Global Missions Committee Minutes & First Lutheran Church, Fargo
April 11, 2019

Present: Tom Espel, Greg Erickson, Russ Wastweet, Tracy Farmer, Christine Bachmeier and Missy Froeber. Larry Wild attended. Tracy Alin from Amistad and Katie Johnson with Ordinary Hero were guests.

Meeting called to order by Tom Espel. Tom welcomed Tracy Farmer who is the new Council representative on the Global Missions committee.

The mission and vision statements were recited.

Tracy Alin did the devotion reading from “He Walks Among Us”.

Russ Wastweet moved to approve the minutes from February. Chris Bachmeier seconded. Motion approved.

Russ Wastweet presented the financial reports for February and March. Greg Erickson motioned to approve the financials. Chris Bachmeier seconded. Financials approved.

Old Business:

1. Giving Guidelines update – Brad was unable to attend so this item was tabled again.
2. 20th Anniversary of El Refugio – Brad Keller is attending the El Refugio celebration
3. Friends of Accion - Rollie was unable to attend so this item was tabled.
4. TeachHaiti – Missy shared the thank you poster and pictures from the children at Miquette’s school. They were so grateful to have received their Bibles. The unrest in Haiti has settled down. All of the children came through fine.

New Business:

1. Amistad - Tracy spoke on Amistad and her mission to provide clean water/wells to the people of India. Pastor Raj joined us via a phone call. One million people now have access to clean water in India through programs like Amistad. But the need is great. There are over 2,000 villages close to Pastor Raj that still don’t have clean water. Tracy told stories of how digging the wells has changed villages by not only providing clean water, but jobs. Pastor Raj spoke on the persecution they face from Hindu extremists, a very real threat. They have found that Audio Bibles work best as they can be solar powered and are easy to hide or hook up to speakers in the church or a private home so that many at once can hear the Word. Pastor Raj brought up the need for an amplified speaker (he used “loud speaker”) and a tent for their open air events. Tracy indicated that she would ask us for help on those requests. We should expect a request or may want to follow up with Tracy on that need.
Pastor Raj also mentioned that First Lutheran has provided 65 wells over the years. He and Tracy are very grateful for our continued support. Pastor Corey would like Tracy to speak to the First Lutheran Staff and would like to include a story on Amistad in the summer newsletter.

1. **Ordinary Hero** – Katie Johnson shared that 14 people will be going on the Ethiopia mission trip for a total grant of $7,000. She presented a grant request for $3,000, the remainder of the grant funds to be used for in country purchases to help boost local economy and be donated to families in need. Purchases will include mattresses, cooking pots, cups, plates, school supplies, etc. Greg Erickson motioned to approve the $3,000 to go toward in country purchases of supplies. Russ Wastweet seconded. Chris Bachmeier had to leave but approved the request with Russ and Tom before leaving. Motion was approved.

2. **Marrianna Malm provided an email with an update on Slovakia.** She will be going this summer as part of another church’s mission group.

3. Katrina Hasbrouck will be here for our July meeting

4. Tom Espel will contact Shelly Krosbakken in regards to her interest in Global Missions.

**Other Business:**

1. Pastor Corey stated that the Building project is going well. We have double crews working to make up for lost time during the poor winter conditions.

2. Pastor Corey introduced the concept of Nokomis At First ministry. Gary Wolsky has been hired to raise a total of $5 million to create a legacy fund for this ministry. This fund would help cover the costs of 50% of the children attending through scholarships.

**The next meeting will be May 9th at 7:00 am in the Luther Room.**

**Russ Wastweet will do devotions**

**Meeting adjourned with a beautiful prayer from Larry Wild**

Respectfully submitted by

**Missy Froeber**