

Church Council Meeting
February 8, 2022
7:00 pm in the Luther Room

Present: Pastor Ale Tulu, Jill Ockhardt Blaufuss, Teresa Pearson, Heidi Genereux, Ashley Johnson, Joel Herder, Orrin Ausen, Kennedy Niska and Deb Berndt

Absent: Connie Jensen

- A. The meeting was called to order by President Jill.
- B. Pastor Ale opened the meeting with devotions that the need for us to commit everything we do to the Lord. Commit to God what he can joyfully approve for us. God knows what is best for us and we can pray for guidance.
- C. Consent Agenda:
 1. Minutes:
 - a. January Council Meeting minutes were handed out at the meeting as well as minutes from the annual meeting.
 2. Financial Reports: Financial report for January 2022 were handed out. They included a Profit and Loss Statement for the month and a Balance Sheet dated January 31, 2022, were handed out to all members present.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Orrin to approve the minutes and the financials as presented.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Heidi
 - c. Action: The motion was passed with no opposition.
- D. Additions to the agenda: Committee Updates was added to New Business as Item 11.
- E. Old Business: None
- F. New Business:
 1. Welcome new Council members – Ashley Johnson, Joel Herder and Kennedy Niska who will replace Heidi once he becomes a member of the Congregation. Jill introduced them all and thanked them for their willingness to get involved.
 2. Overview of Annual Meeting: Jill thanked everyone who helped get the report ready.
 3. Pastor Update – Pastor Ale reported that he had four 10th graders with their mentors attend the meeting he had. He reminded us that Ash Wednesday is on March 2, 2022 and asked Teresa to help him get Palms and ashes ordered. He reported that he was planning on ending Confirmation for the school year the week of Mother’s Day, the first week of May and said he thought if the Sunday School sang at the Church service that day. Pastor Ale reported that Bethel Lutheran is going to use the videos with the artwork of Paul Aman for their Lenten services like we had last year. He wondered if we wanted to show those again. We brainstormed on how we could get a large enough screen and a projector to make that happen but decided it might be hard to do this year with such little notice. He announced that the Choir will sing during the Lenten services, the bells will play on Maundy Thursday, we will have a joint service with the Methodist on Good Friday. Pastor Ale also reported that the men would start meeting on Friday mornings for Breakfast at 7:00 am at the Frying Pan. Pastor also reported that there is a day of worship in Detroit Lakes on March 12, 2022, and the Synod Assembly will be held virtually May 21st and 22nd, 2022.
 4. Office Administrator position proposal – The Personnel committee of Heidi, Kara Gruenberg, Steve Kent and Deb had met and recommended to the Council to hire Lois Fenske to work in the Church office 24 hours a week, Monday thru Thursday, 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Deb will continue doing the accounting work in the evenings but will train Lois when she feels ready to learn the tasks in the next few months. Teresa will take a day and train her with the tasks in the office that she is familiar with. The only still needed is the background check.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Heidi to offer the Office Administrator position to Lois Fenske at the terms stated above after the background check is run.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Orrin.
 - c. Action: Seeing no further discussion the motion was passed with no opposition.
 5. HB Sound and Light – Jill reported that a bid had been received from HB Light and Sound for \$10,000.00 to update the sound board and equipment for the audio. We discussed the need for these improvements but need to find a way to fund the project.
 6. Auto withdrawal Member Drive on Wednesday nights (Simply Giving) – Jill suggested the idea of setting up a table at a Wednesday night service with the Simply Giving registration forms asking people to have an amount given each month to the Church and maybe like with membership drives give away a free T-shirt or cup as a gift for signing up.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Heidi to use \$200 - \$500 to purchase the cups to give away for signing up with Simply Giving.
 - b. Second: A second was made by Teresa.

- c. Action: We discussed the need to figure out when to do this and to get forms to have ready for people to sign and to figure out when would be the best time to take on this project. None of these particulars were decided but the motion to spend the money passed with no opposition.
- 7. Time and Talent Survey – Orrin handed out an example of a survey and suggested that it is something we should hand out at a Church service to see if we can get any responses or to get people at least thinking about how they can give their time and talents. Hand out possibly during Ash Wednesday service or Palm Sunday service. He asked the question of what stewardship entails and what can make our Congregation more alive.
- 8. Council Member Dinner – Orrin reminded us all again of the dinner that we will have on February 15th at Mabel Murphy's, for members and their spouses. He extended the invitation to all the new members as well.
- 9. Worship Music re-evaluation – Heidi reported that Kay Nelson might have to have surgery on her wrist again and she felt like maybe after when returned in March that maybe we should find someone else to play the organ. Heidi reported that she had asked Tom Hansen to play on Easter Sunday. We discussed the need to look at the total Music budget costs after 6 months and determine what we can do differently or what the Church can afford.
- 10. Committee Updates –
 - a. Property – Teresa reported that the elevator parts have almost all arrived for Schindler and that hopefully in the next month they will be able to complete the project. Teresa stated that there was ice buildup on the roof, there was leakage in the Main sanctuary and First Source was notified. Krump Const. did not put the drain tile down when they finished their job and that will have to be done in the spring. We need to think about weed removal and possibly some new landscaping. Deb reported she had talked to the Mission Endowment about the loan for the elevator and that they had suggested a Construction loan which would give us three months after the approval to resolve the project.
 - I. Motion: A motion was made by Orrin to proceed with the construction loan for the balance we would need to finish the project. Possibly \$25,000 - \$30,000.
 - II. Second: The motion was seconded by Joel.
 - III. Action: Motion carried with no opposition.
 - b. Mission: Harry Ockhardt, Mariah Hought and Cooper Allison will be on the Mission committee with Connie, and they will decide on a different mission for the Church members to give to each month. This month is the Salvation Army.
 - c. Evangelism – Leslee is working on some ideas.
 - d. Youth Education – The kids will sing at the Ash Wed service, Palm Sunday, and Mother's Day service. There is a skiing trip planned for Feb 27th for kids over 12 and their parents if they want to come. The kids will also be making Valentines to take to St Francis and hand out to people at Church.
- G. Church Pulse: Orrin presented a list of suggestions for changes that he would like to see happen with our church. Pastor Ale reminded us to add a Church Directory to the agenda next month.
- H. Pastor Ale led us in the Lord's Prayer to close out the meeting.
- I. Adjournment –
 - a. Motion – A motion was made by Orrin to adjourn the meeting.
 - b. Second – Motion was seconded by Joel.
 - c. Action – Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,
Debra Berndt