

MINUTES of the Church Council Meeting held on Monday evening, April 17,  
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1961 at seven o'clock.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman, Mr. B. K. Schaefer, and opened with prayer by Pastor Neibacher.

Before proceeding with the regular order of business, the Chairman welcomed all Voters who were present, and stated that the purpose of the combined Church Council - Voters meeting was to adopt a new corporate name for the Congregation, a matter which would be taken up at 7:30 o'clock when the Church Council would suspend its meeting for the consideration of the foregoing matter.

The minutes of the March meeting were accepted as read, after the insertion of an omission regarding the Lutheran Child Welfare Association 75th anniversary service to be held on Sunday, May 7th.

Following the reading of the minutes, the Chairman announced the receipt and formal dedication of a private communion set, an Altar service book and a Pulpit bible, all of which had been presented to our Congregation, and expressed the thanks of the Church Council for these gifts.

Pastor Neibacher reported on the following:

1. The custom of designating our annual Welfare Sunday, in connection with which he suggested Mothers' Day, Sunday, May 14, which the Church Council unanimously approved;
2. That the Lutheran Child Welfare Association would hold its 75th anniversary service at Saint Luke's on Sunday, May 7th, 1961 at four o'clock in the afternoon, at which the Reverend Dr. Martin Scharlemann would preach; also that all available ushers should please confer with Mr. Jean Baridon;  
evening
3. An increased attendance at our earlier/mid-week Lenten Services, despite several unfavorable weather conditions on several Wednesday evenings, and his recommendation that the earlier hour be considered again next year;
4. Introduced Mr. Frederick W. Adams to the Church Council and Voters present and recommended his acceptance as a Voting Member. After a motion duly made and seconded, Mr. Adams was unanimously received into Voting Membership;
5. Welcomed Pastor Reuning to the combined Church Council - Voters meeting;

At the conclusion of Pastor Neibacher's report, the Chairman announced that the Church Council meeting would suspend temporarily for the purpose of proceeding with the Voters' Meeting, and that in addition to the change-of-name to be considered, that the matter of formally designating Mr. John W. Lengemann as an honorary elder would also be brought before the Voters' meeting.

After a brief discussion, a motion was duly made seconded and unanimously carried that our corporate name be changed to "Saint Luke's Lutheran Church" effective immediately, and that the necessary procedural matters and the acquisition of a new corporate seal be attended to.

After a further brief discussion and the reading

proposed of the/resolution which is annexed to these minutes and made a part thereof, a motion was duly made, seconded and unanimously carried that the title of Honorary Elder be conferred upon Mr. John W. Lengemann. (Secretary's note: following the adoption of this resolution, the title was reconsidered and after due deliberation, it was agreed that the title of "Elder Emeritus" in place of "Honorary Elder" should be conferred on Mr. Lengemann, with the revised resolution being considered adopted and placed on file with these minutes.

In view of the importance of the matter, it was requested that these minutes indicate that Mr. Walter Schussler made the motion and that Mr. Quentin Baltera seconded the motion whereby our corporate name was changed.

At the conclusion of the foregoing matters, the Chairman stated that there was no other or further business to be presented to the Voters, whereupon the Voters' meeting was adjourned with an expression of thanks from the Chairman for their attendance and participation in the disposition of the foregoing two matters, both of which, he stated, were of major importance in the church history of our Congregation.

The meeting of the Church Council thereupon resumed with Mr. Thomas Schaub, a Voting Member, present as a special guest and consultant on the matter of the proposed renovation of the Sunday School rooms.

Mr. Schaub submitted the following estimates, all of which were stated to be only tentative and approximate and subject to further study and consideration:

Approximately \$5,100. for electric wiring, new electric lights and acoustical ceiling; Approximately \$8,500. to \$9,500. for a fifteen-ton air conditioning unit, (the additional \$1,000. being required for possible additional wiring if the present wiring was found to be inadequate; Approximately \$1,280. for a tile floor; Approximately \$500. for a public address system; estimated and approximate total, \$16,380, to which it was added that an "outside" estimate or overall cost would not exceed \$20,000.

After a brief discussion and consideration, the Church Council unanimously approved the tentative plans for the proposed renovations and improvements, subject to further consideration of the financing thereof by the Board of Trustees and the further study and report by Mr. Schaub and the House Committee, all of which were to be presented at the April Church Council meeting.

MAY  
Messrs. Frank Burger and Walter Gausman submitted a Treasurer's Report which after study and consideration was ordered received and placed on file.

