

The meeting was called to order by President Joy at 10:56 am. Council members present included: President Joy Patten, Vice-President Kevin Sullivan, Secretary Ardyce Alveshere, Lorri Honstein, Sue Jorgenson, Robin Schwartz, and Cara Transtrom. Others attending were SAM Matthew Rolfson, Donna Slais, and Steve Williams. Absent: Youth Representative Birch Tchetter.

Joy opened the meeting with a devotion about discernment and even though we may not see a dramatic sign we need to trust that God is leading us in ways (sometimes easy to overlook) to replace our fear with His peace.

Approval of Agenda: President Joy asked if anyone had any additions to the agenda. Robin made a motion to approve the agenda; Kevin seconded. Motion carried.

Approval of the February 15th minutes: Robin made a motion to approve the minutes as presented; Sue seconded. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS:

Minister Matthew reported he had officiated for one funeral in February for JoAnn Faulkner. He has been meeting weekly with area ministers for text study and will be starting to meet monthly with another group on Highway 2 as part of his SAM covenant. He also holds a monthly meeting with his pastoral advisor. Teen Ministry will be meeting March 29th at 4:00 pm to go over many topics. First Communion class was well attended by 7 students. Sunday School teachers had approached Matthew regarding the basement needing cleaning and better furniture/storage for classes. There were 21 people from FLC to help at Feed My Starving Children. He has been working towards VBS and fairgrounds/outdoor ministry this summer. Matthew stated that he is willing to do a Wednesday night service this summer.

Lindsay reported that we had received a very generous donation to buy a new copier/printer for the office. It was decided to continue with Marco as they have given us excellent service in the past. The new machine should be arriving in April. The office (with approval) has ordered supplies to put together special Easter eggs that will be given out Easter Sunday with Matthew giving a message to explain the significance of “Easter Eggs” as we relate it to Jesus.

FINANCE: Kevin reported that we will wait until next month to request reimbursement from the Iverson Trust for expenses outside of the operating budget as there were so few this month and we will then have the amount paid outside of donations for the new church pews. \$49,000 has been given as donations so far. Kevin explained that Matthew has been doing more driving now as he meets with other ministers and his advisor and made a motion to give Matthew a \$100 allowance every month to help with this expense during the time he is a SAM (Synod Authorized Minister); Ardyce seconded. Motion carried. Kevin also stated that we will submit a reimbursement request for ½ of this expense to the Trust Committee to be paid by the Rothe Trust. Robin made a motion to approve the Financial Reports as presented; Sue seconded. Motion carried. Next Finance committee meeting is April 13th at 1:00 pm.

PROPERTY: Robin reported that there will be a silent auction to sell maintenance equipment that is no longer needed for the church (edger, mediator, snowblower, leaf blower, and lawn mower). Two security cameras have been installed with Matthew & Lindsay having access to camera footage.

Cameras are located by the exterior office door and above exterior fellowship hall. Joy reported that Glen would like to have a building committee formed to figure out a plan for the Altar to eliminate any tripping hazards. Glen would like to contact a couple of architecture firms to send people who are experts at these things to look over what we have and help advise us on how to move forward. Carpet in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall had a deep cleaning after old pews were removed. Discussed the need to have high school students come this spring during the Community Cleanup event and concluded that there really is not a need at this time, but we can revisit in the fall as there may be some areas that need attention at that time. Robin asked that there be some restrictions to bringing coffee or other drinks into the Sanctuary – no open cups, only cups with tight fitting lids be allowed. Joy mentioned that the S & E Committee had been looking at ordering mugs with the church logo on them and could make sure to order ones with tight fitting lids. Other items covered in the Property Committee meeting were that G & R is scheduling a maintenance check later this month and the balcony tempered glass will have brass brackets. Next Property Committee meeting is April 3rd at 9 am.

WORSHIP: Discussed Holy Week schedule: Wednesday, April 1st – 40/40 walk at Tourist Park at 4:30 pm, no worship but meal at 5:30 then Sunday School & Confirmation students will put together resurrection gardens and Mark will lead Bible Study; Maundy Thursday & Good Friday – Worship at 6 pm; Easter Sunday – Worship at 9:30 am followed by brunch and Easter Egg Hunt. Other items covered at the Worship Committee meeting were looking into someone to train several people on the sound system so more can have an understanding of it. Cara will check with other area churches to find out what companies they work with regarding their sound systems. We would like to get quotes from several different companies when replacing our sound system with something that will be more dependable. Will return to having the complete readings shown on the screen Sunday mornings (along with pew Bible page number), due to many requests to do so by congregants. Church pews were removed last Sunday and taken to Springbrook Camp. Lent worship on March 18th was held in the Fellowship Hall since new pews still needed to be assembled. Next Worship Committee meeting is April 1st at 9:30 am.

STEWARDSHIP AND EVANGELISM: The S & E Committee is providing brunch following worship Easter Sunday and will be serving french toast & sausage. Will also hold an Easter Egg Hunt downstairs. Received a check from the family of Curtis Anderson for food served by the Care Team at his funeral. This money will be deposited into the General Fund under Stewardship & Evangelism earmarked as a donation to the Care Team. Other items covered in the S & E meeting were: Discussed providing fellowship lunch for church on March 15th with green as the theme for St. Patrick's Day. Next S & E meeting will be April 2nd following Maundy Thursday worship at the church.

