

The meeting was called to order by President Joy at 10:40 am. Council members present included: President Joy Patten, Vice-President Kevin Sullivan, Secretary Ardyce Alvesshere, Cara Transtrom, Steve Williams, Sue Jorgenson, Donna Slais, Lorri Honstein, Robin Schwartz. Staff present: Minister Matthew Rolfson, Glen Beard. Absent: Youth Representative Birch Tschetter.

Sue led a devotion titled “Move Closer to the Light” reminding us that we are to shine as a steady light to share the miracle of God’s grace and shed forth the gospel light to help keep people from slipping and falling.

Adoption of Agenda: Joy asked that we add another item to New Business – Renewal Garden at the Cancer Center. Sue made a motion to approve the amended agenda; Robin seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of the June 16th, 2026 minutes: Donna made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Sue seconded. Motion carried.

Report on current projects: Glen reported that the roofers are here and have new rubber on the two roofing projects. The existing roof was put on in 1986. There is also a leak on the peak where the roofs meet that Glen is going to ask the roofers to look at and repair. There is work being done to the stair rail due to brick damage during snow removal. Cascade Glass has ordered glass for the window in Minister Matthew’s office, which should be arriving in the upcoming week. While Cascade Glass is here, Glen is going to ask them to measure one of the window well covers that was damaged by hail and replace it. The cost to replace the front double doors will be \$7,200. The internal hardware will need to be removed and the panic and exterior levers replaced. Robin made the motion to replace the hardware for the front double doors; Steve seconded. Motion carried. Glen reported that a couple of pieces of concrete outside have sunk and need replacement. Burnt out lights downstairs have been replaced and Glen will contact the electrician to replace the lights that are out in the track lighting in the Sanctuary. Wood for the upstairs balcony should be coming soon, and Glen will get shop drawings to the glass company to get the right measurements for the glass. He is also getting a quote to add a couple more lights in the balcony for better lighting. Cara confirmed that the installation of the new sound system will begin the 1st week of September. Lights will be installed at a later date.

STAFF REPORTS:

Matthew: Minister Matthew reported that he officiated for the following events in the past 3 months: June – Funeral for Marcia Hellandsaas (6/22) and Baptism of Parker Jo Ella Quale (6/28); July – Funerals for Gene Fedorenko and Julie Fedorenko (7/25); August – Wedding for Bradley & Karen Herzog (Minot), Funerals for Margaret “Peggy” Norstog (8/8), Ralph Matthison (Fargo – 8/21), Nyla Dahl (8/28) and Baptism of Sophie Rae Kleppen (8/9). Matthew reported that he will be starting his Pastoral Care class in September, which will be taking place on Fridays so he hopes to rearrange his office workdays where he will be in the office on Fridays from 9 am – 3 pm behind closed doors (church doors will be open) and take Mondays off until December to balance things out. He will be taking vacation September 19th-25th. Matthew also reported that he has completed the Lunches and Learn studies this summer over Zoom with the Western ND Synod. He has turned in all the 3rd modular for Seminary and has 6 more modulares to go. After having an organizational meeting with the youth families, it was decided to have youth classes on Wednesday nights from 6-7:00 pm. Doors will open at 5 pm and it will be decided by the youth families if they wish to have some type of meal before classes start. At 7 pm he will offer a prayer and short communion service. Other items covered in Minister Matthew’s report: The small mission trip for our youth to Ray had been cancelled, however youth are encouraged to help with “God’s Work. Our Hands.” mission project on September 13th. The outdoor ministry BBQ in the park and trip to Medora went very well and the hope is to continue these missions going forward. One of Matthew’s assignments was to do a healing service, which turned out to be a wonderful opportunity, and he wishes to have another one this fall. Matthew will continue to require 10 sermon notes from each confirmation student, however this year he will ask the students to write the gospel and three sentences stating what they thought the church service was about.

Cara: Cara reported the summer has been very busy trying to figure out the best scenario in which to schedule our Christian formation programming for it to benefit everyone involved. She attended the WELCA

Triennial Gathering in Des Moines, IA in July where she was able to evaluate curriculum and have many beneficial conversations with congregants of various ages. After much research, she & Minister Matthew have determined that Wednesday nights will be the best for all educational programming.

