

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting June 28, 2023 Draft

The meeting was called to order by President Jennifer at 5:08 PM.

Council members present were Jennifer, Cindy, Joy, Marcia, Kevin, Gretchen. Robin was present via cell phone on speaker. Also present were Pastor Paul and Matt.

Marcia gave the devotion on verses from Acts. God set us on a path to change our lives forever and to be faithful to Christ.

Approval of the Agenda. Jennifer added the item of Matt becoming a SAM (Synod Authorized Minister) for First Lutheran. With that addition, Gretchen motioned, Kevin 2nd, motion carried.

Approval of the May 17th minutes. Gretchen motioned to approve, Marcia 2nd, motion carried.

Staff Reports. Pastor reported he has had 3 funerals in June. He has been assisting getting the AV system to work properly, home inspections to sell the parsonage, getting the new Windows 11 Business set up on the computers. Robin asked if we can get our website to allow previous church services to be viewed. Jennifer will get with Ardyce on this as she wants to continue to volunteer her time in setting up the website and work in Facebook.

Matt reported that the breakfast and service at the fairgrounds was successful. We had a float in the parade. He will continue to work with Peter and Garrett on combining youth for LYO events. Matt has been contacting new folks in the community in hopes of them attending our church. Matt is willing to become a SAM for First Lutheran. He would be allowed to perform communion, weddings, funerals and baptisms at FLC only. There is an 8-week zoom Lay ministry training this fall that he will partake in. Robin motioned we approve Matt to pursue this SAM program, Gretchen 2nd, motion carried. Joy stated that even though Matt will become a SAM, we will still actively pursue a full-time ordained pastor.

Tarri is asking assistance in getting the membership updated. Cindy requested copies of the membership given to each of the council members so we can assist her.

WELCA: There will be no Circle in July and August. There will be no WELCA meeting in July. The rummage sale subject is still pending.

Finance:

Discussion was held regarding the need for Tarri to be a signor on the FLC checking account, also to be added to the FLC credit card for necessary purchases.

Motion made by Joy, 2nd by Cindy to add Tarri Wenstad to the First International Bank checking account along with signer and access to First International Bank credit card. Motion carried.

Tarri requested to have a checkbook in the office for ease and when immediate reimbursement is required. All other checks are processed through the accountant. Gretchen will arrange for Tarri to have a checkbook in the office. Gretchen will get Tarri and finance committee set up for 'business online' banking.

Expenses are up mostly due to the property committee needing tree removal and other repairs. The parsonage sale is pending. We will be reimbursed for Matt's wages, paid quarterly by the Rothe Trust, and will be reflected on a future financial report. Joy motioned to approved the financial report, Cindy 2nd, motion carried.

Property: The old parsonage is in pending sold status. We are waiting for the buyer's inspection to be completed. If approved, closing date will be July 13th. Kevin asked if some youth could assist Pastor Paul in moving to the new parsonage. The proposal for G&R's annual or bi annual inspections has not been received. Parking lot stripes will be painted this summer. Bell tower should be done after 4th of July. The dilapidated old fence on the north side of the new parsonage has been removed. Robin recommended replacing the fence with bushes instead of an expensive fence. R & L Tree Service quoted \$8000 for a necessary removal of tree branches on the new parsonage. Marcia motioned to approve, Robin 2nd. Motion carried.

Tricorn submitted a bid for \$745 to add Bluetooth to our system which will enable us to play continuous background music in the fellowship hall for a welcoming atmosphere in the church and for other uses. Council approved. They will install this in a couple weeks when they come to work on the system. We discussed installing an LED sign for the church. The plan is to install it on the SW corner of the parking lot. This will unfortunately require cutting down the large tree. (The tree looks beautiful now, but it is an old cottonwood which has a relatively short lifespan and it is not in good condition) We have members that would like to donate to this project. Glen and Jennifer are communicating with a vendor in Bismarck to design that will complement our church. The property meeting will be July 9th at 11:30 A.M.

Worship: Paul will be gone these Sundays; 16th, 23rd and 30th. Summer services will be shorter and change to Services of Word because of the shorter service. The next meeting will be July 11th.

At 5:45 PM Matt left the meeting to grill burgers and brats for Bible Study.

Stewardship and Evangelism: We are excited to include the new 'Care Team' as part of S&E. The care team will serve as our connection for anyone in crisis and general outreach. Matt and Katie Tschetter will be points of contact for this committee.

Breakfast was a hit at the fairgrounds and we hope to make this an annual event with our fellow McKenzie County ELCA churches. Cindy will hand out red, white and blue treats at the July 2nd service. Noisy Buckets will start this fall after Rally Sunday, and be the first Sunday of each Month so the congregation can bring coins to fill the buckets for the youth projects. There will not be a July meeting.

Youth and Education: Matt is working with the committee to prep for fall Sunday School. Since dismissing early did not seem to work well, he would like to hold Sunday School after service, combine the classes into a more organized and shorter lesson.

Rally Sunday is September 10th. Matt would like to get bouncy houses to kick the season and event off along with a BBQ.

At 6:15 we paused the meeting and enjoyed burgers and Bible study with Matthew.

At 7:15 we reconvened.

Call Committee: Joy reported that the MSP has been updated and resubmitted. Gretchen has been researching seminary debt forgiveness for existing Pastors. We discussed this as an option in which we could contract with a Pastor for a specific amount of time/years with offer of incentive to pay off seminary debt. Pastor Paul also suggested a sign on bonus as incentive. Gretchen will reach out to the Trust committee on the possibility of them funding the debt forgiveness as it should fall under Christian education. Brad Dokken, Associate with the Bishop for Leadership, Candidacy and Call, is a great advocate for FLC and speaks very well of our church and community to potential candidates. Joy will communicate with the Trust committee and Synod and schedule a meeting with the Call committee.

At 7:45 PM Gretchen left the meeting.

Unfinished Business: Jennifer will communicate with Ardyce to see if the committee duty updates have been noted.

Church clean-up will be each Sunday in August. 'Clean Sweep August' Asking anyone able to stay and spend an hour or two after service/coffee hour whenever you have time to spare. There will be a list of areas to clean. 701 Clean will be hired to clean all the carpets. We will also ask what the charge would be to clean the pew cushions. If it is a huge expense, we will try to do this during our Clean Sweep!!

New Business: Marcia, Jennifer, Anne, Matthew and Pastor Paul felt the assembly to be excellent and recommended all to try to attend. All the Bible camps were represented and it was fun to see the enthusiasm! It was interesting to see the workings of the Synod and meet some of our fellow church members from western ND. One main focus was providing education for lay ministry. (There are several from our congregation interested in taking an online, interactive course offered by the Synod this fall.) It was a great weekend and looking forward to next year!

As we were entering the Proposed Contract subject with Pastor Paul, he stopped us reporting that it was not necessary to continue. He has made the decision that our congregation was ready for a full time Pastor not an interim Pastor. He would like to accept a call to another congregation that is need of his guidance and expertise in fixing a crisis. He was very complimentary of our council's strength and said it will be hard to leave our congregation. We all thanked him for his guidance and training and wished him well in his next endeavor. His last Sunday will July 9th and we will have a special coffee hour in his honor.

The next meeting will be July 12th at 5:00 PM.

Joy moved to adjourn, Kevin 2nd, motion carried.

We ended with the Lord's Prayer

Cindy Geiger, Secretary