

**St. John Lutheran
Congregation Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 20, 2016 at 7:00 P.M.**

OPENING

Devotions—Pastor Joe

October Devotions: Lisa will invite someone from the synod staff to come and talk about and answer questions. We will read Chapter 6 on our own, and continue with Chapter 7 in November, led by Linda.

Present: Pastor Lewton, Pastor Natwick, Dan Pender, Linda Splichal, Glenice Hansen, Bobby Kubas, Christina Jorgenson, Jon Tangen, Tim Wegner, Jerry Schwartz, Susan Moberg

Staff Attendees: Pam Weidner, Amy Graves

Absent: Sandra Moos, Margaret Marcusen, Cora Tormaschy, Mike Parke, Russ Murphy

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

1. **Consent Agenda:** motion by Dan Pender to accept all items, second by Jerry Schwartz. Motion carried.
2. **Trustee Report:** will be discussed later in the meeting
3. **Communications:** Barb Arneson will be having back surgery on Friday in SD, and Ella Nesheim had surgery this morning and will be continuing treatment.

PASTORAL REPORTS

4. **Pastor Natwick:** We have begun all of our programs for the year, and our numbers seem to be consistent with last year. The Sunday Family Faith Hour activities haven't been attended. Wednesday night meals, followed by Wednesday night worship, are in full swing and they are now weekly instead of bi-monthly. Our confirmation retreat will take place this weekend. Joe will be attending a conference in CA in October, and he will be participating in the installation of a friend of his as a bishop while he is there. He and Kaitlyn Olson have begun their classes for Vibrant Faith University, which will give them a better handle on our Vibrant Faith framework.
5. **Pastor Lewton:** The staff had a retreat out at Badlands Ministries a couple of weeks ago, and it was very good. There are two teams: the Stewardship Team and the Generational Ministries Team, and they were able to begin strengthening those teams. While Ella Nesheim is recovering and undergoing treatment, Denay Klein will pick up some of her hours. We will start our stewardship campaign and we are trying to make information accessible to everyone. We have many options for electronic giving, which can cause problems, but we are working through them. We need to start planning for the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Lisa met with the representative from the Great Plains Food Bank and had information to pass around. We do give to the food bank, but they are always in need of support.

OLD BUSINESS

6. **141 5th Ave West property update:** The closing is set for September 30. The city requires a "sign-off" permit before we can get permission to start demolition. The state gives permission for asbestos removal, and then we can actually start demolition. The big question becomes "What are we going to do with the lot?" Mr. Steier gave us a bid for demolition, but it wasn't very detailed. Bobby called him to get some clarification. Mr. Steier will demolish the house after asbestos removal, try to save as many trees as possible, and level the property whatever level we want. There could be some variable in the landfill charges to actually take the demolition materials to the city landfill. He will not do any planting of grass or whatever we decide to do, but it will be ready with topsoil. We will just verify that he has some sort of insurance that would cover in case of accident or injury. Mr. Steier is available with a couple of weeks' notice. Jerry had asked a company from Bismarck if they'd give a bid for asbestos removal, but they didn't respond, so we will go with Tooz Construction. Our timeline for demolition will be dictated by when they are available to remove the asbestos. Bobby talked with Mr. Praus about possibly doing an auction of items that people would be interested in purchasing (cabinets, appliances,

doors, pipes, windows...), and Mr. Praus would like to do a walk-through to determine if there are things that people might want to buy. Bobby will take him on a walk-through after we take ownership of the home. If it is determined that there isn't enough to do an auction, or if it doesn't work in our timeline, there has been one person who has asked to go through the house to see if there is anything that can be salvaged, and we could just donate any appliances to House of Manna. Tim suggested that we make sure that we have insurance on the property when we take ownership. Pam will call our current insurance company and find out what we need to do to add that property. We can take these extra expenses out of the \$200,000 gift. Jon made a motion that we accept the bid for Tooz Construction to remove the asbestos from the property before demolition, contingent upon an updated estimate being the same (\$8900). Glenice seconded; motion carried. When we take possession of the property, Dan will come over and trim the trees that are along the sidewalk so that people aren't hitting their cars or running into branches. Jerry Schwarz made a motion to accept the Steier bid for demolition; second by Dan. Motion carried. The next step is to determine what we are going to do with the property. We will need to do something to control the dirt; possibly put up a barrier/fence, or mulch some hay into the dirt, because we can't plant anything. Things that have been mentioned: community garden, green space, park with playground equipment, labyrinth. Lisa reminded that council that whatever we do, it should probably not be permanent, since we don't know what future councils might envision for the space. Pastor Lisa, Pastor Joe, and Tim will create a committee to do some visioning around that space.

