

**St. John Lutheran**  
**Congregation Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Pastor Lewton, Pastor Natwick, Glen Bruhschwein, Tim Wegner Cora Tormaschy, Linda Splichal, Dan Pender, Margaret Marcusen, Glenice Hanson, Bobby Kubas, Russ Murphy, Jonathan Tangen, Mike Parke, Sandra Moos

Staff Attendees: Pam Weidner

Absent: Jerry Schwartz and Susan Moberg

Faith Simonieg representing the WND ELCA Foundation of Gift Planning explained to the council her role with the foundation, she will present the program to the congregation on May 5<sup>th</sup>. Faith led us in devotion.

**Administrative Reports**

1. Consent Agenda- removed from the consent agenda are the Financial Report and Trust Fund Committee Reports. Motion to approve by Tim, second by Glenice, motion carried.
2. Financial Report was presented by Mike and assisted by Pam Weidner. A motion was made by Glenice to accept the report, Linda seconded the motion, motion carried.
3. Trust Fund Report financial report was presented by Russ. Amy will begin a Fund Review Process that is conducted every 5 years to look at returns and policy changes on investments. Mike made a motion to accept the report and was seconded by Jonathan, motion carried.

Trustee Report: no report

Communications- included thank you notes from Amen Food Pantry and St Luke's home for donations made, a request for Delegates was received from St. Luke's for their annual meeting and a notice from the City of Dickinson City Assessors office of a notice of Valuation in the assessment of property to increase values by \$189k.

**Pastoral Reports**

Pastor Natwick reported that the Education Ministry is going very well. A Teacher appreciation is being planned for the end of the season. He will be out of the office from April 28<sup>th</sup> thru May 5<sup>th</sup> for vacation. On April 22<sup>nd</sup> he is attending the Badlands Conference of Lutheran Churches at Concordia as a delegate.

Pastor Lewton reminded the council of the Community Concert at St. Johns on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, a Tribute to Neil Diamond, she will be at a Hand bell Mass Concert in Bismarck at Heart River of Hope. Killdeer has interviewed a candidate and their congregation will vote on that candidate in 2 weeks. Lisa will be out of the office during the week of May 15 to the Festival of Homiletics in Atlanta, GA. She also has a personal trip to SE Wisconsin planned for April 20-26<sup>th</sup>. A short

discussion of the Ministry Renewal Visions as drafted by the council and refined by staff revealed positive comments from the Council on the enhancements made by staff. These visions have been presented to the congregation via the bulletin for 2 Sundays.

### Old Business

Four voting members are needed for the Western ND Synod Assembly on June 10-11 in Bismarck. Glenice requested that younger members attend. Jon said he may be available.

Faith Formation Director Update – There has been contact with Diane Megesch, a California resident and Diaconal Minister, she is seminary trained. She has worked for 20 years with Youth Ministry and has demonstrated heart and passion for this work and has been engaged with all generations. Joe explained to the Council the difference between a Diaconal Minister, one who ministers and forms faith of young and old; is consecrated to word and service; a bridge between inside the building and outside, not a 3<sup>rd</sup> pastor; and a Youth Director who ministers to young adults. At this time the pastors feel the Diaconal Minister would be a better fit for the position that the church wants to fill, it adds a broader skill set for all members. The next step in this process is for the call committee to interview her in Dickinson, which is scheduled for May 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>. The call committee includes 2 high school members.

Senior High Mission Trip- Joe reported that there are 25-28 registered for the trip. Two individuals are looking for a scholarship, which will happen.

Dickinson United Methodist- a church of 125 – 150 members needs space for worship and small group meetings during renovation of their building in the spring of 2017 that will last for 12 to 18 months. The staff feels that this could work. They would have Sunday afternoon services, a time when our building is very quiet. They have very few weddings and funerals that would have to be accommodated for. Their administrative functions would take place at a different location.

### New Business

Parking Lot- Pastor Natwick was approached by a family member in regards to selling the Laudie Steffan house which is located East of the parking lot. His son wants to sell the house and is willing to negotiate a fair price. St. Johns would use this property for a parking lot if purchased. Glen estimated the property to cost \$270k (based on a report thru Zillow). Glen demonstrated the estimated cost of the project using a purchase price of \$280k for the property, demolition and land fill costs of \$40k and concrete possibly \$50k - \$70k, bringing the approx. cost to \$370k – 390k. The property is 8,000 sq feet and could add 25 parking spaces. Issues discussed were the zoning, neighborhood history of rejecting a past parking lot, possible asbestos removal, location and moving of utilities, requirement of green space and trees, elevation of property, runoff requirements and current parking options. After discussion, concerns and questions presented were cost, will this solve our needs, do we have a need, have we had any congregation requests, by not having adequate parking; does that constrict the size of our congregation, does inadequate parking create a non-welcoming environment, how does this work with our handicap entrance on the west side, in 20 years if we do not move forward; what effect would it have, division of neighbors; neighborhood is different now, who would the neighbors be

if we do not purchase the property; who would reside there and would they take up existing parking, what is the need vs cost, can we afford it. Glenice made a motion to move forward cautiously to collect more data and once information is available see if the congregation has an interest in proceeding. The motion was seconded by Cora, none opposed and no abstentions. Motion passed unanimously. Glenn and Pastor Joe volunteered to be on the Parking Lot Committee with the trustees and possibly Duane Wamre.

Reallocation of Dedicated Funds- the donor of the landscaping line item has requested the funds be reallocated to the hand bells, the donor feels the landscaping is sufficient at this time. Linda made a motion, Mike seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council Devotions- Pastor Lisa presented the book named The Promise of Despair by Andrew Root to be read by council members to base monthly devotions on. A sign up list was passed around.

Approval of New Members- the member's names were read by Glen, a motion was made by Mike to approve the new members, Dan seconded the motion, motion carried. Mentors will be available to new members.

Dickinson Backpack Program- The Backpack program has been run out of St John's since the inception of the program. It has been a very successful program generating an excess of \$60k this year and assisting many children. There has been 700 volunteer hours this year. Glen has contacted the Western ND Synod for guidance of the program and If the Backpack board agrees to the languages of the purposed resolution, it would be run as a committee within St. John's with the ability to have outside advisors.

Badlands Ministries- St. Johns has been asked to assist in the cost of converting canvas tents into cabins at a cost of \$12k per cabin. They are building 8 cabins and have 4 completed. Tim made a motion to contribute \$12k to build a cabin, Mike seconded the motion, motion carried.

St. Luke's annual meeting- As a Corporate Member of St. Luke's we are expected to send 2-5 delegates to the annual meeting on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Glen and Mike volunteered to attend the meeting.

Next Meeting is Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm, preceded by the Executive Committee at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:36 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
Sandra Moos  
Council Recording Secretary