

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting September 17, 2023 Draft

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Laura at 11:02 AM.

Council members present were Laura, Joy, Lynn, Robin, Kevin, Cindy and Marcia. Gretchen was present via cell phone. Others present were Matt, Tarri, Ardyce and Glen Beard.

The devotion was given by Kevin in memory of September 11, 2001 which spoke of how evil is so real but even in the darkest hours, God is our refuge and our strength.

Approval of Agenda: Joy motioned to approve, Robin 2nd, motion carried.

Approval of the August 16 minutes: Kevin motioned to approved, Joy 2nd, motion carried.

Staff Reports:

Matt had his first funeral that went very well. Rob Favorite assisted, with the approval from the Synod. Six (plus maybe a few more coming) youth in confirmation, Sunday School is off and the transition with youth starting in the church sanctuary collecting offering, birthday pennies and songs, then downstairs for class is working well. LYO will have a homecoming float. Some are showing interest in state (held in October in Mandan) and national convention(held in Louisiana), that are in the future. Paul Hanson advised Matt to apply for the TEAM program as soon as possible. The Lay Ministry program start this month. Rally Sunday was a success, with First Responders attending to receive the safety care packets put together by the Sunday School classes. LYO is hosting a Mystery Dinner for members of the congregation and their families. This will be a fundraiser for the upcoming conventions. This dinner will be held October 28th at 6:00 PM. Tickets will go on sale soon. LYO will be participating in the Trail of Treats.

Tarri has researched and we have purchased the Proclaim Church Presentation Software. This is like Power Point but much better. Once she is comfortable with the new software, we will discontinue Power Point. This has an annual cost of \$349.00. Tarri thanked Council for letting her help with Rally Sunday as she enjoyed this very much. Robin ordered Tarri a 2nd screen for her computer. The candy for Homecoming/Halloween has been canceled and Laura will get some from Costco.

WELCA: Our WELCA is hosting the Cluster meeting October 7th.

Trust Committee: there was no report but the next meeting is September 24th.

Finance Committee: The checking account is holding. September should show a better financial report since we do not have the Pastor's salary. Utilities were up due to a warm August. There is a charge for maintenance for the parsonage. Tarri will research to see what that was for and report to Gretchen. We received an estimated tax prebill on the new

parsonage. A tax-exempt certificate will be sent to the City Hall. Joy motioned to approved the finance report, Marcia 2nd, motion carried.

Property: G & R turned in 2 proposals for HVAC updates and equipment. The proposal did not include detailed prices and Glen wanted more detailed information due to the high cost of the equipment and continued semi-annual maintenance. G & R is recommending a workstation. After much discussion, the subject was tabled until more information was received. If we approved this, Robin would like to purchase the equipment through Meuchels since he is local and can be on hand if needed. Since winter is coming and it is pertinent to have our system running correctly and smoothly. It was decided we may vote via email to get this completed promptly. Larry Larsen would like to use the garage at the new parsonage. Council felt Larry could use the garage as long as we own it; Glen will check to make sure the contents have been removed that had come from the old parsonage. Glen will stabilize the flower bed that is leaning into the neighbor's yard with timbers. Discussion was held to put a lock on the door to the balcony since we have our video equipment up there. He will check to see what will work the best; we are hoping for a coded lock. The next meeting is October 6 at 11:30 AM.

Worship: October 15th is the dedication of the new communion ware and bell tower. Lunch will be served after. Matt is ordering a vial for holding ashes for funerals and a traveling communion set for home visits. Fall service will remain the same as summer. The next meeting is October 3rd at 9:00 AM.

Stewardship and Evangelism: Our committee will jump in and assist with the Mystery Dinner by purchasing carving tools, pumpkin decorating kits and getting pumpkins. We discussed the apples at the new parsonage and would like to utilize them. We may make up apple crisp kits and, also, selling bags of apples as a fundraiser for the National Youth Gathering. It was decided to pick the apples after church Sept 24th. We will have treat bags the Sunday before Halloween for the youth that attend church that morning. Noisy Buckets will have its debut on Sunday October 1st. Congregation members are encouraged to bring "that extra change" to fill the buckets. The monies will go for activities for the Sunday School or a charity of their choice. We discussed sending cards to new college students from our congregation. Lynn will visit with Val to see if this is something she would like to do. The next meeting is October 4th at 5:00 at Teddys.

Youth and Education: Youth will be helping with greeting and offering. Two kids per week will be assigned. First graders received their bibles on Rally Sunday. Confirmation starts the week of September 17th. A meal will be provided by parents. They are required to complete 10 sermon notes plus more expectations given by Matt. State LYO convention is October 19-20 for high school students and October 20-21 for middle school students. A February ski trip is being planned. Tentative dates are February 16-19, 2024. 5th quarter will begin Homecoming Friday. The next meeting is October 4th at 11:00 AM.

Call Committee: Gretchen, Joy and Matt met with Paul Hanson on whether to offer a stipend or furnish a parsonage for a pastor. Paul's opinion is that either is fine.

Unfinished Business.

Clean Sweep has been handled. We all felt it went well and hope to continue this next year.

Ardyce reported that the website continues to grow and improve. She would like signup sheets or activities sent to her so it can be uploaded onto the site or calendar. Sunday, October 1st Ardyce will stay for coffee hour and assist anyone to get the new church app onto their cell and give them some training on how to utilize all the functions. She would also like a list of duties for each committee.

Tarri left at 12:23PM.

Membership updates is still an issue. It was decided to give each council member a sheet, front and back, and call the individuals. We would like this updated as we are moving for a church membership photo again.

New Business:

Cara Transtrom would like to use the church for music lessons. It was the consensus of council to allow this but need more specifics. She will be allowed a key fob. Lynn will get more details from her.

Membership photos is postponed due to the need of getting the membership updated.

Robin requested that we review all reports that are received prior to the meeting. This should shorten the meetings.

The next meeting will be by October 15th after the dedication ceremony.

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

We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Cindy Geiger, Secretary