7. **Parking/Task Force:** The congregation has made it clear that this is a real concern. How we talk about it and the timeframe for talking about it is very important. We need to make sure that people know that we don't feel that the purpose of the new lot is parking at this time. AFTER we have a clear vision of what we're going to do with the lot, then we can start to consider what we can do with parking. There were some suggestions from the parking/access committee that don't involve building a new parking lot, like better snow removal, possible ride sharing, asking people to not park close to the church if they are able to walk a little further.
8. **Capital Campaign:** There has been a lot of confusing information surrounding the purchase of the property because so much has changed from the first time the purchase was suggested. Lisa has proposed that we have a congregational meeting in November to roll out a capital campaign. The focus of the campaign is finishing up the approved money for the purchase of the Steffan property, and then to use the remaining money for outreach between the Domestic Violence, Rape Crisis Center and the Western North Dakota Synod Ministry Trust Fund. The campaign is for \$500,000: \$225,000 for the property and \$275,000 for the other two organizations. Pastor Joe wondered if we need to include the vision for the property as part of the campaign. We have \$75,000 listed for demo and landscaping, but we don't give any details about how we plan to use that money. We have bids for under \$35,000 for the actual demolition, which leaves \$40,000 to use for "landscaping," although Bobby did remind everyone that there could be unknown costs that come up that we can't plan for. This capital campaign wouldn't be as high without the generosity of the anonymous \$200,000 donation to offset the purchase of the Steffan property. Lisa and Joe will bring a list of ideas back to the October meeting, and then we will vote on the capital campaign at that time. Motion to use the \$200,000 and the additional capital campaign funds to cover all of the expenses associated with the purchase of the property was made by Glenice, second by Christina. Motion carried. Motion to have a congregational meeting on November 13 at 9:15, between services, to approve the capital campaign was made by Jerry, second by Linda. Motion carried. The congregation will be asked to approve or not, but this is not open to change at the meeting. We will try to have a couple of forums ahead of time to give people opportunity to hear information and ask questions. The capital campaign information can be placed out a week ahead of the meeting. A member of the capital campaign committee can start making an informational announcement starting this Sunday—start to tell the stories connected with the campaign.

8.5. Kaitlyn Olson's contract: Pastor Lisa and Tim cleaned up the issues that were mentioned at the last council meeting about Kaitlyn's contract, and Kaitlyn has signed the contract and is working.

NEW BUSINESS

- 9. Consideration of a fence for parsonage property:** This issue was brought to the council's attention by a high school student. Kubiks have a chain link fence. There isn't any division at this time between the church lawn and the parsonage yard, so there isn't much privacy. Lisa does a walk-through of the property with the trustees and Ray, so they'll look at the yard and try to figure out where a fence might go.
- 10. Approval of Confirmands:** Sydnee Jean Anderson, Adam Loren Brock, Carissa Amelia Dalen, Luke Evan Fadness, Chance Andrew Galster, Peyton James Hanson, Jaren Christopher Hugelen, Aiden Michael Jung, Tallon John Klatt, Addison Irene Kueger, Caden Patrick McCormick, Derek Donald Moore, Sophia Belle Olheiser, Tahya Rose Papineau, Maizie Eileen Richard, Afton Rae Elaine Ross, Allie Rae Schmidt, Peyton Jo Selle, Madison Paige Semerad, Jacob Dean Shilman, and Zachary Robert Sprague are being confirmed on October 30. Motion by Glenice to accept these confirmed members, second by Christina. Motion carried.
- 11. Signers for the Checking Account:** Motion made by Glenice, second by Linda, that the following are authorized as signers for the signature card for St. John Evangelical Lutheran checking account: Jerry Schwartz, Lisa Lewton, Joe Natwick, and Pam Weidner. Motion carried.
- 12. Special Offerings during worship:** Motion by Jon to approve the special offerings listed below, second by Christina. Motion carried.
- a. Special collection for C.A.R, September 22/25
 - b. Thankoffering Service, November 10/13
 - c. LSS Special Offering, November 17/20
- 13. Cornerstone Bank:** We currently bank with American Bank Center. Pastor Lisa was approached by a congregational member, asking if the church would consider switching over to Cornerstone Bank. There are several congregational members who work at Cornerstone; however, there are also several congregational members who work at American Bank Center. We are not unhappy with our current bank, and there isn't a reason to change at this time.
- 14. Pew Bibles for the sanctuary:** One of the youth group members asked why we don't have Bibles in our pews, and that seemed like a good suggestion. There should be money left from the Trust Fund at the end of the year, so we will be putting Bibles in each of the pews.
- 15. Update on Committees listed in Continuing Resolutions:** Point of information: We are not following the continuing resolutions closely as it applies to an Education Committee. We don't have an Education Committee, and Parish Life is functioning well, but not as it is outlined in the continuing resolutions. Things are still in transition, and when we have a more set idea of how they need to function, we will change the continuing resolutions to reflect better what we are doing.

Next meeting: October 18 at 7:00 P.M.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Moberg, substitute secretary