

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting August 16, 2023 Draft

The meeting was called to order by President Jennifer at 5:50 PM.

Council members were present were Jennifer, Cindy, Kevin, Gretchen, Laura, Lynn and Joy. Also present were Matthew and Ardyce.

Devotion was led by Jennifer referring to a member of our community who just lost their newborn daughter. The mother infant wrote how God is merciful and will continue to provide peace knowing they will be together again. This is something we all need to remember and embrace. Jennifer ended with a special prayer.

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

Approval of the July 12, 2023 minutes. Minutes were approved via email on July 16th.

Staff Report. Matt reported that the planning of Rally Sunday is going very well. There is congregational excitement for the Care Team to get fully organized and functioning. Bible Study will be August 30th at 6:00 PM. Matt is needing volunteers for Rally Sunday. He also reported Tarri has been very helpful while he is harvesting his crops.

WELCA: A written report was created by Joy. Joy has volunteered to care for the flower bed in front of the church. District Cluster meeting will be held in Watford City October 7th. New banners and communion ware has been ordered. Ann is attempting to organize a circle for the younger members. Next meeting will be September 6th at 10:00 AM.

Trust Report: It is our understanding the Rothe Trust will pay half of Matt's salary. They will reimburse First Lutheran quarterly. They have also agreed to purchase the Ministry books for the 4 from First Lutheran that will be taking the Lay Ministry course.

Finance: Gretchen will continue to monitor all credit card purchases. Johnson & Co. will add this to our financial report. There is a noted difference in the in the checking account. This will be less of a difference since Pastor Paul is no longer with us and the Rothe will be reimbursing First Lutheran for Matt's wages. Kevin asked where the income from the sale of the old parsonage will go. The Trust committee will deposit it back into the Trust. Kevin motioned to approve the financial report. Cindy 2nd, motion carried.

At 6:16 PM Robin joined the meeting.

Property: Tarri's new laptop is being repaired by Dell under the warranty. No proposal from G and R on HVAC regular maintenance. Larson's sent a nice donation for the use of the garage at the old parsonage. Discussion of the need to keep the new parsonage was held. Katie Tschetter did a CMA (Cumulative Market Analysis) on the new parsonage. The sale of the old parsonage is

complete. It was suggested to check the Homeowner's Insurance on the new parsonage if there is any verbiage if it remains empty. If we were to sell, we would need to update our MSP we have for the call process. Adding a stipend was again discussed briefly and would also need to be added to the MSP. The sale of the new parsonage has been tabled and there was discussion to hold a special congregational meeting for more input from the church members. A copy of the CMA from Katie Tschetter was distributed to council members. Carpet and cushions have been cleaned. The fascia needs to be repainted and we were quoted \$3010. Robin motioned to approve this, Lynn 2nd, motion carried. A new paper folder is needed. Robin motioned to purchase this for \$535.29, Joy 2nd, motion carried. We have a couple church members that would like to participate in the purchase of a new sign for the church. The tree will remain until it is dead. A new area for a sign could be next to the RTC building. Some also would like the sign closer to the church. We would like to put up some decorative crosses on the corners. Robin will research the costs, pros and cons of each. Sam Meuchel and Robin will work on getting a 2nd monitor for Tarri since it will be more efficient. The next meeting is September 8th at 11:00 AM.

Worship: The clipboard requesting volunteers will no longer be passed during worship. Volunteers are encouraged to sign up in the church hall. Tarri has ordered writing tablets for the youth. Clean up in August has been a success so far. The Care Team will be primarily members of the congregation. The new communion trays and chalice are here and beautiful. The next meeting is September 5th at 9:00 AM.

Stewardship and Evangelism: The rummage sale was discussed. If Ann can get a younger circle organized, hopefully they would be willing to take on this project as WELCA is getting calls of people wanting the sale to continue. The Care Team was discussed and a rough draft of responsibilities and goal of the committee was reviewed. Members would like to activate the Prayer Chain. Val Swensrud has offered to get this organized and active. Rally Sunday is being organized with bouncy houses, dunk booth, BBQ, games and Paul Hansen will be our guest speaker. With lots of apples at the new parsonage, it was discussed to have a Fall Festival Day and sell apple pies and bags of apples. The next meeting is September 6th at 5:00 at Teddy's Lounge.

Youth and Education: Rally Sunday was discussed in depth. The youth will put together pack bags for First Responders. During the children's sermon, bibles will be handed out to the first graders. Tarri will create a flyer for Rally Sunday and, also, get it on social media. Confirmation will start September 17th as well as Sunday School. August 30th will be a planning session for Sunday School parents/teachers/volunteers. The next meeting is September 6th at 11:00 AM.

Call Committee: Joy presented a letter on behalf of the call committee to the Trust Committee, proposing funding for debt forgiveness for a new pastor. The consensus of the committee is they would be in favor and request a defined contract/agreement with the said pastoral candidate. This plan also needs to be cleared by the WND Synod so we are within regulations regarding covenants. No candidates have shown interest in our church as of date.

Unfinished Business. Ardyce continues to work on the website and app. The app has lot of tools that will be very useful to our members. So far 70 members have downloaded it. The app is **FLCWC**. We encourage all to download it and view and enjoy what has been uploaded into it.

The membership list has been updated. Council was encouraged to call members that have been absent, to get an update on their status with the church. If we do contact someone, we will group text so it is known.

New Business. We will be needing 3 new or renewal council members as Gretchen, Cindy and Laura will be done in January. Lynn and Robin agreed to a 1 yr term out of 3 years in January of 2023. Hopefully they will enjoy and continue on for the next 2 years.

Comment cards were to have the congregation say, "Shed for you"
Cross in the center of the fellowship hall.

Discussion of a dedication of the bell tower to be held October 15th.

The next meeting will be help Sunday, September 17th at 10:45 AM.

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

We ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Cindy Geiger, Secretary