

The meeting was called to order by President Joy at approximately 11:00 AM.

Council members present included: President Joy Patten, SAM Matthew Rolfson, Birch Tschetter, Kevin Sullivan, Robin Schwartz, Sue Jorgenson, Lorri Honstein, Cara Transtrom, Vice-President Ardyce Alveshire.

Approval of Agenda: President Joy asked if anyone had any additions to the agenda. Joy asked that we move the reorganization of the council – election of president, vice-president, and secretary to the beginning of the meeting so there will be someone to take minutes. With this change, Robin made a motion to approve the agenda; Kevin seconded. Motion carried. Robin nominated Joy Patten to be President. Robin nominated Kevin Sullivan as Vice-President. Kevin nominated Ardyce Alveshire as Secretary. Joy asked if there were any further nominations at this time and hearing none asked for a vote to cast a unanimous ballot for these positions. All voted aye.

Joy led devotions that emphasized how seeds are sown in our everyday lives and how important it is to pray about these seeds that they may bless all those around us.

Approval of the January 18th minutes: Sue made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Robin seconded. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS:

Minister Matthew reported he has completed part of his seminary practice and is moving on to the 2nd part. He will be doing chapel duty this fall at the McKenzie County Healthcare Systems through the hospital and nursing home. He needs to complete 200 hours of chaplain duty, which he can complete at his own pace. He has spoken to several individuals regarding jail ministry and is waiting to hear back from those people. The Western ND Synod Assembly will be taking place in Watford City May 29-31 this year and First Lutheran needs to have 2 representatives, 1 male and 1 female (preferably not a couple). Springbrook Bible Camp will conduct a presentation at the Assembly and Matthew reported that he is going to ask if they can assist with our Sunday worship that weekend as they will be staying in Watford City to help with VBS the upcoming week. Dates for that are to be determined. Matthew reported that he has had one funeral this month (JoAnn Faulkner). Joy reported that JoAnn's family members were very grateful for being able to use the church & fellowship hall for JoAnn's family service. Matthew reported that he plans to be at the church all day on Ash Wednesday (8am-8pm) for anyone wishing to receive ashes that are unable to attend Ash Wednesday service. Matthew will begin adult Bible studies covering what it takes to be a Lutheran after Easter with Mark Honstein's assistance. They will see how this evolves and if there is enough interest, they may have an adult studies session on Sunday evenings studying Lutheran Doctrine. They are trying to figure out the optimum day and time to have both study sessions. Matthew thanked the Stewardship & Evangelism Committee for all their work putting together and distributing Valentines this past week.

Lindsay reported that she contacted Cara and asked if Ben could work on creating an app for easier communication capabilities. Lindsay reached out to BOSS in Williston for a quote on a new copier, to compare with the quotes we had already received from Marco. We should have more information so we can decide what copier to go with at next month's council meeting.

FINANCE: Robin made a motion to approve the Financial Report as presented; Sue seconded. Motion carried. Kevin presented the reimbursement request that will be given to the Trust Committee for reimbursement for the following expenses from the Iverson Trust Fund: 1)ELCA Benevolences (World Hunger & Missionary Support) - \$20,000; 2)Synod Benevolences (Springbrook Bible Camp & Luther Seminary) - \$20,000; 3)Triangle Electric, Inc. (replacement of lights in Sanctuary) - \$1,545; 4)Teddy's Residential Suites (Bishop's hotel room) - \$186.06; 5)Beard Construction (materials for several outstanding projects) - \$552 totaling \$42,283.06. Robin made a motion to approve reimbursement request as presented; Ardyce seconded. Motion carried. Kevin explained to the new council members that we ask the Trust Committee to reimburse anything outside of the operating budget from the Iverson Trust account. We are to use the Iverson Trust monies for anything we see fit while the Rothie Trust monies are to be used for educational purposes and/or items that the Trust Committee reimburse at their discretion. Next Finance Committee meeting will be March 9th at 1:00 pm.