Ben: Ben reported that the Proclaim software (worship) slides have been redone to eliminate flashes and present better to online viewers, which is also in preparation for the new broadcast capabilities. Installation of the new sound system will be September 1st with Randy and RPM Sound Designs and will be broken into two segments to avoid any Sunday interruptions. Once the installation of the new sound system is complete, the church technology inventory process will be complete and results will be reported. Training on the new sound system for congregants will begin at the end of September or early October. The church membership side of ICON is being updated. There are still a lot of members with incomplete information (mailing or physical address, email, phone number) and the office is trying to get all this information updated in a timely manner, which is important for pastoral care, directory updates, and clear communication. New technology solutions are being tested as Microsoft Publisher (program church uses for bulletins, Clarion, funeral materials, etc.) will cease to work in October. Ben has written an internal (no access to the outside) Council Minutes AI program that allows any council member to query the past council minutes and get an answer based on what the council has decided in the past.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE: Reviewed all financial statements and reports for the months of June and July. We are requesting \$8,294.26 reimbursement from the Iverson Trust for May-July expenses: Drum set, monitor, drumsticks, pedal & stands - \$5,079.26; Architectural plans for ADA adjustments in the Sanctuary - \$3,215.00. Sue made a motion to approve the reimbursement request for May, June and July for the Iverson Trust; Lorrie seconded. Motion carried. Kevin made the motion to accept the June and July Financial Reports as presented; Donna seconded. Motion carried. Other items discussed at the Financial Committee meetings in June and July: Committee agreed with Cara's suggestion to cancel our subscription to Church Art, a graphic design service, as we do not use it any longer. Discussed the savings account FLC currently has at First International Bank, which had been designated as a Memorial Fund many years ago. Any memorial made during the year would be transferred to this account, however since no transfers have been made during the past several years, it was decided to transfer the balance of this account into the General Fund, earmarked as Memorial Fund monies. The current balance is \$2,464.95. Matthew reminded us that there is a CD at Cornerstone Bank that, if cashed in, could be used to purchase a bus or some form of transportation for the church which would be greatly beneficial to our church family of all ages. Matthew reported that the Ministerial Association is working on updating the account signers at First International Bank. It was decided that expenses, such as the bouncy house, for Rally Day would be marked as a Youth & Ed expense. Water bill for July was significantly higher in July likely due to hotter weather and increased water usage to water the lawn. It was discovered that we never received an invoice from Chris Focke for his IT services in March and once that is paid, he will be paid up to date. Matthew mentioned upcoming expenses of the National Youth Convention, where 6 youth are attending, and payment to Springbrook Bible Camp for youth from FLC attended camp this past summer. Both expenses will be reimbursed from the Rothie Trust Fund. Joy stated that someone had recommended that the brokerage account that we opened with Edward Jones be referred to as a legacy account and that information be put in the bulletin and Clarion about this account, referring to Douglas Rolfson who is the contact person for this account. Next Finance Committee meeting will be September 14th at 1:00 pm.

PROPERTY: Update on elevator – Joy forwarded an email from the TK Elevator service to Ari stating that they are going to start charging us a service fee for not paying our bill. Ari said that we can either pay or not pay the bill and tell them they are in breach of contract with a letter in which Ari will write. Council agreed that since they have not provided any services in which to get paid for that we do not pay the bill. Other items in the Property Committee report: 1)Padding order for pews was cancelled, 2)Women's fellowship bathroom toilet paper dispenser is too low (Joy reported that she has gotten 4 free standing toilet paper dispensers

which will solve this problem), 3)Window well latches have been replaced, 4)Unisex bathroom light switch has been ordered, 5)Elk River replaced some plants and trees, 6)Tiles are fixed in the office area walkway.

WORSHIP: Cara presented the research that she & Ben have done comparing the wording in several versions of the Bible with hopes of finding a version that will match up with Sundays and Seasons. This will help match up all the components of worship so that everything is consistent and require much less time spent putting together these components (bulletin, lessons for reader, slide show, etc.). If we were to order new pew Bibles that would coordinate with Sundays and Seasons, we could donate our current Bibles to a worthy cause and order soft covered Bibles to replace them. Bibles in paperback form could also be given away to those in need of a Bible. Before giving our current Bibles away, we want to record any that have been given in honor or memory of someone. Next Worship Committee meeting will be September 2nd at 9:30 am.

STEWARDSHIP AND EVANGELISM:

Committee has ordered 100 mugs from Mystery Ink. FLC's presence at the County Fair and participation with the Sons of Norway July 4th float in Arnegard were very positively received. A big thank you to Cara for all her hard work getting these things lined up. The car show in the church parking lot during Ribfest was cancelled due to rain. Committee has started working on a church directory and is hoping to start taking pictures around Rally Day. Due to families requesting to have youth classes on Wednesdays again, Rally Day will be held on a Wednesday evening this year instead of Sunday (on August 26th). It will start at 6 pm in the Sanctuary where Bibles will be given to the third graders, small catechisms will be given to the Confirmation students and leaders will be recognized. After a short prayer, pizza will be served followed by fun & games in the parking lot. There will be a bouncy house, bubbles, foam party and more. Matthew reported that Wednesday night Bible study has been going well and will continue in the fall at the same time of 6:30 pm. September 13th will be our day for "God's work. Our hands" mission project, which will be putting together hygiene kits. FLC and F5 Ministries will be providing all the supplies needed. There will be a potluck meal and birthday party for several quintessential ladies on Sunday, October 11th following worship. Next Stewardship & Evangelism Committee meeting will be held September 1st at 5:00 pm at Teddy's.

