

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting May 17, 2023 Draft

The meeting was called to order by President Jennifer at 6:04 PM. Council members present were Cindy, Gretchen, Joy, Laura, Lynn, Robin, Marcia and Kevin. Others present were Pastor Paul and Ardyce.

Joy gave a devotion on “Anxious for Nothing” and to Quench Anxious, Stir Courage, Fret Less and Have more faith.

Approval of the Agenda. Gretchen motioned to approve as is, Joy 2nd, motion carried.

Approval of the minutes. Gretchen motioned to approve, Joy 2nd, motion carried

Ardyce joined our meeting to (1) thank us for the reception in honoring her years of our secretary and (2) to update us on the website. Ardyce has volunteered to maintain our website. She has made many changes and improvements! She is also working on an app that will be a short cut to all events, prayer wall, and all aspects of the church. Ardyce made a point that she is seeing improvements in our church atmosphere and with the congregation with the new events we are having for our church family.

Staff Report. Pastor reported that Matt has organized a BBQ Bible Study. Matt will be cooking burgers & brats & leading a 7 week study the last Wednesday of each month, beginning May 31st.

Cub Scouts would like to start meeting at our church again. First Lutheran will sponsor with a place to meet and pay \$400 annual charter.

WELCA: Discussion was held on the youth holding a rummage sale. Katie Tschetter and Elizabeth Holen will do some research. WELCA is not interested in resuming this event. Anne is interested in implementing a Women’s Bible study for younger women and will check into interest. The noon luncheon was a success. The kitchens will be cleaned by Hope and Peace Circles.

Finance: Income was up the month of April. Profit and Loss show a nice profit. The Trust Committee has agreed to pay Matthew’s wages and will reimburse us quarterly. Kevin motioned to approve, Laura 2nd, motion carried.

Property: Dell laptops were approved by the Trust committee to be used by the staff. Computers were needed as Paul & Matthew have been using their personal computers and others needed updates. Robin ordered computers and anti virus for Paul, Matt, Tarri, and balcony for recording services. HVAC control computer was also updated & paid for from the church budget. Glen is looking into hiring G & R to inspect our furnace semi annually as they found 4 that were not functioning. Bell tower is still incomplete. The new parsonage needs some fence replacement. The old parsonage has been shown to 7 parties with 5 showing

interest. Discussion was held on the sale of the old parsonage. Property will be in contact with Katie Tschetter with changes and updates. Changes were discussed, Marcia moved, Gretchen 2nd, motion carried. The next property meeting is June 2 at 11:30 AM.

Worship: May 28th we will have a short, unstructured, informal service, with congregation choosing hymns. Ann is working on a Prayer Chain. June 18th worship will be held at the new fairgrounds. Breakfast will be served before the service. Marcia is working with Pastor on getting permission to use copyright for more contemporary songs.

Stewardship and Evangelism: Easter was a great service with Easter bags passed out after the children's sermon and an Easter egg hunt downstairs with egg filled with candy and riddles. Lynn made some wonderful May Day baskets and the children passed them out after their sermon. The 2nd Annual Table Party was a huge success with finger foods and a wonderful variety of teas. Jessie Veeder Scofield was the entertainment and did a wonderful job with inspirational stories and songs. We are working with Katie Tschetter to create a 'Care Team' for church and community outreach.

Youth and Education: Matt is attempting to get youth interested in the Paintball War in July in Minot. Senior Sunday is May 21st along with the 6th graders getting their Catechism books for this fall.

Call Committee: Call committee met on April 27th with Pastor Emily Shipman on Zoom for a mock interview. Pastor Emily brought up several helpful suggestions for the committee. At this time, there are still no pastoral candidates. Joy will be leaving for a 2 week vacation, and Ari will be her fill in as chair of the committee.

Unfinished Business: Matt and Kathleen Beard will continue to be the UMM delegates.

New Business:

Ardyce has found a way to broadcast our service not using Facebook. It is a minimal cost and will work much better. It would be available on our website once complete.

Lockbox signers are Karla Quale and Ardyce. Gretchen motioned to add Tarri. Lynn 2nd, motion carried.

Staff is working on updating the committee/ministry team descriptions as ours are outdated.

Jennifer placed a call to Bishop Craig per council's request. His calendar is full until September. We have put out an invite to him. There are currently 18 congregations in the WND Synod needing pastors. The Synod is "thinking out of the box" as far as requirements are for Pastors. 20 more pastors will be retiring in the near future.

Anne Beard & Jennifer Sorenson will attend WND Synod assembly as voting delegates June 2-4th. Marcia Hellandsaas will attend as a guest, Pastor Paul as our pastor and Matthew as delegate from Banks/Garden.

Vacation/sick leave for Paul and moving forward was next on the agenda. Pastor is willing to have another contract renewal until another pastor is found. (His contract term ends July 31st) There was discussion regarding our options. We will have our decision for renewal at our next meeting. Pastor is needing hip surgery and would like to have a time frame.

Executive meeting was called.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, June 28th at 5:30 PM.

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

We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Cindy Geiger, Secretary