TRUST: Joy reported that the Trust Committee approved the 25% fund match for the new pew project at their January meeting. The Trust Committee confirmed that they will match 25% of the cost of any capital improvement project from the Rothie Trust, however they ask that we inform them of the project prior to doing it for them to be able to challenge the congregation to donate at least 25% of the cost before they will match those funds. This way they can adjust any investments, use any CDs that are up for renewal or access liquid assets that are available. In this particular case, we weren't able to do this as the pew project was able to happen between meeting dates of the Trust Committee. However, moving forward, we will inform the Trust Committee prior to any capital improvement projects. Current Trust Committee members are Keith Helmuth (Chair), Vicki Karpyak (Secretary), Kelly Peterson (Treasurer), Mitch Haugeberg and Nathan Dahl. The next Trust Committee meeting will be April 27th at 5:30 pm.

PROPERTY: Robin reported that the fabric for the new pews needed to be changed in order to meet the deadline of receiving the pews. Everything is still on track for the new pews to be delivered and installed by March 19th. Need to finalize logistics of the removal of the old pews and delivering them to Springbrook Bible Camp. This is going to take place March 15th following worship. Discussed all the extra smart boards, projectors, mics and sound equipment that were located downstairs and in the sacristy. Need to decide if these items will be sold or given away. The church will be selling a snowblower, gas-powered leaf blower and mower. These and any other items will be advertised for sale in the Clarion, church announcements and website. Robin reported that the current lock on Lindsay's office will be moved to the door of the room where the copier is now and the copier will be moved into Lindsay's office. This way the server, HVAC system and safe will be in a locked room. A coded lock will be put on the door to Lindsay's office. Robin reported that a convex mirror had been installed in the hallway to give Lindsay a view of anyone coming in the door or from the fellowship area. We revisited the possibility of moving all the sound/livestreaming equipment from the balcony to the main floor of the Sanctuary. The current thought is to remove the last two pews on the north side (in front of the library) and build a platform to hold this equipment and allow person(s) running the slideshow to sit on the main level rather than in the balcony. This will also allow handicap accessibility to the slideshow as well as leave more room for wheelchair seating. Property is looking at installing tempered glass to the balcony railing to prohibit any accidents from happening. Discussed purchasing a bright atmosphere screen for the fellowship hall for easier viewing during daylight hours. Another thing that will help is when the windows are tinted, which is scheduled to be completed when we get warmer weather. Other items covered in the Property Committee meeting notes were 1)Interior lights need attention, 2)Will be installing corner guards after painting in some areas, 3)The

Cub Scout room is almost complete, will contact Cian for a painting bid, 4)Will work on sealing beams in the fellowship hall, 5)Glen has provided site plans for utilities to the city, 6)Snow removal cleaned from the church building will be picked up by a bobcat. Next Property Committee meeting will be March 6th at 1:00 pm.

WORSHIP: Discussed the schedule for meals during the Lent season, which is posted in the kitchen. Schedule is as follows: Feb 25 – Council, March 4 – Choir, March 11 – WELCA, March 18 – S & E, March 25 – Y & E. Other items reported by the Worship Committee were 1)A designated person will be meeting with Matthew & Lindsay Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am to review the slideshow. 2)A new mic was purchased and gave minimal improvement so it was decided that a committee will inventory current sound equipment to have continuity and more reliable equipment. Ben will assist with this. 3)Youth will be assisting on Shrove Sunday (Feb 15) to burn last year’s palms with a pancake & sausage meal to follow provided by the Worship Committee. Discussed having this as a community event next year. 4)Caroline will line up people to be disciples for the Lenten services and 2 song leaders to help with the Holden Evening Prayer order of service. 5)There will be an egg brunch on Easter Sunday following worship and will be organized by the S & E Committee. Tabled the possibility of having a sunrise service until the March meeting. 6)Altar Committee will put up the new reversible white and red paraments. 7)Will be changing the service gathering song to “All Are Welcome”. 8)Will try to designate the last Sunday of the month as “United Sunday” encouraging youth to attend on Sunday and have noisy bucket offering. Next Worship Committee meeting is March 4th at 9:30 am.

