

Church Council Minutes October 10, 2023

Present: Deb, Lois, Pastor, Evie, Joel, Orrin, Connie

Absent: Ashley

Council Vice-President Orrin called the meeting to order at 6:32pm. Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

A. Consent Agenda

Motion: Evie made the motion to accepting the August and September Minutes and Financial Reports as written.

Second: Deb seconded the motion.

Discussion: Operating income for the month of September met expenses so we ended the month in the black. For the months of January through September 2023, we have an operating loss of negative \$8,629.33. The street repair bill has yet to be received. The Rally Wednesday Picnic brought in nearly \$300 and the Fish Fry brought in \$1900 after expenses. These profits will be added to the Property/Sewer repair fund.

Action: carried

B. Additions to the Agenda

- 1) Connie requested that Council members have an opportunity to add to the agenda prior to our meetings.

C. Old Business

- 1) Inactive membership reactivation: About 25% of the membership letters sent out have been returned; 75 were returned as “undeliverable” due to lack of forwarding address. According to our Constitution, a second attempt must be made with those whose letters were undeliverable. Lois will compile a list and Council members will share the task of making phone calls.
- 2) Church Directory: Jill continues to take member photos.
- 3) Adult Bible Study: The Bible study at 8:30 on Sunday mornings prior to worship services has been well received and will continue through November.
- 4) Informational Pamphlet: Lois found the previously used pamphlet given to new members and will make modifications to update its information.

D. New Business

- 1) Pastor’s Report: Pastor learned at a recent Ministerial Association meeting of several upcoming community events. November 15-19 is the “Week of Hope” where mental health and substance abuse issues will be the focus of a presentation at Breckenridge High School by motivational speaker David Galvin. See the flyer posted at the north entrance. The Community Thanksgiving service will be held at Bethel Lutheran Church November 19th at 4 pm. Pastor Kori Lehrkamp of Evergreen United Methodist Church will speak. “Blue Christmas” or “Longest Night” Service will be hosted by Evergreen United Methodist Church December 21st for those who have experienced loss in the past year. On October 15th and 22nd, Pastor will meet with 2nd graders and their parents; on October 29th they will receive their Bibles. Two students will be confirmed that same day. The children’s Christmas program will be held the week before Christmas.
- 2) Vice President’s Report: Council will now meet on a Tuesday night, making it easier for Ashley and Joel to remain on Council (yeah!); they will alternate their attending. Orrin shared

information about an upcoming movie to be released in March 2024 called “The Ark and The Darkness”.

- 3) Property Update: Self-leveling caulking was completed around the most vulnerable areas of the foundation to prevent leakage. Spray insulation in the attic is scheduled for this fall. BLW is looking at helping cover some landscaping costs.
 - 4) Mission Update: \$100 and several school and personal care kits were donated to the Rebekka Circle’s project in September. Operation Christmas Child is the Mission for October and November and information is available the church website and at the north entrance. There was great response to updating the Prayer Chain and information about this is being sent out to volunteers. We will gather gift cards for groceries, gas and hardware in December for needy families in Wilkin County. Connie attended the Congregational Vitality Day workshop in Detroit Lakes last month and shared some of the information learned. A number of posters with Christian messages were purchased for placement in the RAP room and upstairs classrooms for youth. Watch for a congregation activity in November about thankfulness.
 - 5) Youth Education Report: Wednesday night has about 30 youth ages preschool-6th grade attending. It is hoped that we can get youth to sing on some Sunday mornings. Almost 30 youth from our congregation and Foxhome Lutheran participated in the Haunted House activity. Seven youth from our church and five from Foxhome are actively working on plans to help them get to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer. October 25th is the Soup and Bake Sale for the purpose of raising funds for the Gathering.
 - 6) Financial Update: No further information.
 - 7) Worship Update: Materials have been selected through the end of the year. With Christmas landing on a Sunday this year, there will be the regular morning worship and a 4pm service.
- E. Church Pulse: Deb will contact members of the Personnel committee to review and make recommendations for church employees.
- F. Closing Prayer: Pastor Tulu lead Council in the Lord’s Prayer.
- G. Adjournment: Connie made the motion to adjourn and Deb seconded it. Motion carried and Council adjourned at 7:50pm.

Next Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 6:30 pm in the Luther Room.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie Jensen
Secretary