

St. John Lutheran
Congregation Council Meeting
Tuesday, July 12 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Pastor Lewton, Pastor Natwick, Glen Bruhschwein, Glenice Hanson, Bobby Kubas, Margaret Marcusen, Susan Moberg, Mike Parke, Dan Pender, Jerry Schwartz, Linda Splichal, Jonathan Tangen, Cora Tormaschy and Sandra Moos

Staff Attendees: Pam Weidner, Amy Graves

Absent: Russ Murphy, Tim Wegner

A quorum was declared. The meeting began at 7:10 p.m.

Pastor Lisa started the meeting with discussion on the third chapter of the book “The Promise of Despair” by Andrew Root. At the end of our discussion, we were led in prayer.

Item 8A will be added to the Agenda regarding a Trust Fund issue.

Administrative Reports

Consent Agenda- items removed were the Financial Report. Glenice moved to accept the Consent Agenda items and the motion was seconded by Linda. Motion passed.

Financial Report- Clarification was received on the Mission Investment Fund, it was explained that it is a Savings account that contains miscellaneous Dedicated Funds, it is an interest bearing account. Excess dollars from the checking account are held in the account until they are needed. Bobby moved to accept the Financial report and this motion was seconded by Cora. Motion passed.

Trustee Report- No report

Communications- No report

Pastoral Reports

Pastor Natwick reported that next school year that the Sunday morning Sunday School classes will be held on Wednesday and be called Church School. On Sunday there will be a Family Faith Hour instead of Sunday School.

Pastor Lewton reported that the staff attended a retreat on June 1st. They plan to prioritize two renewal visions for the next year by becoming a more Welcoming Community and Forming Deep Relationships Within the Congregation. She asked for prayers for the 4 volunteers that currently training with the Stephen Ministries.

Old Business

Fall Stewardship- 2 letters will be sent out, these will be based on generation. The plan is to use a Bible study series and Videos during this time.

Faith Formation Director – the call committee will interview a candidate on July 22nd. This candidate works at the Badlands Bible Camp and is highly recommended. Glen, Mike and the pastors will discuss the compensation that would be available for this fulltime position with benefits. Currently the Job Description requires a person with a bachelor's degree, after council discussion, Mike made a motion to remove it from the Job Description, Jerry seconded the motion, motion passed.

Parking/Access Committee- this Sunday, July 17th, the Congregation will have the option to attend a Congregation Meeting that will address the single item issue of purchasing the Steffan property. A ballot was written and approved at the June council meeting. The requirement of a 2/3 majority of the voting members has been discussed and approved by the Synod. Fifty members need to be present to declare a quorum. The meeting will begin with prayer followed by information about the possible purchase, a time line of all of the events will be explained; questions and comments by the congregation will be welcomed but limited to 2 minutes and 2 occurrences per person.

Tooz construction has done an asbestos review, it should be completed within 3-5 days. Dianne Melbye has been retained as our attorney to address the issues of a Purchase Agreement, Title work, Trust Fund Loan Agreement and Promissory Note and any other issues that may arise. An inspection of the home was made and it was found to be very dated and left the Pastors and Trustees feeling that it would be very expensive to restore mechanically and structurally. Bids were reviewed and they have been adjusted by \$18k for demo and prep work. A second letter was sent out to the neighbors of St John's informing them of the council's decision to recommend that the property be purchased for use of green space and of the Congregation meeting that will be held on Sunday, asking for their comments before this meeting.

The Trust Fund has committed to \$225K loan to the Church for 30 years at the current prime rate of 3.5% (to be adjusted every 5 years) with no prepayment penalty. If the loan is issued on August 1st, the first payment would be due August 1, 2017 and yearly thereafter. The first payment has been calculated at approx. \$12, 320. It is the desire of the Council to pay off this loan quickly.

During a visit to update signature cards for the safety deposit box, Pastor Lisa and Pastor Joe found documents/history of properties around the church. Pastor Lisa drew pictures and presented us with a Historic Moment in the times of St. John Lutheran Church which was very interesting. She pointed out that the process we are going thru has happened before in our history.

New Business

Item 8A -Trust Fund- currently invests at Kirkwood, they are looking at proposals from different firms, this is a practice that should happen every 3-6 years. One of the proposals is from American Bank Center, a concern was heard from a congregation member that there are 3 Trust Fund members that work at American Bank Center and a possible conflict of interest. After discussion, it was decided that the Trust Fund proceed without Council interference.

Dickinson Churches United for the Homeless- a letter was received explaining the plan for this season, they will be using a Ready Reserve approach for the needs of the homeless.

Stephen Ministries- training is very intense; it requires 50 hours of training. More funds are needed to fund the mission. Initially there were 2 persons that volunteered for the training and then 2 more were added, leaving the funds short. Margaret made a motion to transfer \$3,100 from the Memorial line item (line item #170 to #184) for Stephen Ministries, the motion was seconded by Jerry, motion carried.

Pastor Larry Johnson- has asked to preach; he represents Lutheran Bible Translators. Council has asked that he does not preach but holds a forum instead.

Legacy Bike Tours- would like to speak to the Congregation on Wednesday, July 27th. Jon made a motion that this happen, it was seconded by Margaret, motion carried.

Other Announcements:

The Budget Committee, Executive Committee, Amy and Pam will meet on August 30th at 7 pm to discuss the upcoming budget.

Glenn passed out his resignation letter, he will resign as of August 1st. Glenn and Mary will be moving to Minneapolis to be closer to family, it was with gratitude for a job well done that we surrounded him with prayer, wishing him much success and God's guidance in his future endeavors.

Next Meeting is Tuesday, August 16th at 7:00 pm, preceded by the Executive Committee at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Sandra Moos
Council Recording Secretary