

St. John Lutheran
Congregation Council Meeting
Tuesday, June 21 at 7:00 p.m.

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

Staff Attendees: Pam Weidner, Amy Graves

Absent: Pastor Lewton, Russ Murphy, Linda Splichal

A quorum of was declared. The meeting began at 7:32 p.m.

Jon started the meeting with discussion on the second 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- there were no items removed. Motion to approve by Jon, second by Dan, motion carried. Discussion included a mistake in the minutes of the next meeting date, which should read June 21st.

Trustee Report- Jon and Jerry reported that there are doors and window trim that needs painting. Possible updating to the Narthex is being discussed to make it more welcoming and comforting. Amy said that possible paint, removing the coat rack and installing hooks would be part of the upgrades.

Communications- St. Johns received Thank you notes from the ELCA and Badland Ministries.

Pastoral Reports

Pastor Natwick reported 12 baptisms to date in June, a very exciting time! Local Youth Directors are putting together a city wide Youth Group gathering that will take place on July 23rd.

Pastor Lewton was absent, she submitted a written report which informed council that Alyssa Schiele has been hired as Co-Director of Church School. She reported that the Faith Formation position is still unfilled. Pastor Lewton expressed that as we consider the purchase of the property to the north east of the church that we be faithful to the mission of St. John and to the neighborhood and wait to find out what God’s plan is for this space. She reported on the Festival of Homiletics that she attended, which she said it allowed her to be fed by God’s Word in worship and through lectures. She spent a week at a MBA Workshop learning

about leading the business of the church. And finally a thanks to Pastor Joe for his work while she was away.

Old Business

Faith Formation Director – a report from Paula Loegering representing the call committee was given to the council. Glenice made a motion to accept the report, the motion was seconded by Margaret.

Church School Co-Director Position- has been filled by Alyssa Schiele, she will work with Denay.

Hosting mission trip groups at St. John this summer- Assistance from the council was requested to communicate with the groups, open the church, go over the rules and lock the church for groups that will use our church during the summer. Tim will host the Sauk Rapids group of 57 with assistance and Glen committed to the July 12th group.

Senior High Mission Trip- Angie Shilman, Chris Moe, Jay Schobinger, Laney Herauf and Pastor Joe will be commissioned on July 24th to be the advisors to the participants of the Mission Trip.

Parking/Access Committee- The committee met on June 2nd and presented a list of options for the parking issues and ideas that resulted from the Congregation meeting. On June 4th, Glen Steffan contacted Bobby with an offer for his property for \$150k with a closing in August. The council had lengthy conversations concerning this offer. Comments included concerns of the timing of the sale, that we need legal counsel to assist with a document if the Congregation wishes to proceed, funding of the project, cost of green space, possible asbestos issues, elevation and grades, neighbors comments and conducting a Congregation meeting.

Jerry moved to accept the recommendations of the Committee that The Steffan Property should be purchased, demolished and converted into green space, seconded by Susan. Mike abstained, motion passed.

Susan moved that the building fund cover costs that occur in preparation of the acquisition, motion seconded by Jerry, all in favor, motion passed.

Margaret made a motion to obtain Diane Melbye as our attorney, Tim seconded the motion, motion passed.

Notice to the Congregation of a Congregation meeting to consider this project will be given on July 3rd with a meeting scheduled July 17th. Council would like 2/3's of the participants support to proceed with the project, this differs from the Church bylaws. Pastor Joe will call the Synod for advise on this.

The ballot that will be voted on will read “We Authorize the St. John Council to borrow \$225,000 from St John Lutheran Trust Fund for the following purpose: 1) Purchase the property commonly known as (the Steffan property legal address), not to exceed \$150,000; and 2) Other Acquisition cost, demolition and landscaping to convert the property into green space or a park not to exceed \$75,000. This authorization shall be effective only if 2/3 or

more present at this special meeting vote “yes”. Tim moved to accept the ballot, Jerry seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Susan made a motion to accept the 2nd recommendation of the committee which reads “Implement low cost efforts to make our current parking more accessible to those who need accessibility.”, this was seconded by Jon, motion passed.

New Business

Fall Stewardship Campaign- No Report, there will be an update at the next meeting.

Renovate backpack area- Mike made a motion to retrofit a slide in the window in the backpack area with a cost of approx. \$1500., funds to be taken out of the Dedicated Backpack Fund Account, motion seconded by Dan, motion passed.

Sprinklers- Mike made a motion to use Building Donated Funds in the amount of \$1500 for the sprinklers on the north side of the building. Margaret seconded the motion. Mike amended the motion to use funds in the Dedicated Fund that are for Landscaping, Margaret seconded this amended motion. Motion passed.

Community Fall Kick-off- It was decided that this event no longer serves the purpose originally planned for and there was a lack of volunteers. Mike made a motion not to have a Fall Kick-off, seconded by Cora. Motion passed.

Next Meeting is Tuesday, July 12th at 7:00 pm, preceded by the Executive Committee at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 10:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted
Sandra Moos
Council Recording Secretary