

First Lutheran Church Council October 16, 2022 Draft

The meeting was called to order by President Ari at 12:22 PM.

Council members present were Cindy, Jennifer, Gretchen, Laura, Kevin Joy and Marcia. Others present were Pastor Paul, Matthew, Glen Beard, David Berg and Celeste Berg.

Devotions by Pastor was a blessing to the Operation Christmas Child organization.

Approval of agenda: Gretchen motioned to approve, Marcia second.

Staff Report: Pastor will be gone 3 Sunday's in November. Banks Lutheran voted to leave the Parish. There is an Area Parish meeting this Wednesday, October 19th, at Garden Church at 6:30. All First Lutheran members are invited to attend this very important meeting.

WELCA: Joy reported there wasn't much to report other than the lunch after Reformation Day service has moved to November 6th which is All Saint's Day. Donations will be sent to Florida for Hurricane Relief.

Executive Committee: NA

Finance: Gretchen reported that the checking account has a healthy balance. But she is concerned as we will be receiving large bills for the AV system and Bell Tower. The Trust Committee has not approved helping with the bills, as of yet. Gretchen plans on attending their next meeting which will be held October 24th at 5:00 PM. Laura recommended that a trust committee representative join Council meetings and one representative from First Council attend their meetings so we are all on the same page. This would solve the lack of communication or misunderstandings. Marcia motioned to approve the finance report, Kevin second, motion carried.

Francis Olson will be doing some research to make sure we are following the by laws set by the will for the trust fund. Gretchen will communicate with Ardyce for a report on all the donations for the bell tower since the trust will match up to 25%.

Estimated bills coming in are \$9800.00 for the old parsonage landscaping; \$134000.00 for the bell tower; \$18000.00 for Icon; \$88000.00 for the AV system including the electrical part.

Gretchen recommended getting a credit card for office use as it is a safer way to purchase items. Marcia motioned to approve, Jennifer 2nd, motion carried.

An audit is recommended since we have not had one done in a few years. Pastor commented it better to do it now so our finances are up to date and balancing before a new pastor is here. The cost will be around \$20,000.00. Gretchen will talk to Rene Johnson of getting an Out Source CPA to do this since Rene is our accountant. Kevin motioned to approve, Joy 2nd, motion carried.

Gretchen motioned to approve Portico health coverage, Gold level, for Matthew. Marcia 2nd, motion approved.

Pastor would like us to consider getting our office staff complete. Ardyce would like to be a part time employee with no benefits. He recommended a full-time employee with benefits working 9:00 to 3:00, 5 days a week, plus 10 extra hours per week. Salary in the area of \$40000 to \$60000. Pastor would like to have the authority to hire. This will be a salaried position. Kevin mentioned he knows someone that may be interested. Pastor will create a job description. Before this position is advertised, we need to wait until after the Area Parish meeting Wednesday as changes may be necessary.

Property: Glen reported that the bell tower is not done and the contractor will be on site Monday to correct some items that were not installed properly. Bells are ordered. The ladders were not secured properly so that will also need to be corrected. The AV project is 25% complete. The new parsonage deck and fence will be repaired in the spring, carpets will be done this fall. Striping the parking lot and filling cracks will be done next

spring also. Jennifer commented our signs need updating. Glen will check to see if there are remaining brick that match the church. Kevin felt members would like to donate to the upgrading of the signs.

Worship: There is a joint service at Garden next Sunday at 9:00 AM. November 6th is All Saints Day. Family members who lost a loved one will be called to come for our special service. Jennifer moved to approve the “recommended” times for services on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and New Years Day. Depending on the area parish meeting Wednesday, these could change.

Stewardship and Evangelism: We reported all the events that will happen until the end of the year. We would like to see the youth participate in “Noisy Buckets” one Sunday per month. The dollars would go to a event of their choice. On December 4th we are having an Advent festival with decoration making, an Ugly sweater contest and decorate the church.

Youth and Education: Matthew reported that 5th quarter held last Friday was a success with 14 kids attending for pumpkin carving, a mystery dinner and a movie. October 21st there are 16 youth going to the LYO seminar in Minot. Trust committee will be paying for the expenses. Next month will be a bowling party and ugly sweater contest.

Call Committee: on hold

Marcia left at 1:00

Unfinished: NA

New Business: There were no comment cards.

Trail of Treats will be a joint event with the Youth for Christ group. They will be set up near First International Bank. Gretchen motioned to approve, Laura 2nd, motion carried.

Ari requested an amendment made to our continuing resolution to state the meeting time for council meetings will be set at the prior meeting or default to the 3rd Sunday at noon. A motion was made, seconded, and carried to amend continuing resolution C12.11.A21 to read as follows:

C12.11.A22. The Congregation Council shall, at each regular meeting, set the date, time, and place of its subsequent regular meeting. If the Congregation Council does not agree on a date and time for the subsequent regular meeting, then it shall be at 12:00 p.m. on the third Sunday of the following calendar month. If the Congregation Council does not agree on a place for the subsequent regular meeting, then it shall be at the church building.

The annual congregational meeting is set for January 22nd. Laura motioned to approve, Gretchen 2nd, motion carried.

There seems to be some confusion as to which council members are done in January so Ari will do some research to determine who they are.

Sale of the parsonage was discussed and put on the Property Committee. A lot will be decided once we determine if the area parish will be dissolved. Jennifer felt we should meet with the Bishop who will be in our area on November 20th. We will get an invite out to him. Time to be determined upon his schedule.

The next meeting will be November 20 at 12:15 P.M.

Meeting was adjourned and ended with the Lord’s Prayer.

Cindy Geiger, Secretary