STEWARDSHIP AND EVANGELISM: The S & E Committee reported the following things: 1)Matthew has prepared the 2026 list of graduating Seniors. Currently there are 7, but committee will continue to monitor list, so no one is missed. Senior Sunday has been tentatively scheduled for May 10th. 2)New member Sunday was Feb. 8th and 16 new members were welcomed into our church family. Each new member was given a wooden cross and gift bag with a candle to “light our way”, heart cookie to “sweeten our path” and jar of jelly to “spread God’s love”. 3)Lynn will order coffee thermos mugs and Cindy will order ceramic mugs for the church. 4)Discussed giving members valentine gift bags with candy, chapstick, handmade valentine with Bible verse and scripture book. The Care Team has been very active making meals & desserts and delivering them to those in need. 5)Our date to serve at the “Feed My Starving Children” event is Feb. 28th 12:00-2:00 pm. Jennifer will order additional tshirts for anyone who needs one. Currently we have 16 volunteers signed up. 6)Committee is planning the Easter Egg hunt on Easter morning and will oversee the Easter Brunch following worship. More definite plans will be made at the March meeting. 7)Discussed the worship service at the Fairgrounds. Cindy & Matt will call other ELCA churches in McKenzie County to see if they are interested in participating. Next S & E meeting will be March 5th at 5:30 pm at Teddy’s.

YOUTH & EDUCATION: Joy reported that Cara & Ben have been organizing the Wednesday evening worship, which seems to be going very well. Joy said that there will be two parent guides helping with Confirmation class and she will be helping with the 6th graders.

CALL COMMITTEE: Joy presented a letter that had been written to the Call Committee & FLC Council that voiced encouragement to return the call committee to active status and continue our search for an ordained pastor that could serve as a mentor for Matthew while lessening his workload as he continues his Seminary studies. Joy reported that First Lutheran Church’s ministry profile has been updated and we are in active search status on the ministry website. Joy will schedule a meeting for all those helping with worship services and Bible studies (Matt, Joy, Laura, Ann, Mark, Cara, Ben) to discuss and come to a consensus of what would be needed for a youth director position. Joy read the Covenant of Leadership for Council to inform new members and remind returning members of our

promises we made to God, to our church family and to each other. Once we have a complete Council a new copy of this Covenant will be distributed for all of us to sign.

WELCA: Reviewed events that happened during the month. Feb. 8th service was wonderful with the Bishop here to bless the new baptismal font & paraments and help welcome new members. Feb. 13th we will be burning last year's palms for the ashes for Ash Wednesday. Wednesday evening services have been averaging 50 in attendance. The usual Lenten soup/sandwich supper will begin Feb. 25th. JoAnn Faulkner's funeral will be at 11:00 am on Feb. 14th. Next WELCA meeting is March 9th at 10 am.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Revised Stewardship and Evangelism Job Description: This has been updated to include all duties of the Stewardship & Evangelism Committee and will be kept in the Committee information binder. Council members reviewed the updated Digital Sign Guidelines. Kevin made a motion to adopt the guidelines as written; Robin seconded. Motion carried.

Two Open Council Positions: We are still in search of two Council members to make a full Council. Council members will continue to ask individuals to consider joining Council or possibly appoint 2 people.

Schedule Council Installation: It was decided to postpone Council installation until we have a full Council of 9 members.

Sue/Matthew-Event Calendar for the Year: Sue reviewed all of the activities that take place throughout the year and who is responsible for each activity (staff member or committee).

NEW BUSINESS:

Job Description for Music Director: Joy will work on putting this together.

Feed My Starving Children: Scheduled for February 28th 12:00 – 2:00 pm.

Next Council meeting is March 22nd following worship.

Sue made a motion to adjourn the meeting; Robin seconded. Motion carried.

The Council concluded the meeting by reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Ardyce Alveshire, FLC Council Secretary