Mr. B. K. Schaefer announced the following:

1. That the Board of Trustees would meet on Monday evening, May 8th at 7 o'clock in the evening, and requested that Mr. Thomas Schaub attend the meeting at 8 o'clock in connection with a further discussion of the proposed renovations and improvements;
2. That Dr. Louis Lochner had requested to be relieved of his appointment to the Finance Committee, which request had been granted, and that Mr. Anton W. Koester had been appointed in his place.
3. That the next meeting of the Church Council would take place on Monday evening, May 15th at seven o'clock.

At this point, Pastor Weibacher advised the Church Council of the hospital confinement of Mr. J. Louis Schaefer and requested that we remember him in our daily prayers.

There being no other or further business presented at the meeting, the same was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer being spoken in unison.

Respectfully submitted.

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Monday, May 15, 1961

A regular meeting of the Church Council of St. Luke's Lutheran Church was held at 7PM in the Parish House 316 West 46th Street, at which the following were present:

Pastor A.L. Neibacher, Messrs. B.K. Schaefer, F.J. Burger, A.W. Koester, Q. Baltera, W.E. Schussler, M. Meissinger, G. Bethausser, J. Baridon, Jos. Miranda, L. Lockner, John Theurer, W. Gausman and H.J. Koester. The following were excused: J.L. Schaefer, R. Willner, C. Wingert and Carl Sievers.

The meeting was opened with Prayer by our Pastor A.L. Neibacher.

The President Mr. B.K. Schaefer presided.

The minutes of the last meeting were accepted as read.

Both the Treasurer Mr. F.J. Burger and the Asst. Treas. Mr. W. Gausman presented a four month report ending April 30, 1961, which was very encouraging. This report was accepted and ordered placed on file.

The President, Mr. B.K. Schaefer, advised the Church Council that, in accordance with its instructions the Trustees had met on May 8th and had carefully examined the proposal for renovating our Sunday School rooms. As a result of their study of the plan, the Trustees recommend the following: -

1) That all contracts, estimates or agreements entered into, must be submitted to the Chairman of the House Committee - Mr. G. Bethausser.

2) That upon his approval of same, the Church Council will endorse his action and authorize payment for contracts entered into by him.

3) That the generous offer of assistance on the part of one of our Voting Members - Mr. Thomas Schaub - to act as a "consultant" to the House Committee be accepted with thanks and that the House Committee be asked to give due consideration to his recommendations.

4) That the work of renovation shall include modernization of existing Sunday School class-rooms; improving the floor in a manner best suited to the plan for renovation; erection of a suitable altar, altar-railing and whatever may be additionally required for the proper conduct of service at an altar - including the serving of Communion.

5) That the work of renovation and reconstruction proceed at once and that contracts be entered into with the hope of completing the work by September 1st, 1961.

6) That the House Committee observe at all times the primary purposes of the Plan of Renovation which is

a) To modernize the Sunday School Rooms

b) Creation of a Chapel, or place of Worship for use during the summer months which shall be in keeping with the traditions and beliefs of St. Luke's Church.

7) That the generous offer of Mr. John Theurer a revered Deacon to contribute toward the renovation be accepted with gratitude.

8) That our Sunday School Superintendent - Mr. Curtis Wingert - be consulted on all phases of the plan for renovation which primarily concern his school. In all other matters, Pastor Neibacher is to be consulted. Any objections raised by these gentleman, will receive the serious consideration of our Council.

9) That the total cost of the plan of renovation be limited to \$20,000.00. Any excess over that amount must have the specific approval of the Board of Trustees.

10) That this cost of renovation be financed by a loan from our Capital Funds with the following stipulations:

a) The Trustees do not absolve the Congregation from the liability of repayment.

b) The Congregation will be called upon to replace the borrowed sums within a reasonable time.

Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, the recommendations of the Board of Trustees were unanimously accepted and approved.

With the approval of the Church Council, the President appointed our Deacon - Dr. Louis Lochner - an Elder to fill the unexpired term of Mr. John W. Lengemann, newly appointed Elder Emeritus. Dr. Lochner accepted the appointment with expressions of thanks and humility.

Pastor Neibacher reported as follows:

This this coming Sunday May 21st seven confirmees will be confirmed. That a Vicar has been assigned to us for 1961/1962. His name is Benedict Yaspelkis. That effective work is being done in the Clinton-LaSalle Community Center.

The Church Council goes on record granting permission for the members of our Walther League Group to have dancing at their annual meeting.

The Music Committee reported that unauthorized instrumentalists had been engaged the 75th Anniversary Service of Lutheran Child Welfare Association and the Secretary of our Church Council was directed to remind our organist regarding the policies of the Church in such matters.

