

First Lutheran Church Council July 12, 2023 Draft

The meeting was called to order by President Jennifer at 5:15PM. Council members present were Jennifer, Cindy, Joy, Robin, Kevin, Gretchen and Marcia. Also present was Matthew.

Gretchen led a beautiful and very appropriate devotion on how God does not want us to keep looking in the rearview mirror. He wants us to rise up and move forward.

Approval of the agenda. Jennifer added that it is necessary to add her and or Laura from the Property committee to be delegated to sign for real estate since the sale of the old parsonage is soon to be closed. With that addition Joy motioned to approve, Robin 2nd, motion carried.

Approval of the June 28th minutes. Marcia motioned to approve, Kevin 2nd, motion carried.

Staff Reports. Matthew reported that the Synod voted to accept Matthew as a SAM for First Lutheran and this will be effective August 1, 2023.

WELCA: no report this month

Committee Reports.

Finance: Gretchen reported a larger negative number on the Profit and Loss due to paying our annual insurance premium. Credit card statements will be sent to Johnson and Co. and Gretchen. Gretchen will review of each transaction. Gretchen is requesting a receipt for each transaction and an explanation of each charge. Going forward receipts are required. Marcia motioned to approve, Joy 2nd, motion carried.

Property: Bell tower is currently being worked on. No completion date set. The fence at the new parsonage has been torn down. Talk of planting trees or just leaving as is. If we continue to own the new parsonage, we can plan on lilac bushes in the 2024 year. We also discussed whether we should sell the new parsonage or hold on to it. According to the Synod, we may be waiting a while for a new pastor and would need to continue the maintenance of the property and utilities. Gretchen mentioned that some churches are offering a housing stipend instead of owning a Parsonage. Also mentioned was to rent it out but we cannot since we are a Non-Profit Organization. Cindy motioned to have a CMA done on the new Parsonage, Gretchen 2nd motion carried.

At 5:46 Lynn joined the meeting.

Cindy motioned to approve Jennifer Sorenson or Laura Dahl permissions to sign for the sale of the parsonage at 504 4th St NE, Watford City, ND. Gretchen 2nd, motion carried.

All carpets and pew cushions have been shampooed by 701 Clean. The trees at the new parsonage have been trimmed. The next meeting will be August 4th at 11:30 AM.

Worship: Marcia reported that the remainder of July we will have simplified services. There will be no Communion until August and the services will start with music but the remainder will be in acapela. All announcements will be in the bulletin and we will go back to the traditional Kyrie. Communion will be the 1st and 3rd Sundays starting in August. Ann Beard requested new chalis and communion trays be ordered. This will cost about \$500.00. Gretchen motioned to approve, Lynn 2nd, motion carried.

Stewardship and Evangelism: Everyone enjoyed the ice cream sandwiches and popcicles that were handed out on July 2nd honoring the 4th of July holiday. It was asked if the Care Team would be reaching out to non-members. Discussion was held and it was decided to assist members of our church only at this time. Our next meeting will be held after Bible Study on July 26th.

Youth and Education: Rally Sunday will be September 10th. Paul Hanson, Lutheran Seminary, will be our pulpit supply that morning. Bibles will be handed out to the kindergarten class. Kits will be put together before the service by the Sunday School youth and given out to the First Responders. We will have a bouncy house and bbq after service.

Sunday School will be held after service. Noisy buckets will begin the first Sunday in October. The TEAM program requires a congregational approval. Matt is feeling a call would fulfill his pastoral desire. We will discuss this later as the program is filled for this fall's trainings. The next meeting will be August 2nd at 11:00 AM.

Call Committee: Joy discussed getting a video of our church and community created which may help in getting a pastor. She will reach out to Daniel Stenberg, Doug Bolken. Jennifer spoke to Pat Bertagnolli, who is the executive director of the ND Job Service. Pat would be willing help create a promotional video for us. Gretchen and Joy will meet with the Trust Committee on their feelings on offering debt forgiveness to a currently working Pastor, should one contact our church. Another option would be to offer a sign on bonus.

Unfinished Business.

Jennifer will reach out to Ardyce regarding the online team/committee descriptions.

Ardyce is still making updates to our website so it is more user friendly and more attractive.

New Business.

Matthew and Jennifer, along with guidelines from the Bishop, are creating a job description for Matt. Compensation also needs to be adjusted since Matt will be doing his normal Family

Ministry work along with the newly added SAM duties as our Pastor. Matt will be assigned an ELCA coach through the synod. The bishop has authorized Matthew to become a SAM (Synod Authorized Minister) effective August 1. His hours will be Sunday through Thursday 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM each day. Friday evenings he plans on some youth events. After much discussion, Gretchen motioned to raise Matt's salary to \$50,000 per year which is what we had budgeted previously. Cindy 2nd, motion carried.

Some from our congregation are learning Lay Ministry. Joy, Ann, Laura and Matt will be taking an 8-week online course beginning September 19th.

Our next meeting will be August 16th at 5:30 PM.

Cindy motioned to adjourn, Robin 2nd. Motion carried.

We ended with the Lord's Prayer

Cindy Geiger, Secretary