

First Lutheran Church Council
Tuesday, August 21, 2018
James Bjorge Adult Education Room
MINUTES

Attendees: Sindy Keller, Jane Nelson, John Bennett, Chris Kraemer, Dave Rogness, Loren Stahl, Gary Inman, Tracy Farmer, Danelle Kjar, Daniel Damico, Pastor Corey Bjertness, Pastor Dave Adams, Pastor Bill Ahlfeldt, Rollie Johnson, Terry Yoney and Missy Froeber.

Howard Barlow, Jessica Thomeson and Dan Hannaher were guest speakers from Lutheran Social Services. LLS started in 1919, has 300+ employees and serves all over North Dakota helping with early intervention, youth services, therapy services, senior independence, affordable housing and humanitarian work including disaster relief. They touch about 30,000 to 40,000 people per year with all their programs. As a special note, they came across a cookbook from the 1920s that was sold to raise funds for the orphanage, entitled "Lutheran Home Cookbook recipes contributed and published by First Lutheran Church Ladies Aid Society". They intend to get the cookbook re-printed. As First Lutheran is also nearing its 100 year anniversary and we have been in partnership with LLS since the early days of both organizations, Pastor Corey suggested LLS apply for a Foundation grant to help cover the costs of re-printing the book. Missy will get Jessica the grant forms.

Gary Inman opened the meeting and welcomed Tracy Farmer as the newest member of the Council.

Consent Agenda

Reports and minutes were emailed to the Council. Daniel went over the Administration report noting that Sunday, Aug. 26 at 10 am we will hold a special celebration of Pastor Jim Hulberg's service to First Lutheran with cake and coffee. It would be nice to have Council there to help celebrate. Shelly Erickson has been hired to be the new Director of Nursery Ministries. She started Monday, Aug. 20. We had some issues on Sunday with water in the new nursery, but the water has been cleaned up and we are waiting to see the report on any damages. Dave Rogness motioned to accept the Consent Agenda. Sindy Keller seconded. Motion approved.

Financials

Danelle Kjar reported on the financials. She noted that we received \$1 million into the Building Fund from our matching gift donor. Pastor Corey explained that we will do a cash flow analysis of the monthly bills we are receiving from the Architects and set up a schedule with the matching gift donor. Danelle said the audit went well and they will present at the next meeting. Chris Kraemer motioned to accept the financials. Loren Stahl seconded. Motion approved.

Pastor's Report

We had 22 members of the Ecuador mission team ages 7 to 55. 26 members went on the Chanhassen trip while 34 members enjoyed the Red Hawks game night. Volunteers packed 14,478 meals at Great Plains and we had 14 students grades 4th through 7th attend LutherCrest camp for a week. Parking for the Street Fair raised \$5,000 for Habitat.

We had 108 voting members attend the Annual Meeting. Pastor Corey noted that it was very helpful to have Council attend the two Budget Forums held before the Annual Meeting. We were able to lay to rest the rumor that we had no maintenance budget.

John Bennet explained the concerns voiced by some members at one Forum regarding the church bulletins. John's response was to suggest a committee to investigate or a survey of congregational thoughts from those who had concerns but he has not heard from any of them. However, based on the concerns raised, we did do a cost analysis of the printing and Pastor Corey wrote a one page response stating the facts which was available at the Annual Meeting. Pastor Corey has also done a one page response to concerns raised by the congregation for the beer & hymns. Pastor Corey asked the Council if they thought this was an effective way to present the facts to the congregation. The Council agreed. It was noted that we only had one wedding in July and Pastor Corey talked about more and more weddings seem to be location weddings. We may need a focus group at some point to study the impact this trend has on church health and how to keep more weddings at First Lutheran.

Old Business:

Building Update – The Council went into CrossTalk and saw the progress being made in the front part of the church and later toured the Chapel and Nursery. Despite the water in the nursery on Sunday, we are on track to have both nursery and chapel completed by September 15th. We have three families who want their person to be in the columbarium. We will do a special ceremony when they are interred. Pastor Dave noted that as of September 16th we will hold the 11 am Traditional Service in the Chapel which seats 120. Lately, this has been a very small service and people feel lost in the large Sanctuary.

Foundation/Endowment – Pastor Corey, Gary Hanson and Larry Audette are working on this but think the Foundation can fiscally manage the endowment while the Council can oversee it.

Seminary Scholarships – Pastor Dave will contact one of our seminarians and find out what the costs are outside of tuition so we can determine next steps. We have 4 seminarians: Alex Ohman, Matt Engum, Meggie Bertness and Erik Carlson (who is delaying his start for a semester).

Other Business:

John had passed out a poem by Robert Frost entitled, Mending Walls.

Missy thanked Jane Nelson for volunteering to do a First Fest Basket for Council and asked for volunteers to cook chili. Gary Inman volunteered.

Next council Meeting will be held Tuesday, September 18, 2018 at 5:30.

Pastor Dave prayed us out and made special note of praying for Kathy Helming and her father who is in the hospital.

Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Missy Froeber
Executive Assistant

There was an Executive session.