

**St. John Lutheran**  
**Congregation Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, August 16, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**

**Present:** Pastor Lewton, Pastor Natwick, Tim Wegner, Glenice Hansen, Bobby Kubas, Margaret Marcusen, Susan Moberg, Dan Pender, Jerry Schwartz, Linda Splichal, Cora Tormaschy and Sandra Moos

**Staff Attendees:** Pam Weidner

**Absent:** Russ Murphy, Jon Tangen, Mike Parke

The meeting began at 7:05 p.m.

Margaret started the meeting with discussion on the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter of the book “The Promise of Despair” by Andrew Root. At the end of our discussion, we were led in prayer.

**Administrative Reports**

**Consent Agenda-** Margaret moved to accept the Consent Agenda items and the motion was seconded by Cora. Motion passed.

**Trustee Report-** Jerry presented the asbestos report that he received from Total Control on the Steffan house. Cost of the report was \$1200 and the estimate to remove the asbestos is \$8900. A competing bid will be received before work will be completed. Bids for demolition have been received, there are a few questions that need clarifying before proceeding. Demolition may be possible this fall. Tenants will vacate per the request of the Steffan’s. Last week Pastor Lisa was given a \$200,000 anonymous gift for this project.

**Communications-** A card for Glen was passed around. Thank you cards from Lord of Life, Sauk Rapids youth group and Angie Shilman were shared. A Mission Fund Offering Circular was received. President Samuel Ndanga, the President of the ELCA of Central Africa will visit our congregation.

**Pastoral Reports**

**Pastor Natwick** reported that last Tuesday, Peace Lutheran and St John’s conducted a hymn sing at the band shell, 150 root beer floats were given out by Thrivent at the event. The mission trip to Portland was very successful and impactful. Rally Day will be Wednesday, September 7<sup>th</sup>. Pastor Joe and Kaitlyn Olson will be taking classes with Vibrant Faith, a 2-year university on line class at the cost of \$1000 per year per person, this class starts September 17.

**Pastor Lewton** reported that last Sunday there were 2 baptisms and New Member Sunday. New Members were Robert, Renée, Caspar, Jessica & Jordan Clink; Joshua, Amanda &

Brayden DeMorrett; Nelda Krein; Matt Richter; Ashley, Clint, Kambree, Brightyn & Lakely Schilke; Dustin, Jennifer & Claire Schmidt; Samantha, Ezra, Izyn & Kenzie Taray; Kaitlyn Olson. A motion was made by Susan and seconded by Glenice to accept the new members to the congregation. A Healing Service is planned for this Sunday; On August 30<sup>th</sup> Lisa and Cheryl Hewson will attend a Retreat at Badlands Ministries. The Central African President will be hosted for coffee at 10 am on August 26<sup>th</sup>. Central African Republic is the global companion synod of the ND Western and Eastern Synods. Stewardship planning will include: October Bible Studies lead by Billie Gibson, 3 different letters will be going out to millennials, those over 40, and those that have never contributed to encourage pledging and giving. Sunday will transform to Family Faith Hour (instead of Sunday School) and Learning in Service to Christ (Adult Classes) starting after Labor Day.

## **Old Business**

**141 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue West Property Update** - Pastor Lisa distributed a Draft of the Purchase Agreement that Glen and Diane created, this document was sent to Carmi Howe, the attorney for the Steffan's. They suggested changes to the earnest money from \$5000 to \$15,000 and added that the property be accepted in an "as is" condition. They wish to close on the property by the end of September. The council felt that these were acceptable changes. Dan made a motion to move forward on signing the Purchase Agreement, Jerry seconded the motion, there was no opposition to the motion. Discussion included a question of why \$15,000 and that the money will come from the anonymous donation that was received, Tim will sign the Agreement on behalf of the church.

## **New Business**

**Appointment of Council President and Vice President-** With the resignation of Glen Bruhschwein effective August 1, Susan made a motion to appoint Tim Wegner as the President of the St John Lutheran Council, this motion was seconded by Margaret. Motion carried with no opposition. Tim suggested Jon Tangen as Vice President of the council. Jerry made a motion that Jon serve as Vice President thru February 2017, seconded by Linda. Motion carried with no opposition.

**Election of Successor to Glen Bruhschwein (Deacon with term ending in Feb. 2017) -** Margaret made a motion to appoint Christina Jorgenson, Glenice seconded the motion, motion carried with no opposition.

**Kaitlyn Olson as Faith Formation Director** A motion was made by Susan to hire Kaitlyn Olson as the Faith Formation Director, seconded by Dan, motion carried with no opposition. Susan made a motion to use the contract written for Kaitlyn's employment, this motion was seconded by Dan. The motion was rescinded and tabled after clarification was requested by Glenice on item 3. Bobby Kubas made a motion to clarify item 3 on the contract, this was seconded by Jerry, motion passed. Tim and Lisa will change the language of this item.

**Lutheran Social Services Volunteer Companion Program Memorandum of Understanding** – Glenice moved to accept the Memorandum, Susan seconded the motion, motion carried with no opposition.

**Appointment of Backpack Program Committee Member – Seth Poland** – Margaret made a motion to appoint Seth Poland and Carla Mortenson as committee members to the Backpack program, motion seconded by Dan, this motion was passed with no opposition.

**Capital Campaign-** After discussion of a Capital Campaign the council decided that it was in the best interest of those wanting to be generous to the parking/property development and outreach. Bobby made a motion to proceed with a Capital Campaign of \$250,000, this was seconded by Jerry. Motion carried with no opposition.

Other Discussion: Tim suggested that as new business on next month's agenda we talk about a privacy fence by the parsonage.

Next Meeting is Tuesday, September 20th at 7:00 pm, preceded by the Executive Committee at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Sandra Moos  
Council Recording Secretary