

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting October 15, 2023

APPROVED DRAFT

The meeting was called to order by President Jennifer. Council members present were Jennifer, Marcia, Joy, Kevin, Robin, Cindy, Laura and Lynn. Others present were Matt and Ardyce Alvethere.

Devotions were led by Robin. 2nd Timothy, Chapter 4, Verse 7 which talked of "Fighting the Fight, Win the Race, and Keep the Faith. This seems to be a very strong message to all of us.

Approval of Agenda. Lynn wanted to add to the agenda in old business her report on Kara Transtrom's request to the church for music lessons. With this added agenda, Joy moved to approve the agenda, Lynn 2nd, motion carried.

Approval of the September 7th minutes. Robin motioned to approve, Joy 2nd, motion carried.

Staff Report. Matt reported there are 8 youth going to the state LYO convention in Mandan. Wilmington youth will be joining them on our bus. We have had 3 funerals, 2 of which Matt has been the officiant. The church was contacted by Netflix, who is doing a documentary called "I am a Killer." The mother of the deceased, currently lives in Watford City, and felt she wanted to do the interview in a church. The murder took place in Tennessee. With Synod approval, we allowed them to hold the interview as long as the altar was not part of their filming. The Mystery Dinner will be held October 28th at 6:00 PM. Confirmation youth have been very willing to help with activities. No Sunday School will be held on 3-day weekends. Matt feels Tarri is doing a very good job and assists him when necessary.

WELCA: The Cluster Gathering was well attended and enjoyed. WELCA is planning a Fall Bazaar November 19th after the church service. The next meeting will be held November 1 at 10:00 AM.

Trust Report: no report. The next meeting will be held October 23 at 5:30 PM.

Finance: Gretchen was absent, but had sent out an email to council members. Cash in checking is holding, she has reviewed the credit card statement and most charges were from Rally Sunday. Offerings were up. She feels better about our finances since some of the numbers are improving. Joy motioned to approve, Marcia 2nd, motion carried.

Property: The HVAC has been voted on and approved by council to purchase the update which is necessary to control our systems. Cleanup with the youth went very well. Austin Bolton was head for the youth to help in the community and deserves a big Thank you!! The next meeting will be November 3 at 11:30 AM.

Worship: Matt is considering a Men's Bible Study. Our final 'Burgers, Brats & Bible Study' series will be October 25th. Volunteers are needed for the services. We may need to start calling members to come help with services. This may get some that have been absent into our doors. Would be great to see their faces again!! Next meeting Nov 7th 9:00

Stewardship and Evangelism: The dedication of the bell tower and new communion ware has been planned with a special service along with cake and coffee following. Potluck is canceled so members can attend the benefit for Steve Sanford's Son in law. Halloween bags are getting assembled for the Sunday before for the youth that attend church. November 12th we will serve patriotic cupcakes and fruit for coffee hour in honor of our veterans. Cindy will gather pumpkins for the Mystery Dinner. We would like to have the live nativity scene for the Parade

of Lights. Cindy will contact Chris for the use of his team. If he is too busy we will find a plan B! We are also planning the Hanging of the Greens and Advent festival. The next meeting will be November 2 at 5:00 PM at Teddy's.

Youth and Education: Our youth along with Wilmington youth will attend the state LYO convention as one group. Celeste Berg is sending college students a card with popcorn letting them know "we are popping in to wish you well", from First Lutheran.

Call Committee: NA

Old Business: HVAC software upgrade was voted on via email earlier in the month and passed unanimously. The Trust committee has been approached to assist with the cost and is being considered. There is a need of 3-5 members to learn how to run the system.

There are still some glitches with the secretary's computer. RTC and Sam are working to solve them.

Ardyce continues to work on the website. The message board is still not working the way we need it.

The selling of the parsonage was discussed. Options are to keep it or sell and offer a housing stipend to a new pastor. We requested a report of monthly costs for our November meeting to keep the parsonage and, also, if our insurance will continue coverage will vacant. We will present our recommendation, have discussion and vote at our annual meeting in January.

Sign placement was discussed. The issue will be getting electricity to the 2 places chosen, which is by the RTC building or the small garden area near the stairs in front of the church.

Council members have been given the project of calling members to update our membership list. Some are done and some are still working on them but will be a step in the right direction. When we are done with our list, we will assist Tarri in getting them updated.

Council member terms were discussed. Gretchen, Cindy and Laura terms expire in 2024. Gretchen and Laura are not seeking another term. Cindy will take another term unless there are others interested in a position on council. Robin and Lynn were appointed to 1 of 3-year terms ending in 2026. Both are willing to stay on. Marcia volunteered to stay until 2025.

Kara Transtrom wishes to teach voice lessons in our church. She will bring her own keyboard. It will be youth and adults. She will be given a fob to enter. She will use the building on Sundays, after service and coffee hour and not in the Sanctuary. Joy motioned to approve, Cindy 2nd, motion carried.

New Business: Jennifer reminded us that in November we will be having reviews for staff and council.

Tarri will be gone the week of October 22.

During the November meeting we will be working on the budget.

One comment card read to decorate the wooden cross.

The next meeting will be November 19th around 1:00 PM after for fall festival.

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

We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Cindy Geiger, Secretary