CARE TEAM REPORT: No report.

YOUTH & EDUCATION: Covered in other reports.

WELCA: Held their annual summer event on August 12th with 16 women in attendance. They covered three Bible lessons, had pizza for lunch and held a short business meeting. It was decided to send a donation of \$500 to the Nash family ministry, who are Bible translators. Upper Missouri Cluster meeting will be held at Springbrook Bible Camp on October 3rd with WCFLC as the host. The theme will be "Spread God's Love". There will be a book exchange and the cost to attend is \$12. October 22nd & 23rd is the Synod Women Assembly at Camp of the Cross. It was decided to have the monthly WELCA Bible study/meeting second Wednesday of the month at 1 pm. Next meeting will be September 9th.

Altar Committee: Currently there are 10 members of this group who make sure the Altar paraments are updated, according to the church year calendar. The candles on the Altar are oil based and are maintained by David Berg. Unleavened bread is used for communion, a reminder of the Passover. Wafers are made by Celeste Berg and unleavened bread is made by Anne Beard. Anyone wishing to make bread for communion, please let the church office know. Banners have been purchased to reflect what is going on in the church and are changed by the Altar Committee to keep them current. The Altar Committee is always in need of volunteers and if this is a ministry you are interested in helping with, please contact Anne Beard or the church office.

Call Committee: Call process continues with an update to come in September.

Unfinished Business:

Transportation: FLC has a \$20,000 CD at Cornerstone Bank and it has been proposed in the past that we use this money to purchase a form of transportation for the church. After much discussion of things to consider such as what type and size of transportation to purchase, where this vehicle would be stored, who would

maintain and or drive it, and how often it would be used, it was decided to table this until the September Council meeting.

Steven Nash family for mission support through Wycliffe: Council discussed if a donation should be made to the Nash family and if so, how much. Main concern was how much of this donation would be given directly to the Nash family when going through Wycliffe ministries. It was reiterated that there are ways to direct any money given to go solely to the Nash family with zero funds taken out for overhead expenses.

Cara made the motion to give \$5,000 to Wycliffe Bible Translators specifically designated for mission support for the Stephen Nash family; Ardyce seconded. Motion carried.

Basement: \$100,000 has been budgeted this year for basement improvements. Cara has done extensive research to identify areas for improvement that would help make the basement as functional, practical, and usable as possible. Areas such as: 1) Stained carpeting replaced with vinyl wood-looking planking, 2) Walls in the old fellowship hall and kitchen be painted with a neutral color, 3) Cabinets in kitchen painted white, 4) Set up 2 separate furniture seating clusters, a dining cluster, and instrumental jamming area, 5) Set up rolling room dividers, 6) Purchase round tables like those in the upstairs fellowship hall, 7) Add additional lighting/lamps, 8) Purchase inexpensive yet attractive indoor/outdoor rugs, artwork, and faux greenery, 9) Apply press-on stained glass appliques to cinderblock windows. Matthew informed the Council of what groups would be using the basement this year: Scouts will meet on Mondays, Sunday School and Confirmation on Wednesdays. Classical Conversations will not be meeting this year due to lack of volunteers. The basement would also be a good area for Bible study, grief share, casual gathering, prayer circle, etc. Cara will contact Garmann's and Carpet Creations for bids to replace the flooring. Cara also suggested setting up a display case with Scout memorabilia in the Sunday School area so there is a visibility of what the Scouts have to offer to the Sunday School students.

NEW BUSINESS:

Building Committee for Altar alterations: Steve and Cara volunteered to be part of this committee and a couple other people will be contacted to be involved.

New council member needed: Robin submitted his resignation from the FLC Council. The Council expressed its appreciation to Robin for generously sharing his time and talents and for volunteering to complete Cliff Wenstad's term. Kevin will contact potential candidates to find someone to complete the remainder of Robin's term, which ends in January 2027. Robin reminded the Council that there is still money budgeted to get a laptop or inexpensive tv to set up to view what shows up on the exterior cameras. Matthew reported that the RTC doorbell camera is not very dependable as it does not adequately notify when someone rings the doorbell. May decide to go back to the Ring doorbell camera as it is more dependable.

Renewal Garden at McKenzie Health Cancer Center: Donna presented an email sent from Lynn Welker asking the church to consider helping out with this project. Joy said that Council can take this under advisement and asked if this could be something that could be a project for the Table Party, tentatively set for November 15th. Matthew suggested that it could also be a fundraiser for the whole congregation to be a part of. Stewardship & Evangelism Committee will discuss these ideas at their next meeting.

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

Next Council meeting will be September 20th following worship. Donna volunteered to lead devotions.

Respectfully submitted,
Ardyce Alveshire, FLC Council Secretary