

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting March 20, 2022 Draft

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Laura Dahl at 12:00 PM.

Council members present were Laura, Jennifer, Joy, Marcia, Gretchen, Kevin, Cindy and Jan. Also present was Pastor Paul.

Devotions was led by Pastor Paul on the importance of communication in building. He gave us different shapes of paper; we had to build a church moving one piece of paper at a time with no communication. Each of the 2 groups had different shaped churches. This shows we have different ideas but communication amongst us is key to rebuilding our church. We ended in a prayer.

Approval of the agenda: Laura stated we needed to add the Family Ministry Coordinator to our agenda. Jennifer motioned to approve the addition to the agenda. Marcia second, motion carried.

Approval of the February 20, 2022 Council Meeting: Gretchen motioned to approve, Jan second, motion carried.

Approval of publication of draft minutes from March 13, 2022 Congregational meeting regarding the parsonage: Joy motioned to approve, Jan second, motion carried.

Approval of publication of draft minutes from March 13, 2022 Congregational meeting regarding the bell tower: Jan motioned to approve, Jennifer second, motion carried.

Staff Report:

We have had 1 wedding, 1 baptism and 2 funeral/memorial services in the past month.

LSS and Lutheran Disaster Relief are meeting with Social Services in late April/early May to see if they can assist our community. It was noted that there has been many suicides lately.

Parish Report: no report. Next meeting is April 6th.

WELCA: WELCA met on March 3rd. Quilting is going well; kitchen supplies are low. Worship services were reviewed. Concern of the flag at the altar remains amongst WELCA and Council. We will continue to discuss this until resolved.

Executive Committee: no report

Finance: Gretchen gave us a summary of the financial report as we viewed it. She will also check on the Rothe and Iverson Funds for assistance on the Bell Tower. Kevin motioned to approve the financial report, Jennifer second, motion carried.

Property: Glenn will be meeting with the contractors on Wednesday on the Bell Tower.

The Property committee has decided it will meet each month, the first Wednesday at 11:30 AM. This will be the consistent date so any of the congregation can attend.

We have gotten estimates of connecting and updating all the electronics for the church. This is in the "wish list" stage. Gretchen will look into the Rothe and Iverson Funds to see what they could contribute. The estimates were given by Tricorne Audio, Inc of Fargo. Kevin and Laura have been in contact with the high school of possibly doing some outside work of the church yard and parking lot.

Worship: We reviewed the written report, with no issues or corrections. Next meeting is April 5th at 10:00.

Jennifer mentioned that some in the congregation are confused of the Lenten service we are having, some say its hard to follow. Laura mentioned also that some of the elderly are also confused. We are 2 weeks in with 3 more services. Jennifer asked Pastor if he could possibly explain it in more detail so more understood the service. Special Sundays are: May 1 Confirmation; May 8 Mother's Day; May 15 Welca Tea; May 22 Senior Recognition and May 29 Memorial Sunday.

Stewardship and Evangelism: Cindy stated that the Valentine bags with candy and chapstick was a hit.

Currently we are having a drive for the Ukraine of personal care kits. Only 2 weeks in and we have had a very

good response of members bringing items for the kits. We are also thinking of having a photo booth at the Easter Sunday Service. We will meet March 30th after the Lenten Service for our meeting.

Youth and Education: The first Wednesday of the month at 9:00 AM will be the month meeting at First Lutheran. Laura is interested in our confirmands to participate in a Confirmation Camp. This is a 4 to 5 day camp full of fun and fellowship for confirmands before entering their 2nd year of confirmation. She will be getting more information on that soon. Vacation Bible School material will be arriving soon as well. Both Joy and Laura expressed concern of students that can be unruly and asking for parents to volunteer to help.

New Business:

Comment card: no cards this month

Use of Tithely: Jennifer would really like this utilized to its potential. It would remind us when we are to assist services through a text message and email. We also need to get all members updated in the app. Hiring an office assistant could possibly enter all this in. Cindy mentioned possibly hiring the one applicant that backed out of the Family Ministry position may be interested in the office position since it is part time. Pastor Paul will create a job description, send out to Council for any edits. We will then begin advertising the position in hopes of a member of our congregation being interested. If not, we will reach out to the public. This is a part time possibly moving into a full-time position, starting at \$20,000/year for PT.

Old Business:

Radio Broadcast:

No members have contacted the church that they are listening to the radio broadcast. Marcia moved to cancel the radio contract with KTGO. Jan second, motion carried. Pastor Paul will contact them on details of canceling.

Parsonage Renovation:

Laura gave an update on the Parsonage. One home we have looked at appraised at \$356,000 and the lot next to it valued at \$40,000 to \$60,000. It has a lot of updates and is in very good condition. Down side is all bedrooms are upstairs. This home is priced at \$395,000 through a realtor. Kevin asked all of council to check for other homes that may be a better fit with bedrooms on the main floor since that is a concern. Kevin would like these ideas of homes before the next property meeting.

Listening Post:

Pastor led the Council through the Listening Post explaining each page with a bit more detail. It was an extensive emotional discussion. He also recommended all of the congregation to read this so there are no more misunderstandings.

Pastor announced that Bishop Craig Schweitzer will be coming to Watford March 26 and 27. He will perform both services on the 27th. There is also a lunch at First Lutheran after the 10:30 service for all members of Banks, Garden and First Lutheran to attend. The ladies of each church are in charge of bringing food.

Family Ministry Coordinator:

We have had only 1 applicant, who has many positive qualities. But we are looking for an applicant that is tech savvy which would serve our 3 churches more efficiently. Laura will reach out to one individual that would be a good fit for our needs.

The next meeting will be April 10 after church service.

Gretchen motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 PM, Jan second, motion carried.

We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Secretary Cindy Geiger