

**Lord of the Mountains  
Church Council Meeting  
Tue, Jan 9, 2024**

*In Attendance:* Christy Reinking, Craig Bolt, Alicia Dunn, Pastor Kate, Ben Little, Lydia Ziauddin, Catheryn Carlson, Ruth Hendricks, Kevin Clarke; *Excused:* Amie Branson, Jay Meservy, Doug Muschett

Meeting began at 5:36 pm. Lydia opened with a poem "Begin with Beloved" for Epiphany.

December minutes were approved.

*Pastor Kate* celebrates a successful Christmas season, thanked all who sent reports for the annual meeting, and shared that she is going to Denver tomorrow to open the state legislative session in prayer. Table Talks this month will be about the ELCA Human Sexuality Social Statement followed by a LGBTQIA+ panel discussion on Feb 11. Pr Kate will be on vacation starting Jan 27 and in a continuing education class "Recreation and Revelation" the first week of Feb. Lydia and Darlene will each serve as supply preacher (1/28 and 2/4).

*2024 Budget/Spending Plan:* While the stewardship campaign received 6 new pledges, we have 11 fewer overall pledges this year (from 68 to 57). We have a projected deficit of \$49K, continuing to draw on the reserve fund. We will need \$5400 more to offer a 3% staff increase. Council discussed sending a letter to the congregation, drafted by treasurer Catheryn to invite members to consider increasing their pledges so that we have a more sustainable trajectory (smaller deficit) and can provide increase to staff. Discussion ensued about additional ways to increase income, promote the congregation, and invite people into our open and affirming church. Council will have an electronic vote after the finance committee meets again.

*Personnel Committee:* A combined job description for "music director and accompanist" has been drafted and will be sent out.

*Worship and Music:* Committee celebrates meaningful and successful Christmas services

Alicia offered to take minutes at the Annual Meeting on Jan 21.

Council expresses thanks to outgoing council member Christy Reinking for the blessing she is and the gifts she offers to the congregation.

The next council meeting will take place on Feb 13. This meeting closed in prayer at 6:50 pm.

The 2024 Spending plan was unanimously approved by Council in an email vote on January 18.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lydia Ziauddin