

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting February 15, 2023 Draft

The meeting was called to order by President Jennifer at 5:32 PM. Council members present were Cindy, Marcia, Lynn Haugeberg, Laura and Kevin. Gretchen and Joy were present via Zoom. Also present were Pastor Paul, Tarri, Ardyce, Matthew and Katie Tschetter.

Devotion was given by Pastor Paul on expectations of council that came from Timothy 3:1-4, 6:17 and 18. He ended it with a prayer for continued guidance.

Approval of agenda. Jennifer had additions of FG going live, Appointment of new council members and Call committee MSP. With those additions, Marcia motioned to approve, Laura 2nd, motion carried.

Minutes of the January 15th Council Meeting. Pastor asked to correct under Unfinished Business that reviews for Matthew and Tarri will be at 30, 60 and 90 days and every 6 months thereafter. With that correction, Marcia moved to approve, Cindy 2nd, motion carried.

Minutes of the Annual Meeting January 22nd. Laura motioned to approve, Kevin 2nd, motion carried.

Minutes of the Council Assignment Meeting January 22nd. Marcia motioned to approve, Laura 2nd, motion carried.

Staff Report: Pastor Paul introduce Tarri Wenstad to the council as the new full time secretary.

Ardyce has been in contact with Nate at Tricorn. They have fixed our Facebook live; Nate found that the stream Facebook was on is different than the necessary Extran Stream. It should now be working.

Matthew had lots to report. There are 10 Sunday School classes left for the spring, and 7 confirmation classes left. On Superbowl Sunday, there were around 140 Subs made and sold. There has been great partnership with Banks, Garden and Youth for Christ. Matthew intends on creating a calendar for all events the youth and LYO will be participating in. We have 1 confirmand this spring. The Archive project is in progress and going very well with around 7 volunteers from First and other area churches.

Pastor passed around an invite to attend a Council training via Zoom on Sunday March 19th at 7:00 PM.

WELCA: A revised Facility/Kitchen Use Fee Schedule was reviewed. Council has asked that charges for ELCA members in McKenzie County waived. Spring Cluster will be in Tioga on April 29th.

Finance: Gretchen commented that the finance report is about where she felt it to be. December was a very good month of giving, where January had less which is normal. She did have a question of the staff salary amount and will ask Renee how those figures were calculated. Kevin motioned to approve, Marcia 2nd, motion carried.

Property: Cindy asked who and when the church is being cleaned as there have been spots on the carpet in the radio room and up near the altar. It is a local cleaning company Big Butte that comes in on Fridays. Discussion was held on the parsonage having litter between the cushions and back of the pew and also on the floor. Kevin or Glen will contact them to see if there is a contract between them and the church and will review it with them. Kevin would like names of other cleaning companies in case we decide to hire someone new. Big Butte is being paid around \$350.00 a month. Carpets and pews will be cleaned in May or June by 701 Clean. We have not set a date for the spring cleaning.

Katie Tschetter was available on the sale of the old parsonage. She has run a CMA and came up with a similar price as last year. The parsonage is 3528 square feet and built in 1958. Landscaping has been updated. Council felt that all appliances should remain in the parsonage. Marcia will check at the court house to see if we or the previous owner has the mineral rights. If First Lutheran owns the mineral acres, we will mark the home to be sold without them. Katie explained that the commission is a total of 6%, 3 for the buyer and 3 for the seller. Glen will be contacted to see if there is any lead paint in the building. A high and low price were discussed. Cindy motioned to approved the sale process of the old parsonage using Katie as the realtor and using the agreed upon high and low prices discussed. Marcia 2nd, motion carried. The meetings have changed to the first Friday of each month at 11:30 AM.

Worship: Lenten and Easter services have been discussed. Carolyn has chosen an abbreviated form of the "Holden Service" for Lent. Soup and sandwiches will be served each Wednesday and hosted by youth and choir. First Communion will be held April 16th. Confirmation will be on May 7th. Senior Recognition will be on May 21st. A new worship time has been discussed. This will be an experimental time; church starts at 9:30, dismissal of the youth for Sunday School right after communion, and coffee hour following the service.

Stewardship and Evangelism: We would like to add something fun for the Clarion. We want all favorite recipes to be sent in. One will be in the Clarion each month. Gift bags were given out to the youth the Sunday before Valentine's Day containing candy and a heart to decorate. Cindy will order buckets for the "noisy bucket" offering. Youth can decorate them, and one Sunday per month the youth can gather the offering of coins and use for an event of their choice. Cindy has ideas for an Easter egg hunt for the youth in the church on Easter Sunday and will have treats ready for all that attend. Feed my Starving Children is coming to Watford April 13-15. We want to get a few teams organized to help. We will provide T-shirts to the volunteers.

Youth and Education: Laura reported that around \$1300 was made making subs with some donations. There were 18 youth and 4 adults in 3 assembly lines to make around 140 sub sandwiches. March 1-15 will be the ski trip to South Dakota. There is a youth and parent meeting March 1st.

Unfinished Business:

Call Committee: Joy had the rough draft of our new MSP available for review with the edits provided by the Call Committee. Compensation was discussed for the new pastor. It will include rental value of the parsonage, SS offset, pension, medical and vacation time. Brad Dokken feels that we will not get a pastor to be interested for at least over a month or two. Joy would like the call committee to get together for a mock interview. Pastor Paul will assist in getting that organized. Marcia motioned to approve and submit, Laura 2nd, motion carried.

Tithely has been working, sending out emails for assignments during the services. Cindy would like a calendar created on Tithely with staff time off.

We welcomed Lynn Haugeberg and Robin Schwartz to council for 1 year out of a 3 year term which replaces Ari and Dori/Marcia. Laura motioned to appoint Lynn to a 1 year term, Cindy 2nd, motion carried. Laura motioned to appoint Robin to a 1 year term, Cindy 2nd, motion carried. Lynn will join the Stewardship and Evangelism committee while Robin will be on Property.

The new worship time was discussed. This will be an experimental time; church starts at 9:30, dismissal of the youth for Sunday School right after communion, and coffee hour following the service. Matthew felt this it best to let the youth out to start Sunday School a little earlier. Katie also felt this would be a good idea and to start soon so the teachers can see if this will work for the fall Sunday School as well. It was the consensus of the council to try this. Laura motioned to approve, Marcia 2nd, motion carried.

Hospital delegates and UMM delegates. After some discussion, it was decided that Ardyce will contact the previous delegates to see if they are still interested in their positions. No further actions will be made until this information is given to council.

The emails for the staff at First Lutheran are now working properly.

Matthew is interested in the church purchasing a van for transporting youth, or congregants to events. He has found one at Red Rock Ford for \$50-\$70,000. Matthew will meet with the Trust Committee to see if this is something they will fund since it will be for church education purposes. He will also do research on insurance and upkeep costs. Tabled to the next meeting.

Comments cards. Did not have time

We received a very nice thank you card from the Food Pantry for allowing them to add their freezers and some shelving in our basement.

Tarri recommends updates to the Clarion by the 20th of each month.

There was a brief discussion of the survey/evaluation that was sent to council. Areas we would like Pastor to improve on would be in home visitation and less slides during services. Another area where he has been very beneficial is guidance to the council and call committee. We feel that reviews of the Pastor AND council members every 6 months can be beneficial to fulfill the needs of our congregation.

The next meeting will be March 19th at noon.

Laura motioned to adjourn, Cindy 2nd, motion carried.

Cindy Geiger, Secretary