First Lutheran Church Council  
Tuesday, January 15, 2019  
James Bjorge Adult Education Room  
MINUTES

**Attendees:** Gary Inman, John Bennett, Dave Rogness, Kathy Helming, Tracy Farmer, Jane Nelson, Chris Kraemer, Daniel Damico, Danelle Kjar, Pastor Corey Bjertness, Pastor Dave Adams, Pastor Laurie Neill, Rollie Johnson, and Missy Froeber.

Kate Anderson from Frazer spoke on the various ways Frazer works with youth and young adults in the community. She touched upon Frazer’s current needs and how people could help support the organization. Packets with information were handed out.

**Gary Inman opened the meeting. Mission and Vision statements were read.**

**Consent Agenda**
Daniel Damico went over the Admin Report and announced that Wendi Stohl, our receptionist, will be leaving in February to spend more time with her baby daughter. The audit is complete and if anyone wants a copy please let Daniel know. The Auditors will present to Council every 3 years unless something unusual comes up. Our boilers are on their way out and will need replacing sometime in the near future. Daniel is getting quotes. Kathy Helming motioned to approve the Consent Agenda, Chris Kraemer seconded the motion. Motion approved.

**Building Update** – Dave Rogness updated the Council on the building progress so far. All of the big beams supporting the main roof are up and the second level concrete pour will start soon. The lower level is almost completely poured and sheet rocking will start by the end of the month. We are back on track for our timeline! We are working on plans for the displacement of staff as we get nearer to the gathering space construction work time.

**Financials**
Danelle Kjar went through the Generations of Generosity report and pointed out the expenses that have come in from the contractors, the change orders that have been made so far, and the income from pledges. We are getting a higher interest rate than we thought. Danelle then presented the financials for November and December. We are quite a bit behind for the year in our general fund which we expected. The columbarium sales are at 10% and have helped. We will do another forum about the Columbarium in February. John Bennett motioned to accept the November and December financials. Kathy Helming seconded. Motion approved.

**Pastor’s Report**
Pastor Corey shared statistics on the pledges given and those received from the Generations of Generosity campaign. We have $8.4M+ in hand and the risk assessment for the remainder is very low. We are confident that we will get the full amount of pledges. Pastor Corey also shared statistics on attendance for 2018 vs. previous years. It is down by an average of 100 per week. Staff has been researching reasons why and are cognizant of the issues this creates. Oddly, while numbers are down, giving is up.
However, since 2014 we have been at $1.5M in General Fund giving and can’t seem to break this mold. While the congregation has given in the amount of $6M+, these funds are all restricted and our general expenses have risen. We are ending the year with a $70,900 shortfall. Our options are to transfer funds from the reserves, start an immediate campaign to raise funds, implement spending measures or do layoffs of staff. Pastor Corey asked the Council for their thoughts.
Council discussed and suggested that another campaign so soon would not be feasible at this time, but a spring campaign, March, April, May would be a good idea. They also thought that funds should be transferred from the reserves as needed and that staff should keep up with the spending measures. They were not in favor of laying off staff.

**New Business:**
- **Transfer from Reserves** – The Council was in agreement for funds to be transferred as needed. No official vote by the Council is needed for the transfers.

- **Selection of new Council members** – Jane Nelson and Dave Rogness are in their third year of their second term. Pastor Corey asked Council members for suggestions to give to the Nominating Committee.

**Next Council Meeting will be held Tuesday, February 19, 2019 at 5:30 pm**

**Pastor Laurie closed with a prayer.**
Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
Missy Froeber
Executive Assistant