

St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting

April 17, 2018 7:00 P.M.

Present: Pastor Lewton, Pastor Natwick, Jon Tangen, Susan Moberg, Darlene Pelton, Margaret Marcusen, Dan Pender, Tasha Gartner, Jennifer Jung, Richard Benz, Jared Bookhardt, Seth Poland

Absent: Jesse Kilwein, Sandra Moos, Brittany Wentz

President Margaret Marcusen called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Chapter 2 of *The Agile Church*

Administrative Reports

1. Consent Agenda: Consent agenda items were accepted with no additions or corrections.
2. Financial Report: Tasha had nothing to pull out or point out of concern.
3. Trustee Report: Jonathon reported that there is a stain in the stairwell. It has happened before, and the trustees will take care of it. The top of the baptismal font is refinished, and the rest is a work in progress.
4. Communications: none

Pastoral Reports

5. Pastor Natwick: The mission trip planning is going well. The basket fundraiser is set out and ready for bids to start coming in. We have the final adult lined up: Becca Simons will be joining the group, so all of our chaperones are in place. There is a lot of excitement surrounding the trip, not just here at St. John but out in the community as well. Jen Jung suggested that we reach out to the *Dickinson Press* to share the story of the trip. Margaret offered to contact Linda Sailer about the possibility of getting something published.
6. Pastor Lewton: Last night Margaret and Lisa met with the Trust Fund. They discussed strategic planning. Jim Ozbun had two thoughts: he suggested the possibility of installing audio/visual equipment down in the basement so that when we hold things like the annual meeting or other activities down there. There is money in the Trust Fund to do that, and getting some quotes doesn't cost us anything. The other thing he mentioned was the possibility of creating a "bridging relationship" with Dickinson State University. If the Council approves, Dr. Ozbun would reach out to the University to see about enhancing the relationship between their students and our church. For example, he might reach out to the DSU Music Department to more intentionally have their musicians share their talents in our services. In return, St. John would provide some scholarship money. Council members expressed support of both ideas. We will be announcing the name of the new property on Sunday, April 22 and we will end both services out in the new property. We will be ending the selling of Fair Trade products as soon as we sell out of the items we have on hand. Our church will be changing over to a new software; most of us won't notice any change. Worship and Music minutes two highlights: next year during Lent, we will eliminate the Thursday services. We will have our Lenten services on Wednesdays, and have our regular services on Friday and then return to our regular Thursday schedule after Easter. We will also add a noon service on Maunday Thursday without the full stripping of the altar.

Unfinished Business

7. Legacy of Faith Campaign: No real movement on the amount of giving. Lisa will be writing some letters, and things are moving along.
8. Church logo: Pastor Joe has contacted someone, and he hopes to have some information next month.
9. Strategic Planning: It's done! From here, our staff will go to work on tasks. In the fall, we will share the plan with the congregation to let them know what we're working on and where we're going. The staff and council will review the strategic plan quarterly. When the budget committee meets to discuss next year's budget, one of the things we will discuss is adding a Worship and Music director position. Another item for the council to discuss is the possibility of becoming an intern site. Both items will affect the budget, but we have congregational members who are willing to come forward and support big dreams!

New Business

10. Property name: Congregation members were invited to submit name suggestions, and the suggestions were made anonymously. We had 51 suggestions! We need to narrow it down to one. After a process of elimination, the council decided on Garden of Grace. The name will be announced on Sunday at both services.
11. Synod Assembly: We get to send 4 voting members to the Synod Assembly in Bismarck June 1-2, 2018. Richard moved and Tasha seconded to approve the following voting members: Kris Brugamyer, Don Brugamyer, Elizabeth Yoder, and Marcus Lewton. Motion carried. Non-voting members going include Tim, Sonita, and Amy Wegner and Becca Simons.
12. St. Luke's Annual meeting: Pastor Joe and Darlene will be our delegates to the meeting on Tuesday, May 22 from 11:30 – 12:30. Seth will be the alternate, if one of them can't make it.
13. Wells Fargo Campus Ministry account: We have an account that has been used in the past to help cover the cost of having a St. John staff member working in a campus ministry capacity. There is \$6538.92 left in the account, and we haven't done anything with the money for several years. There are several things we could do: we could move it into a dedicated account, to be used down the road if we develop a relationship with DSU, or we could share the funds with the other campus ministries in ND (Minot, Grand Forks, and/or Fargo). We could set the money aside for youth of our congregation. We need to close out the Wells Fargo account. Susan moved the we divide the money equally among the campus ministries in Minot, Grand Forks, and Fargo. Second by Dan Pender; motion carried.
14. Safety Deposit Box: We currently have a box at Bank of the West. We no longer bank there; we bank at American Bank Center. Richard moved that we move the safe deposit box to American Bank Center; second by Jonathon. Motion carried.
15. AED: The Trust Fund has offered to pay to install AED (defibrillator) in the church. Cost is approximately \$2000. The trustees will figure out where it should go.
16. Concrete pad: The Dickinson Backpack Program has requested to lay a concrete pad on the south side of church where food boxes are delivered. The semi delivers food packs once a month, and they have rigged a "slide" that allows them to push boxes through a window and down into the basement. In the winter especially, it is difficult to move the snow from the grass/mud/pavers. Jonathon contacted the company that is doing the concrete for our lot, and it would cost around

\$1000. Motion was made by Tasha to allow the pad to be laid, with discussion of funding to continue at a later meeting. Richard seconded; motion carried. Margaret asked Seth to discuss with the other Backpack board members about the possibility of putting up some sort of sign to signal where the program is located. This would help to identify the space when people come to help or new people visit the building. We will continue to think about the issue, and we can talk about it again in the fall.

17. Fall Stewardship Campaign: The tentative theme for this year is “Telling Stories Around the Table.” The stewardship committee will continue to make plans.

18. Pentecost Potluck Picnic: Lisa wondered if the council would be willing to host a potluck picnic on May 20 at Garden of Grace. Jonathon did remind us that there could be grass growing there at that time, so we would need to keep people off of it. If we needed, we could actually block off the parking lot and use that space.

Next meeting: May 15, 2018

Closed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Moberg, acting secretary