There being no further business to discuss this meeting was adjourned at 8:25PM.

Respectfully submitted,

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Henry J. Koester - Asst. Secy.

REGULAR MEETING OF THE CHURCH COUNCIL

OF

SAINT LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 9, 1961

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A regular Meeting of the Church Council of Saint Luke's Lutheran Church was held at the Parish Hall of the Church at 316 West 46th Street, New York 36, New York, on October 9, 1961 at 7:00 P.M.

There were present at the meeting the following members of the Church Council, constituting a quorum:

B. K. Schaefer  
Joseph Miranda  
F. J. Burger  
Walter Gausman  
Quentin Baltera  
Fred Wolkin  
G. Bethauser  
Anton W. Koester

Robert Willner  
Melvin Meisinger  
J. Baridon  
Donald A. Krenz  
Burghard Eckenberg  
Walter E. Schussler  
John Theuer

Rev. Daniel Reuning, Assistant Pastor of the Congregation was also present. B. K. Schaefer, President of the Council, acted as Chairman of the meeting and Donald A. Krenz acted as Secretary in the absence of the Secretary.

The meeting was called to order by the Chairman and opened by prayer led by Rev. Reuning. The Chairman stated that the following members of the Church Council were unable to attend and asked to be excused:

Carl Sievers  
Henry J. Koester  
Curtis Wingert  
J. L. Schaefer  
Louis Lochner

The Chairman further stated that Rev. Neibacher, Pastor of the Congregation, had been rushed to the hospital early Sunday morning, October 8, 1961, requiring Rev. Reuning to conduct the Sunday morning service on brief notice. Although Rev. Neibacher's condition was not immediately diagnosed, his physicians now believe that he is suffering from kidney stones and will be able to resume his duties shortly.

The Secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting of the Church Council held on September 18, 1961. It was suggested that these minutes should reflect that the Council, at its September meeting, discussed and approved the establishment of the office of Elder Emeritus, and the granting of special citations which were presented to Mr. John Lengemann and Mr. Herman Von Hinken at the Sunday morning service on October 8, 1961, in recognition of meritorious

and exceptional service rendered to the Congregation for 50 and 44 years respectively. Messrs. Lengemann and Von Hinken were each elected to serve as Elder Emeritus for an indefinite period, or until further action is taken by the Church Council. It was also stated that these minutes should indicate that Mr. Benedict Vaspelkis assumed the duties <sup>of</sup> Vicar of the Congregation effective September 1, 1961. Thereupon, the minutes of the September meeting approved as amended and supplemented.

The Chairman stated that the Congregation had received a letter of gratitude from Mr. John O'Connor, the Vicar from September, 1960 until August, 1961. After the letter was read to the meeting, the Council directed that it be forwarded to Pastor Neibacher at the hospital, and, after reviewed by him, filed with the Secretary.

Mr. Burger, Treasurer of the Council, presented a financial report covering expenditures incurred in the construction, renovation and air-conditioning of the Chapel. The report, which was directed filed with the Secretary, stated that the Church expended \$23,338.59 for the above purposes, including an expenditure of \$4,500. for the organ and \$874.80 for the rug, cross, vases and candlesticks, for



which the Church will be reimbursed by various donors. Exclusive of these items, the net cost of the construction, renovation and air-conditioning will be \$17,963.79.

The Music Committee then reported that the Committee, pursuant to authorization granted it at the September meeting, had purchased, from Allen Organ Company, the organ which was used on a trial basis during the summer. The cost of the organ which will be contributed by a donor, is \$4,500. exclusive of minor costs resulting from additional renovation, of an insubstantial nature, which will be necessary to install the organ. The purchase agreement provides that the seller will guarantee the organ for a period of five years, and thereafter will provide maintenance service at an annual cost of \$45. The Committee also reported that since the organ was purchased by Saint Luke's and would be used for tax exempt purposes, the purchase price would not be subject to excise taxes. The Committee was taking necessary steps to procure the appropriate exemption. Upon a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the report of the Music Committee was accepted as presented and the purchase of the organ was ratified, confirmed and adopted as an act of the Congregation.

Mr. Anton Koester reported that the Committee which had been appointed to procure appropriate citations

for Mrs. Lengemann and Von Hinken had spent \$175.00 in purchasing and laminating the respective citations. Upon a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the report of this special committee was accepted and the expenditure incurred was ratified, confirmed and adopted as an act of the Congregation.

Mr. Gus Bethauser, Chairman of the House Committee, reported that the unused safe in the Church basement could not be given away, and that the Congregation, in order to dispose of the safe, would be required to pay for its removal. Upon a motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the House Committee was authorized and directed to incur an expenditure in a reasonable amount in removing the safe.

