

First Lutheran Church – Fargo, ND

Global Missions Committee Minutes

November 9, 2017 (Off-site at Sandy's Donuts, Downtown Fargo)

Present: Christine Bachmeier, ~~Corey Bjertness~~, Greg Erickson, ~~Kalah Erickson~~, Tom Espel, Brock Franke, ~~Missy Freeber~~, ~~Rollie Johnson~~, ~~Brad Keller~~, Marianna Malm, ~~Donata Neller~~, Russ Wastweet, Larry Wild, Ann Williams

Guests: Suzy and Jim Olsen, Laura Podolak and Alexa Nissen

Meeting called to order by Chair, Tom Espel.

The mission statement and vision statement were recited.

Jim Olsen lead the devotional and opening prayer referencing Jeremiah 17: 7-8. "But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit."

The October minutes were reviewed, and Marianna made a motion to approve. Russ seconded, and the motion passed.

Russ Wastweet presented the financial report. \$2,463 remain in the Scheel Fund and the amount remaining in the Lee fund will last until Spring. A motion to approve the finances was made by Larry and seconded by Brock. The motion passed.

Ordinary Hero – Tom shared that Corey and Rollie are considering a mission trip to Ethiopia in the future to support the Ordinary Hero program.

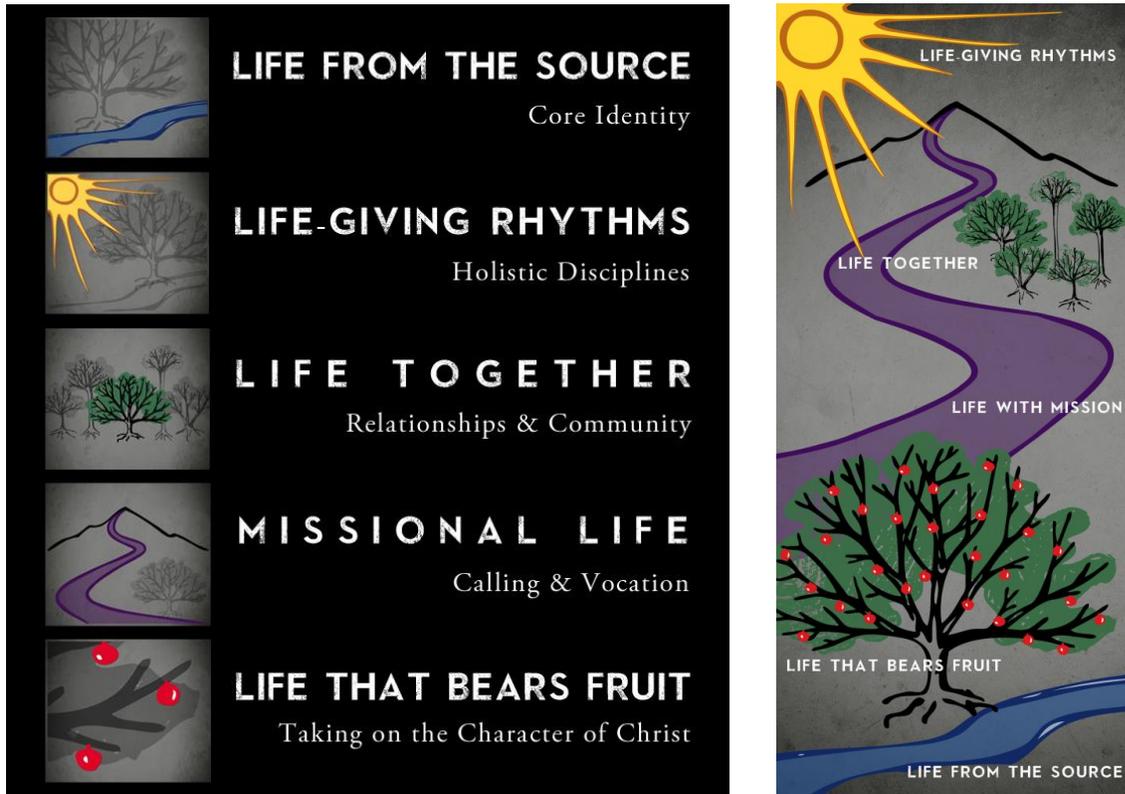
NDSU Nursing Trip to Haiti – Laura Podolak and Alexa Nissen came at the invitation of Rollie Johnson to request \$6,000 for supplies and travel expenses. The mission trip is a cross-cultural exchange of ideas and supplies. The students will provide care and supplies through Hands Up for Haiti while learning to give care to patients with different languages and cultures. One project they will be participate in is the Hygiene Project which provides hygiene supplies to girls, so they don't miss school and fall behind during their menstrual cycles. Christmas toys will also be supplied for the children. As part of the program, Laura and Alexa will have a presentation available after their trip if we would like to see it.

The motion was made by Marianna M. to fund \$2,000 from the Lee Fund by providing \$500 each to Laura and Alexa for supplies and \$500 each, again for travel. Chris B.

Jim and Suzy Olsen – Jim is now the acting Director of El Refugio. They shared stories of the growth at El Refugio such as the completion of the dining hall. They are working on updating the water supply with new pipes and tanks which is greatly needed since they now serve 3000 participants each year. Most of

the participants are from Ecuador while about 300 are from outside the country. They expressed their gratitude for funding the van this year as that has freed up time and money that previously had to go towards hiring transportation and drivers! The Olsen's and their family (Kaia, Espen, and Ella) visited many supporters including members of the Global Mission Committee while in Fargo/Moorhead. Their stories of faith and friendship are too many to include here. They also shared the Vision of El Refugio which is expressed in the following images from their website.

<http://www.haciendaelrefugio.com/vision/>



World Vision Christmas Gift - Christmas Catalog – Larry W requested \$1,199 for the Christmas catalog which will provide for approximately 15 families. Russ W made the motion to fund from the Lee fund, Marianna M seconded, and the motion passed.

Council Report – Marianna reported that the task forces for the building project are on hold until after a November 19 meeting at which all groups will gather to hear a unified message and scope. Corey has been invited to Slovakia on June 24th for graduation ceremonies.