

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting April 16, 2023 Draft

The meeting was called to order by President Jennifer at 11:00 AM. Council members present were Jennifer, Cindy, Joy, Marcia, Kevin, Lynn, Gretchen and Robin. Others present were Pastor Paul, Matthew and Katie Tschetter.

A devotion was given by Cindy on the anticipation of spring. It was about staying positive even on dreary difficult days. Spring is like new life and to make it a priority to become deeply acquainted with God. Be an ambassador, share good news and do good deeds. Cast the seeds that are able to come to life even in the darkest of times.

Approval of Agenda. Gretchen added and update on the sale of the parsonage and Brad and Bishop Craig's visit to western ND. With these additions, Joy motioned to approve, Robin 2nd, motion carried.

Approval of March 19th minutes. Gretchen motioned to approve, Kevin 2nd, motion carried.

Staff Reports. Pastor reported 2 funerals, 3 youth for First Communion. Matthew has been actively communicating with student and parents on Sunday School activities, Senior Recognition, Confirmation. Feed My Starving Children was well attended by 12 volunteers. Sunday School supplies have been ordered.

Jennifer asked Katie Tschetter to join our meeting to present her vision of creating a 'Care Team' This group's purpose is to help be the eyes and ears for the pastor for members of our congregation and community who could use a visit, help with prayer chain and organize care kits (such as food/ dry goods basket)for emergencies, tragedies etc. She will visit with members of the congregation for ideas and anyone interested in this great project is encouraged to participate. Katie has volunteered to continue organizing and will head this committee. It will be published on Facebook and the Clarion. She will follow up with Stewardship and Evangelism committee.

Katie also gave an update of the sale of the old parsonage. At this time, the market in Watford City is slow but anticipates it to pick up. Katie will be holding another open house at the Parsonage some time in May. The abstract for the parsonage is currently at the Title Office. The abstract for the church and CE building are in the church office. At this time Katie left the meeting.

WELCA: WELCA is having a Spring Luncheon on April 27th, Thursday at the Fellowship Hall of First Lutheran. A revised Fee Schedule for use of the building was reviewed. Cindy motioned to approve the revised fee schedule, Joy 2nd, motion carried. Someone will meet with the Funeral Home to clarify use of the facilities and fees. The policy of use is still pending and will be revised soon.

Finance: Gretchen gave her finance report, noting particular changes from 2022 to this year. An additional expense was a new computer and software that was necessary for the church office. Gretchen will meet with Renee, Denise, Tarri, and Pastor to get some hiccups ironed out that are showing up on the reports. The benefit concern has been ironed out. The Trust Committee will be meeting on April 24th at 5:00 and Gretchen will attend to address some new financial expenses that may be eligible for the Trust to contribute towards.

Because Ardyce has put in many years as our employee, we would like to have an appreciation lunch in her and Lloyd's honor. Tarri will reach out to them for a tentative date. Joy motioned to approve the financial report, Lynn 2nd, motion carried.

Property: Mics for the fellowship hall and sanctuary was discussed. The committee has requested a detailed plan from Tricorn so we know how they will be placed. Meuchel Computer proposed a Microsoft Office 365 plan for the church which will cost \$1500 for set up and licenses for 5 computers. This is a professional version which is needed to run our equipment.

Pastor and Matthew have been using their personal computers for their work. Gretchen will address this at the Trust Committee meeting to see if this would qualify for their funds. The cost will be approximately \$2500 for both.

Worship: Lent services and Easter was well attended. Current membership is getting revised. They are working on organizing the prayer chain and making it more active and creative.

Stewardship and Evangelism: Cindy gave a verbal update since a meeting was not held in April. Easter bags were passed out after the children's sermon containing appropriate candy and bracelets. Lynn held an Easter Egg hunt in the basement after service with eggs filled with candy and riddles. The children were so excited. We had 11 attend Feed my Starving Children. T shirts were made of a bright blue with our name and logo. Lynn and Cindy will work on making May Day baskets. Clean up the Bakken is just getting organized so no date has been set. The next meeting will be May 3rd at Teddy's at 5:00 PM.

Youth and Education: Senior Recognition and Confirmation is being planned. Sunday School supplies have been ordered. Robin felt the time change for the Sunday School isn't really working. After discussion, Matthew will reach out to the parents on their thoughts. One idea was to release the youth after 15 minutes into the service. Any other ideas are welcome.

June 20-21st is Vacation Bible School at Banks. 5:00 to 8:30 PM each day.

Call Committee: The Call Committee is having a mock interview April 27th at 5:00.

Old Business: UMM delegates is still unknown. Ardyce was absent and will report next month.

New Business: The lock box at First International Bank was opened and contents reviewed. Important papers will be returned to lock box. Documents no longer needed will be scanned

and shredded. Cindy motioned the documents scanned and shredded, Gretchen 2nd, motion carried.

Discussion was held on having the Bishop visit or if we should go to Bismarck. Pastor explained that the Bishop cannot just drop in, but must have an invitation. The council asked that President Jennifer schedule a meeting with Bishop Craig as soon as possible.

The next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 17th at 6:00 PM.

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

We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Cindy Geiger, Secretary