

Council Meeting Highlights

Here are highlights from our October Council Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, October 17th.

Senior Pastor: The Circuit Reformation Service will be October 29th at 4:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran in Hamilton. This is the last day before Pastor Sandserfeld retires.

Pastor Carlson: His office hours are Tuesday & Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Deaconess: All is going well in Mexico.

Treasurer:

- At the end of September the General Fund balance was \$21,668.94 and the Special Account Fund balance was \$153,041.89.
- Offerings were down \$8,239.48.

Old Business:

- South Avenue Corridor Project Standing Committee: Grace House has not rented yet.
- It was moved to have First Lutheran Church sponsor Night to Shine with Quentin Rhoades to serve as coordinator.

New Business:

- If audio equipment for Fellowship Hall is not found, will replace it for about \$400.
- Looking for members to serve on 2023-2024 Annual Audit Committee.

Elders:

- Elders have new lists and will be sending out contact cards.
- Night to Shine has raised half of the money needed and a third of the volunteers needed.
- Christmas Eve Services will be held at 10:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. this year.

School Board: They are looking for volunteers for snow removal.

Properties Board:

- Replaced washing machine downstairs.
- Prepping Pantry before new flooring.
- Looking to raise funds for Fellowship Hall flooring. The cost is about \$23,000.

Stewardship Board:

- The income for the first two Sundays in October was down.
- Eleven charities will be supported for our Special Offerings.
- Looking for boards to share needs with the Stewardship Board.

Community Outreach Board: Website development continuing.

Fellowship Board:

- November 12th will be the Veteran's Dinner.
- November 19th we will have pies during fellowship time. Looking for people to provide pies.
- Advent Soup Suppers will begin on December 6th.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 21st, at 7:30 p.m.

Special Offering Recipient

Teen Challenge (aka Adult and Teen Challenge)

First Lutheran members have selected Teen Challenge as a share recipient of non-Sunday offerings for 2023-24. This organization works to end the cycle of addiction through their faith-based Comprehensive Approach to recovery.

Residential Recovery – Their long-term Residential Recovery program helps women become mentally sound, emotionally balanced, socially adjusted, physically well, and spiritually alive.

Vocational Training – Training opportunities for students with real-world experience and instill biblical principles into their daily lives.

Outreach – They believe in getting outside the walls of their center to serve their community and spread the new-found hope.

Behavioral Health – Life Renewal offers students and community clients innovative and effective Christ-centered behavioral health services that opens the door for freedom from addictive patterns.

Two members attended the Night of Hope 2023 and witnessed the testimonies of 3 persons whose lives were changed by Adult and Teen Challenge. Two described their lives of addiction and hopelessness and all that has transpired since they found Jesus and sobriety. One described her mother's journey and her returning home to teach them about Jesus and changing their lives consequently. These members are rejoicing that our church will be supporting this wonderful program and will share the success of the person they are sponsoring as the year progresses.