

**St. John Lutheran
Congregation Council Meeting
March 21, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.**

Present: Pastor Lewton, Pastor Natwick, President Tim Wegner, Margaret Marcusen, Susan Moberg, Dan Pender, Jon Tangen, Linda Splichal, Cora Tormaschy, Tasha Gartner, Darlene Pelton, Jerry Schwartz, and Sandra Moos

Absent: Bobby Kubas, Jesse Kilwein

The meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Pastor Lewton led us in discussion of Chapter 1 of the book "Fear of the Other".

Administrative Reports

Consent Agenda- All items were approved with no objections.

Trustee Report- Jerry Schwartz reported that the property at 141 5th Avenue West has top soil and has been compacted. The water line needs to be located, sidewalks will be replaced this spring. Wayne Jahner will look at the organ.

Communications- Thank you notes were received from Amen Food Pantry, St. Luke's Nursing home, ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry for proceeds of Mildred Monke's book.

Pastoral Reports

Pastor Natwick reported that the Lenten Services are being well attended. Reformation 2.0 classes are going good. The Mystery Mission Trip is being planned by Kaitlyn, there are 4 adults signed up for the trip, a meeting of the parents took place and fund raising is going well. Nine members are visioning on the Wednesday night programs. Joe gave us a tour of the Youth room, it is half completed.

Pastor Lewton reported that Seth Poland lost his home to a fire and he will receive \$500 from the Gift of Lights Fund. Ella Nesheim will return in April. Bridges of Hope will be here on Sunday to talk. The Legacy of Faith Campaign has raised \$326,600 and will run through December 2019. Last Sunday, 12 members were commissioned for Stephen Ministries, they received 50 hours of training and are prepared to start their mission.

Unfinished Business

Parking Planning- Jon Tangen met with Kenzie Robertson to look for ideas. Margaret Marcusen suggested that we pursue his opinions, Jon will obtain the costs to do that.

Visioning for the property at 141 5th Ave West- a draft vision was circulated. Sidewalks will be replaced this spring. There are still concerns of the settling of the ground and it is unknown when the project can begin. A committee will be formed to work on a timeline, bids and material needed.

Reallocation of Accumulated Reserves from 2016- Susan Moberg made a motion that the balance of \$3,636.92 that is due to the Synod for our pledge be paid from these reserves. The motion was seconded by Jerry Schwartz, motion carried.

A second motion was made by Susan Moberg that \$5,000 be given to the Bible Camp, \$5,000 to St. Luke's and the balance used for a study of the Parking planning. This motion was seconded by Margaret Marcusen, motion carried.

Methodist Church- plans to worship at Ladbury Funeral Home and conduct their Youth Group meetings at the Community Center, they are planning an end of May tear down date. It is unsure where they will conduct weddings.

Added Item – LGBTQ policy considerations- Conversations of same sex marriage took place at the Council Retreat where the council was asked to make the decision versus the pastors. At this time, conversations amongst other pastors in Bismarck will take place via emails to Pastor Lisa. Congregation Education is planned in the fall to clarify misconceptions of the Bible and same sex marriage. Susan Moberg suggested that in the near future that all policies be updated. Conversations will continue at the next meeting and a committee will be organized to redraft the policies. Cora and Tasha have volunteered to organize a committee.

New Business

Property at 141 5th Ave.- motion for Trustees to create a timeline/phases for developing the property. It was decided that no motion was needed.

App for phones and tablets- \$840 a year is needed to support an app for these devices, a line item does not exist currently. Susan Moberg made a motion to ask the Trust Fund to fund \$840 for the first year and to budget for it in the future. Tasha Gartner seconded the motion, motion carried.

Update of Assets- Darlene Pelton made a motion to move \$179,659 to the assets of the church, Tasha Gartner seconded the motion, discussion resulted in requests to clarify what the number entails. Susan Moberg made a motion to table Darlene's motion until we obtain clarification of the number from Mike Parke. Jerry Schwartz seconded the motion and the motion carried.

Lutheran Social Services office space- for the last 3 years we provided office space to LSS at no charge, they used this office to council children and families. Their counselor has retired. They will need a space in the future.

Added to the agenda- Bobby Kubas has resigned from council, a new trustee is needed to fill his term. Pastor Lisa has a list of candidates that will be sent out to council members.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 18st at 7:00 p.m., preceded by the Executive Committee at 6:30 pm.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Sandra Moos, Council Recording Secretary