost and Found	Jeremiah 20:7-13 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:10-31	9:30	
Discipleship Goals, What We at SOTH Aspire to Be				
July 2	Get To	Jeremiah 28:5-9 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42	9:30	
July 9	Be the Living Church	Zechariah 9:9-12 Romans 7:14-25a Matthew 11:25-30	9:30	
July 16	Experience Good	Isaiah 55:10-13 Romans 8:12-17 Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	9:30	
July 23	An Active Witness	Isaiah 44:6-11 Romans 8:18-27 Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	9:30	
Jesus Meets You				
July 30	Love Beyond Reason	Deuteronomy 7:6-9 Romans 8:28-39 Matthew 13:44-52	9:30	Pastor Jeff Gone
August 6	A Lesson in Leftovers	Isaiah 55:1-5 Romans 9:1-5	9:30	

		Matthew 14:13-21		
August 13	Calms the Storm	Job 38:4-18 Romans 10:5-17 Matthew 14:22-33	9:30	
August 20	That Woman	Isaiah 56:1, 6-8 Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32 Matthew 15:21-28	9:30	
August 27	Upon This Rock	Isaiah 51:1-6 Romans 11:33-12:8 Matthew 16:13-20	9:30	
The Values That Inform Who We Are and What We Do.				
Sept 3	Purposeful Living	Jeremiah 15:15-21 Romans 12:9-21 Matthew 16:21-28		Labor Day WKND SOTH Mission
Sept 10	Spunk and Grit	Ezekiel 33:7-11 Romans 13:8-14 Matthew 18:15-20		Generations Sunday SOTH "What We Do"
Sept 17	We Grace It Up	Genesis 50:15-21 Psalm 103:1-13 Matthew 18:21-35		We live from God's forgiveness so our joy spills over to others
Sept 24	We Are Christ Centered	Isaiah 55:6-9 Philippians 1:21-30 Matthew 20:1-16		We exist to grow Christ's kingdom in our lives and His world.
Oct 1	We Glorify God	Psalm 25:1-9 Philippians 2:1-13 Matthew 21:23-32		Our worship is sacred, participatory, and musical.
Oct 8	Life Is Better Connected	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 Psalm 1 Matthew 22:34-40		We connect people to God and one another.
Oct 15	Costly Grace	Isaiah 25:6-9 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14		Christ parable defining costly grace.
Oct 22	Responsive Faith	Psalm 96:1-9 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22		Stewardship and Giving
Oct 29	Strengthening Your Grip	Daniel 6:10-12, 16-23 Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36		Reformation Sunday

Missions:

- At the end of April we have \$41,299.38 (for some reason I have \$10,000 more than that, but I will check with Roger next week). Regardless we are paying our commitments.
- Tithings for April were awesome \$7003.69 (April 2022 \$4341). That is great as we start going into the summer months.
- We received the 300 blankets that say HOPE on them. They were given to Paz (150), Friends feeding Friends (60) Grace Lutheran (30). The other 60 are yet to be decided as we wanted to get feedback.
- Pastor Jeff Teeples put together a great article- “A Passion for Mission”, for Pastor Bill Moberly news letter. I sent you a copy along with other mission updates recently. This article might be worthwhile to put out for others to read?
- Pastor Jeff Johnson who brought forward a new grant in December for the English’s from Africa. They will be here on June 25th doing the Adult Education.

Memorials:

Your request to see if we possible had any money that loved ones would like to put towards the Paint by Number Nativity Scene by Paul Oman. I gather it might cost about \$3000 and we possible have a \$500 commitment to that.

- We presently have committed \$2000 from loved ones accounts.
- There is still \$2078 that I am waiting to hear about.
- Plus there is \$1135 that was moved to Altar guild projects but that is up to Donna.

Columbarium: Harlan (Barney) Behrens died 4/14/2023. His wife Joan died in 2010 and both loved SOTH. Their daughter Leigh will be letting Pastor Jeff know when she wants to place her father’s ashes in the Columbarium. Sold a niche to Greg & Janet Evans; moved their son Scott to a niche closer to the one they bought.

Scholarships: Two scholarships were awarded to past performers in our annual Talent Shows; Daniel Quan will attend Arizona Christian University with a major in Biology, and Erin Schumacher will attend Belmont University with a major in voice this coming fall.

Property Report, by Dan Beck

Church Repairs

- Mr Handyman came back on May 12 and replaced all but one of the weather stripping on the large double doors to the brush style. The air gaps are now gone between the doors. We

worked on all the door closers, they are now all working correctly. They will come back on May 30th to do the last door, which is the office door.

- The door by the sound booth, the hydraulic door closer start to leak hydraulic fluid out of the back cover plate. I am looking for a replacement now.
- Education Building door frame on Room 1 is now primed and painted and the other 3 doors are now all painted. I need to come back and touch up a few spots on the doors.
- Another large water leak was repaired behind the bench by the circle drive and several large leaks in the South end of the circle.
- The Fire Inspection was done by ADT on 5-22 and we passed. We asked if more alarms and flashing lights could be added to the Youth room and the Education building. There is only one fire alarm in the Fellowship Hall kitchen. The tech put in a request to have someone come out to see what it would take to include the Education building because the cable would have to run underground and the sidewalk. The Fellowship Hall may be able to be added to the existing line coming in from the nursery.
- The Fellowship Hall women's toilet tank was rebuilt because it was leaking and not filling correctly.
- The Fellowship Hall back door handle is now fixed, JB Weld was used to repair the stripped out screw holes.
- The miscellaneous tools, screws and nails in the Fellowship Hall cabinet, by the coffee machine, were all moved to the storage closet by the lawnmower.

Lloyd and I started working on the riser repairs for the piano. They need to be done before the carpeting is installed.

Fellowship Hall Acoustical Panels

The Acoustical Panels for the Fellowship Hall are scheduled to be installed, starting on May 29th.