

**St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting
December 19, 2017 7:00 P.M.**

Present: Pastor Lewton, Pastor Natwick, Jon Tangen, Susan Moberg, Darlene Pelton, Margaret Marcusen, Loren Mathson, Dan Pender

Absent: Jerry Schwartz, Tasha Gartner, Jesse Kilwein, Cora Tormaschy, Pete Leno, Tim Wegner, Sandra Moos

Acting president Jon Tangen called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. Pastor Lewton introduced Pastor Christina Martin from First Lutheran in Mandan, who came to speak to us as a member of WND Synod Council. Pastor Chris came to say “Thank you” on behalf of the synod council for the ministry of St. John in our community, the synod, and the larger church. Another role of the council members is to “ask difficult questions of the bishop and his staff” and she asked if there were any questions we had to pass on, or if there were aspects of the ministry at St. John that our council members were particularly excited about. She also shared some of the ministries that she is excited about in her congregation. She mentioned their youth ministry feeding the students of Mandan High School one day a week, and her excitement in preparing their congregation’s youth to attend the national youth gathering in Texas this summer.

Devotions: Chapter 7 (last chapter) of *Reclaiming the ‘L’ Word*

Administrative Reports

1. Consent Agenda: Consent agenda items were accepted with no additions or corrections.
2. Financial Report: Pastor Lewton pointed out that we are in a very good position to end the year, which is especially nice since we are finishing up a year with an additional full time staff member.
3. Trustee Report: Loren reported that the sewer re-lining project should be complete by the end of this year. One of the problems with our sewer system is that we don’t run enough water through the system. We will have signs posted to remind people who use the building to help keep water moving through the pipes. The roof project has been frustrating. We were hoping to get patches done where tiles are missing. The insurance adjustor has suggested waiting until the spring and then doing an entire re-roofing project and replacing the current tiles with asphalt shingles. Jon, as the remaining trustee, will be following up on this project. We will know more about costs (what we pay and what insurance will cover and whether we pay one deductible for the whole roof or one for each section of the roof as a separate entity) as we get closer to actually beginning the project.
4. Communications: none

Pastoral Reports

5. Pastor Natwick: The mission trip location is Puerto Rico, and it has been announced to the youth and congregation. They had 37 youth signed up in the first week, and the cap is 40. Kaitlyn is organizing the trip, and she is working with a group called Praying Pelicans. The group specializes in trips to Puerto Rico, and they will have additional adults in Puerto Rico who will also work with our youth, along with the 5-6 adult chaperones from our congregation. We will be needing a lot of financial help, and there will be many fundraisers to help cover the expense. The whole experience will likely cost roughly \$40,000. Students were required to make a non-refundable \$200 deposit to secure their spot, and they will work together as a group to help raise the rest. The Christmas program is scheduled for Wednesday, December 20 from 6:00 – 7:00 P.M., and Kaitlyn is in charge of it. Theology On Tap met for the 3rd time, and it has been growing each time. At their last session, they had 7 different churches represented!

Beer and Hymns met for Reformation and then did Beer and Carols for Christmas. Cora Tormaschy has started her position at St. John and things are going well; she is an excellent addition to the staff.

6. Pastor Lewton: The Trust Fund has made a gift to Peace Lutheran to help buy down their mortgage. This helps to free up their funds so that they can use the money that would have been used to pay their mortgage for programming instead. There has been a strong collaborative relationship developed between the pastors of St. John and Peace, and this is a nice way of acknowledging that. In January, we will send 2 representatives to worship at Peace and they will send 2 representatives to St. John to talk about the gift. Lisa had earlier suggested that we give away the "loose offering" for the 3:00 P.M. and 5:00 P.M. services on Christmas Eve, rather than keeping them for the general fund. She would announce at the service that we are thankful to be able to share the money. We would need to decide tonight where the offering would go. Loren Mathson made a motion that we designate the giving of the "loose offering" (cash or checks not given in an envelope) to our Puerto Rico mission trip fund; second by Dan Pender. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

7. Legacy of Faith Campaign: \$343,000 in pledges. Hannah Rathgeber will talk in January about the planter boxes she's creating, and the bishop will send a video thank you in February.
8. Church logo (staff is working on): no change
9. Strategic Planning: We would like to give a financial gift to Pastor Steve Tangen to thank him for sharing his time and expertise as we go through the strategic planning process. Susan Moberg made a motion that we use line 63 to cover a gift of \$500.00 to Pastor Steve Tangen; second by Linda Splichal.

New Business

10. Appoint Audit Committee: Every year, someone begins a new 3-year term, and every year someone goes off. The appointee is Mike Parke for a 3 year term. Motion made by Margaret Marcusen to accept Mike; second by Loren Mathson. Motion carried. Mike will join Seth Poland (1 year left) and Kyle Klein (2 years left).
11. Approve 2018 Budget: The only changes made since the last budget was brought to the council in October, are that the salaries have been raised by 2% across the board, and we have slightly increased the Maintenance & Repair (line 74) and the Technology Cost (127) lines. (It was suggested that we consider creating an inventory of our current technology and creating a plan for replacing things and rotating out old technology.) Motion to accept the 2019 budget by Dan Pender; second by Darlene Pelton. Motion carried.
12. Approve 2018 Housing Allowance for Pastor Lewton: Resolved, that the Congregation Council designate for 2018 Housing/Salary: \$30,000 to be the annual housing allowance paid to Pastor Lewton, and further, that \$46,316 be the annual cash salary paid to Pastor Lewton. Motion to accept the resolution by Loren Mathson; second by Margaret Marcusen. Motion carried.

13. Approve 2018 Furnishing Allowance for Pastor Natwick: Resolved, that the Congregation Council designate that \$45,571 be the annual cash salary paid to Pastor Natwick for 2018, and \$2,000 be the annual furnishing allowance for Pastor Natwick from his salary. Motion to accept the resolution by Dan Pender; second by Linda Splichal. Motion carried.
14. Approve agenda for the Annual Meeting (February 11, 2018) of the Congregation: Motion by Margaret Marcusen to approve the agenda for the Annual Meeting of the Congregation; second by Linda Splichal. Motion carried. Reminder: after the Annual Meeting, the council has a short meeting to reorganize with our new members.
15. Date for Council Retreat: March 23-24, 2018 at Badlands Ministries Bible Camp
16. Approve job description for Custodian and Maintenance: Darlene Pelton moved that we accept the updated job description for the Custodian and Maintenance position; second by Margaret Marcusen. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Moberg, acting secretary