YOUTH & EDUCATION: Joy reported that the committee is still working on plans for VBS this summer. Cara has graciously done a lot of research on a potential community-wide collaboration and use of the Rough Rider Center or McKenzie County Ag Expo facilities. It was decided that this would a good thing to work on for next year. Kevin reminded the committee members that since this is a matter involving education, any cost would be eligible for reimbursement from the Rothie Trust Fund. Matthew reported that there will be a Teen Ministry meeting on March 29th at 4 pm and will try to hold a monthly meeting going forward. Another item discussed during the Y & E Education meeting was the youth involvement in upcoming activities. Youth will be: Helping with the service as a number of youths receive their First Communion on March 29th, putting together resurrection gardens on April 1st, helping with the Easter Egg Hunt April 5th and on April 26th 3 students will be confirmed.

CALL COMMITTEE: Joy reported that the Ministry Site Profile has been approved for submission. Cara has been helping the committee by currently working on staffing and job descriptions and what our current needs are within the church. Will have more information regarding these things at the April Council meeting. Cara asked that if anyone has any insight on needs that are not currently being met to contact herself, Benjamin Bradley or Mark Honstein.

WELCA: No report submitted. Next WELCA meeting is April 13th at 10 am.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Council Members Needed, Installation, Sign Contract: With Donna Slais and Steve Williams joining Council we now have a full board. We will have installation of Council members on April 12th during worship. Joy will ask Lindsay to type up an updated contract for all Council members (new & existing) to sign at the April Council meeting. It came to our attention that we did not make a motion & vote to appoint Donna & Steve to the Council at this Council meeting so on March 25th, through electronic means (email), Ardyce made a motion to appoint Donna Slais and Steve Williams to be on the FLC Council; Cara seconded. Motion carried. Their terms will be voted on by the congregation at the next annual meeting.

Directory/Membership List: It was decided to continue to move forward putting a directory together using ICON (our church management system). Everyone has the capability to upload a picture, if they wish, and update any needed information on their ICON account. Discussed requirements of church membership and if one's membership can expire. Will look at our Bylaws to see what they say and may want to change wording so once a member, always a member (unless request is made to be removed or transferred). When putting a directory together all members will be included, whether they are active or inactive. Matthew suggested setting a date for a photographer to be at the church to take pictures for the directory and forms available for people to update their information, if needed. Will table this until next month when we will have more information regarding photographers available to do this and best dates to schedule them to take pictures.

Homeland Security, Church Security Evaluation Recommendations, Follow-up, Signage: Joy reported that we need to have exit signs and an emergency/evacuation plan posted. Robin will share the report he received from Homeland Security with Steve and we'll talk about what follow-up needs to be done at the April meeting. Joy & Matthew checked on the AD and first aid kits and found that the defibrillator batteries are charged, first aid kits are available (one above the defibrillator by the Fellowship Hall and one in the kitchen) and fire extinguishers have been charged.

NEW BUSINESS:

Summer Worship Schedule: Matthew reported that he is willing to try Wednesday night services during the summer and see how it goes. Cara pointed out that Wednesday night services have become the primary service for some of the younger families.

Synod Convention Representatives and Additional Attendance: This year's Synod Convention will be in Watford City May 29th & 30th. We need to have 2 representatives (one male, one female) and the church will pay for their registration. Anyone is welcome to attend the Synod Convention. We should have the names of those attending by April so they can be submitted to the Synod.

Outreach – Advertising, Billboards, Playbills/Sports Programs: We have 2 small billboards – one by Assembly of God Church and one by One-Way Trucking. Steve reported that the city has changed some of their sign ordinances and a sign must be maintained. The signs are in good shape, but we should see that the grass is cut around the signs. Robin suggested that maintaining the signs and being a point person for advertising and maintaining the Facebook stream be good jobs for a hired position, such as a youth director. Matthew will check with Lindsay to see if she could monitor the Watford City

What's Up pages to help promote First Lutheran Church (example – if someone asks about area churches).

Use of Fellowship Hall as a Senior Social Gathering Location: Matthew reported that several congregants had mentioned that this would be something nice to have. He will check back with these members to see what the best time for this would be and go from there. This would be a time for people to gather and enjoy coffee and fellowship while utilizing our Fellowship Hall.

Ben – Coffee House Type Open Mic Events – Not Necessarily Religious: Joy reported that Benjamin Bradley brought this idea up, thinking it would be something that could be done once a quarter. After discussion, it was decided that this is something that could be done, however there would need to be some rules as to what is performed, and everything would need to be Christian based. This is something that could be for all ages and another great use of the Fellowship Hall. It was decided to table this and discuss it further at the April Council meeting.

Church Transportation: Discussed the ups and downs of having a transportation van at the church. Matthew reported that MCHS is selling their bus, which also has wheelchair accessibility. Discussed if this would be cost effective or would it be less expensive to carpool to events. If there are more than 16 passengers, the driver would be required to have a CDL. Matthew will check with MCHS to see what they are asking for their bus. Cara will check with other churches to inquire about their transportation and gather information to bring back to the April Council meeting.

OTHER:

Discussed having a booth at the McKenzie County Fair where we could offer free coffee and seating for people to sit and visit. It could also be a great fundraising event for the youth if they could help and possibly sell baked goods. This would be an excellent opportunity to offer hospitality to our community. Cost for a 10x10 booth would be \$250 for the duration of the fair (a little extra if we need to use electricity). Cara said she could commit to being at the booth every day.

Cara brought up the idea of purchasing an electronic drum set to serve as a form of discipleship and to encourage youth involvement with the worship band. It was the consensus of the Council to move forward with this and it was recommended that we purchase a new set, rather than used.

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

Next Council meeting will be April 19th at 10:45 am.

Respectfully submitted,
Ardyce Alveshire, FLC Council Secretary