It was also suggested that the House Committee install a hand rail on the outside of the Church, leading from the street level to the entrance to the lower Chapel. Following discussion, it was unanimously agreed that action on the hand rail be deferred until the installation of the organ is completed.

Mr. Joseph Miranda, Chairman of a special committee appointed at the September meeting to consider methods for financing the construction, renovation and air-conditioning of the lower Chapel, reported that the committee was considering various methods of conducting a special fund raising

appeal in order to raise the funds which were expended in the renovation work. He stated that the committee desired to defer action for several weeks, pending Pastor Neibacher's recuperation. It was agreed that such action would be temporarily deferred. However, if Pastor Neibacher did not recover as quickly as now anticipated, the committee would act rather than postpone action indefinitely.

The Chairman again stated that he was disappointed with the attendance and general participation of Council members, although the attendance at this meeting was more satisfactory. The members considered changing the time or day of the meeting. However, after discussion, it was agreed that the attendance and participation would not be increased significantly by such changes, and no action was taken.

The Chairman further stated that the Church Council realized that members occasionally would be absent, due to sickness, business, or other bonafide reasons. However, he believed that in some instances it may be necessary to request members to resign if they are unable to attend a substantial number of meetings over a period of a year or more. Several members of the Church Council stated that, in some instances, nominees were not informed of the participation expected from Church Council members, or of the duties which they were to perform. It was agreed that the nominating committee should screen candidates more closely to determine

whether they could devote the requisite time to their duties, in addition to being willing and capable. Mr. Baridon requested that all Deacons assist in ushering on Sunday mornings.

The Chairman then stated that it was necessary to appoint a Nominating Committee which would select candidates for the offices of Deacons, Trustees and Elders, to be elected at the December, 1961 meeting of the Voting Members. Members whose terms expired in December, 1961 should not be appointed to the Nominating Committee. After considerable discussion, the following persons were appointed as members of the Nominating Committee:

Anton Koester, Chairman  
Walter Gausman  
J. Baridon  
Walter E. Schussler  
Henry Wisch, a Voting Member and  
former member of the Church Council

The Chairman stated that, because two Elders were elevated to Elder Emeritus, and only one replacement had been elected there still existed one vacancy as Elder. The Chairman suggested that this vacancy be filled by Mr. John Theuer, who, with the approval of the members and upon his own consent to serve, was thereupon appointed Elder to fill the unexpired term for which Herman Von Hinken had been elected, or until his successor was elected and qualified

to serve. The Chairman then stated that elevation of Mr. Theuer to the position of Elder created a vacancy as a Deacon. It was determined that this vacancy should not be filled at this time.

The Treasurer stated that the Church Extension Board of the Atlantic District had introduced a new program whereby church extension stamps could be purchased in denominations of 25¢. It was pointed out that this program was ideally suited for children.

Rev. Reuning stated that Miss Susan Widman and Mr. Larry Ulrich, both members of Saint Luke's, were being married by Pastor Neibacher in Saint Luke's on December 2, 1961, and had requested permission to hold their reception in the lower Chapel. Upon motion duly made, seconded and unanimously carried, the Church Council approved the request to hold an appropriate reception in the Chapel and directed Pastor Reuning to discuss the matter with them.

Pastor Reuning stated that, on one occasion, an instructor of his at Union Theological Seminary had commented that his mannerisms in playing the organ may have been distracting to worshippers. The instructor suggested that it would be desirable to install a small screen on top of the organ so that the organist could not be viewed

by the congregation. Following discussion of the matter, it was determined that there was no need to install such a screen at this time.

Pastor Reuning also asked permission to borrow the piano formerly used in the Sunday School room, but which now is in a room adjacent to the Chapel and not used because an organ has been temporarily installed. Pastor Reuning agreed to return the piano in May, 1962, and pay the cost of moving and returning the piano. Upon motion made, seconded and unanimously carried, Pastor Reuning was granted permission to borrow the piano pursuant to his request.

Mr. Krenz then stated that the Senior Young Adults Society was holding a dinner dance in commemoration of its 25th Anniversary at the Hotel Edison on November 12, 1961. He stated that while the dinner dance was primarily for members and former members of the Society, any members of the Congregation who desired to attend were welcome to do so.

The Chairman stated that the next regular meeting of the Church Council would be held at the Parish Hall on Monday evening, November 20, 1961 at 7:00 P.M. Following this announcement, the meeting was adjourned with a prayer by Rev. Reuning.

Respectfully submitted,

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Donald A. Krenz,  
Acting Secretary.