

**Calvary Lutheran Church
Annual Meeting
January 29th, 2025**

Welcome – Jessica Gromer< Council President welcomed congregational members to the Annual Meeting.

Quorum – Was established by Church Council (minimum 50 members).

Devotion – Provided by Deacon Tom Martin

Approval of Agenda – Motion made by Sara Odden, 2nd from the congregational floor. Approved unanimously.

Approval of 2024 Minutes – Motion made from congregational floor, 2nd by Joey Younie. Approved unanimously.

Presidents Report – Jessica Gromer provided a brief recap of her letter but expressed thanks to the congregation, staff, and council for support during her tenure. Jessica closed as excited to hand over the leadership and expressed confidence in the new council team.

Call Committee – Jon Johnson – Jon reminded us of all that our search began in June which to many of us feels a long time ago, but he reminded all that it has been in fact only 7 months. In 2024 4 candidates were interviewed without success in finding a match for our church. Already in 2025, a new candidate has shown interest and again interviews are taking place. Jon reminded all that new leaders may respond to our posting through the ELCA or perhaps be found through recommendation of the congregation. Jon thanked the congregation for their involvement noting that over 40 names had been forwarded to the committee for consideration and vetting. Lastly the call committee understands the competitive nature of the process as currently there are over 30 churches in South Dakota with leadership openings.

Financials – Martin Kerkenbush – Martin started by thanking everyone for support and noting this was his last year on the church council. He provided acknowledgement to the Finance Committee and its members in helping provide steering to the church.

Final Operating Incomes were \$911,135 or a positive +\$56,735 over budget.

Final Operating Expenses were \$811,381 or below budget (\$43,019)

Resulting in a positive year. Church member generosity was significant and well timed as the following expenses were incurred in and paid for out of the MIF Money Market Account. Golden West (\$30,081) and Roof Repairs (\$101,700). Additional key expenses paid for out-of-church checking included the following. Oven for kitchen (\$12,849), Restaurant supply items (\$1,321), Signs/lights (\$3,392), and the elevator (\$2,602). Good news shared is that we have operating funds and we were able to work through expenses as the year progressed. Putting ourselves in a strong position entering 2025.

2025 Operating Budget requested as \$855,973 for the coming year (monthly average \$71,331).

Motion was made from the congregational floor to accept and was seconded by Julie Richter.

Approved unanimously.

2025 Constitutional Approval – Jessica shared that all proposed changes were in alignment with the ELCA. Jessica reminded congregational members that copies have and are available at the church. Approval requires a simple majority. Motion to approve made by Julie Richter, and 2nd by Matt Odden. Constitutional approval met the majority requirement and passed.

Endowment Distribution Report - Matt Odden - Matt provided fund totals that currently represent the CLC Endowments as of 12/31/24. ELCA Endowment Fund \$532,654.86, BH Community Foundation \$16,217.53, and SD Community Foundation \$1,175.48. Endowment recommended that 5% of the ELCA Endowment Fund be utilized and provided recommended distribution percentages in the following categories and activities. In ELC Support - 25% - 12.5% to Lutheran Social Services and 12.5% to Outlaw Ranch. In Community Outreach in SD -25% - 12.5% to Church Response and 12.5% - to One Heart Campus. In CLC Distribution Requests – 50% - 18.77% to High School Mission Trip, 15.39% to confirmation, 8.7% to Summer Camp Scholarships, 5.63% to Youth Ministry Camp, and 1.5% to High School Winter retreat.
Recommendation to re-invest at both BH Community and SD Community Foundations.
A Motion to accept Endowment Committee recommendations was made by Martin Kerkenbush, 2nd from the congregational floor. Passed unanimously.

Committee Nominations and Approvals – The following congregational members were presented and approved though vote by the congregation for the following committees.

Church Council – Cindy Kinzley, Jayne Kraemer, Rodney Rice, and Zach Finley

Nominating Committee – Jessica Gromer, Martin Kerkenbush, and Sonny Magnuson (Jessica and Martin satisfy Calvary by-law’s requirement of 2 former Council Members on this committee).

Endowment Committee- Beth-Anne Ferley, Laura Davies, and Debra Niemi

Synod Delegates – Malcolm Chapman, Bill Eldridge, Steve Helmers, Cindy Kinzley, Jo Prang, Julie Richter, and Lois Wuesterwald

All votes were determined by simple majority and all candidates were elected.

Outgoing Recognition of Service –

Church Council – Jessica Gromer (6 years), Martin Kerkenbush (6 years), Dan Kueker (3 years), and Mark Massa (2 years).

Endowment Committee – Matt Odden, Jennifer Baloun, and Ed Toms

Joey Younie presented plagues to both Jessica and Martin who were in attendance.

Motion to adjourn made by Jennifer Baloun, and 2nd by Bill Eldridge. Approved Unanimously.

Deacon Tom Martin conducted the closing prayer.