

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting March 19, 2023 Draft

The meeting was called to order by President Jennifer at 12:35 PM. Council members present were Jennifer, Cindy, Joy, Lynn, Robin, Kevin, Marcia and Laura. Gretchen and Ardyce were present via cell phone. Also present were Pastor Paul and Matthew.

Devotions were held by Laura on “how to wait”. God wants us to wait patiently, quietly, trustingly courageously and standing on God’s Word.

Approval of the Agenda. Ardyce wanted to give an update of the website which we included in the “Tithely unfinished business” spot. Jennifer wanted to discuss salary agreements with full time employees for clarification to the accountant so this was added to New Business. With these additions, Joy moved to approve, Robin 2nd, motion carried.

Approval of the February 15th minutes. Under unfinished business Jennifer would like it corrected to “Tithely is not working well”. With this correction, Marcia motioned to approve, Lynn 2nd, motion carried.

Staff Reports. Pastors report shows 1 funeral in March, 1 wedding and 2 new members.

Matthew had a written report. The South Dakota trip with youth went very well; with fun and lots of education combined. Each youth brought \$150.00 for their trip; the \$\$ from the sub sandwich fundraiser and the trust committee paid for the remainder of the trip.

Tarri also had a written report. After doing some research on software for the church, it was decided to try ICON for a 30 day trial and it seems to be more user friendly. The information on Tithely has been transferred over. It was decided to archive members 5 years back. We will eventually replace Tithely completely. The Website still has some “Parish” verbage. Tarri and Ardyce are working on getting those out and staff names updated.

Ardyce has been working on better ideas to broadcast to Facebook. Two ideas are Restream and Vemio. Youtube is also an option but the broadcast will be when the service is over not during. More research and information to come.

WELCA: It was discussed to donate Lenten offerings to Lutheran Disaster Relief in East Palestine, OH. A spring luncheon is being planned. Pastor Paul updated WELCA on the upcoming events being held at First Lutheran. Next meeting is April 5th. Marcia motioned to approved the offerings be sent to Lutheran Disaster Relief, Joy 2nd, motion carried.

Finance: Gretchen pointed out a drop in the checking account due to the high dollar invoices we have had to pay. This is a substantial drop from a year ago. Gretchen will keep a close eye on this and compare to the proposed budget. Laura motioned to approve the budget, Kevin 2nd, motion carried. The Trust Committee compiled information how the two Trust came about along with bylaws and a 2022 end of the year report.

Property: We discussed the sale of the parsonage. We have had one offer and it was low. It is still early; Katie will give us weekly updates. Pastor Paul has visited with our cleaning service on our description of work for them. The area by organ was discussed as it is a tripping hazard with all the cords. Pastor Paul reached out to Tricorn and they have given us an estimate for a cordless mic system. Their quotation comes to \$4220.00. Ardyce and/or Karla Quale will initiate the drilling of our safety deposit box at First International since the key is MIA.

Worship: The upcoming Lenten and Easter services were discussed. Pastor Paul will be making Lamb stew on Maundy Thursday. Easter Sunday there will be a fellowship PowerPoint of the LYO and youth. It is uncertain if we will have a light brunch or egg bakes at this time. Today we had 5 young gentlemen in the congregation as guests. Mutual Ministries aka David Berg, gave them welcome bags.

Stewardship and Evangelism: Noisy Buckets will soon join our services once they are painted and advertised so the congregation can bring their change to give to the youth. Matthew will keep us posted on progress. Cindy, Lynn and Matthew will plan an Easter egg hunt in church Easter Sunday. At this time, it is tentatively being planned in the basement. **Feed My Starving Children** is being held April 13,14 and 15. Matthew is looking for volunteers to help. We will order t shirts for all the volunteers. Next meeting is **April 4th at 5:15 at Teddy's Lounge**.

Youth and Education: April looks to be busy with Easter, Feed my Starving Children, Paintball war in Minot. May has confirmation and graduation. The committee plans on creating a binder with all the events held and their information. This will create a guide for future committee members. The next meeting is **April 5th at 11:00 AM**.

Call Committee: Pastor Brad Dokken's condensed recommendation is for the committee to be ready and be ready to wait. The committee will meet tomorrow night at 5:00 to go through the questions for a mock interview with a pastor and also update some positive ways we have changed our congregation in the past year.

New Business: Jennifer received an email from the accountant on clarification of full time employees' salaries plus benefits. Cindy and Gretchen both felt they needed a motion from council explaining the details in order to employ payroll correctly. Jennifer will reach out to them for clarification.

Unfinished Business: First Lutheran is continuing LYO with Bank and Garden churches. Matthew reached out to Peter at Keene Lutheran on possibly combining youth in events.

Hospital Delegates: Laura motioned to approve Ardyce and Lloyd Alveshere, Curtis and Jennifer Sorenson, Gretchen Stenehjelm, Laura Dahl, Sonja Prestangen and Marcia Hellandsaas as our new delegates. Lynn 2nd, motion carried.

UMM Delegates: Ardyce will reach out to Kathleen and Matt to see if they want to continue.

Purchase of a van: Matthew is researching the purchase of a church van to bus members (elderly, youth, women's groups) to church events. He has approached the Trust committee but they have requested more information, at this time.

First Lutheran received a very nice Thank You from the youth that participated in the South Dakota trip.

There were no comment cards.

The Food Panty also added their meeting notes to keep us updated. The freezer from the Hockey Club will not be given to them so they are still looking for one more. Shelving has been purchased and assembled. First Lutheran will take the calls for the Food Pantry. The next meeting will be held April 3 at 5:00 PM.

Our next council meeting is April 16th at 10:45 AM.

Robin motioned to adjourn, Joy 2nd, motion carried.

We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Cindy Geiger, Secretary