

Church Council Meeting
June 14, 2022
7:00 pm in the Luther Room

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

Absent: Connie Jensen

- A. President Jill welcomed to visitors Kyle and Tucker with Schlindler Elevator Corporation, they were present to update the council on the recent problems with the elevator. They explained that when the updates were complete, they were conducting a full pressure test before the elevator could be deemed ready to use. They discovered that the piston that lifts the elevator was failing. They will not be able to determine the cause of the problem until they pull the shaft out of the ground. The shaft is in the ground with no protection from water. It could just be corrosion from normal wear and tear and exposure to water, or there could be a hairline fracture. An insurance claim will be filed, and Tucker stated after talking to them that they can not make any determination on liability until the shaft has been pulled out of the ground. There will be a letter sent from the State of Minnesota that the elevator is not safe for use at this time. They presented a bid for the work that would be needed to pull out the shaft, chip out the cement, drill hole fill with sand, clean up the leaking oil. When they replace the jack this time (it will be an 80-year jack), they will put a PVC pipe around it to protect it from ground water, it will be bolted to the ground. This will be a labor-intensive job and will take some time. The estimated bid is about \$92,000. Tucker stated he would be happy to come to a congregational meeting to discuss the issue. He also stated that they have financing available.
- B. Jill had to leave, and Orrin called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm.
- C. Pastor Ale opened the meeting with devotions reminding us that to whom much has been given, much is expected. To get a job done we need to have volunteers. Are we all living up to our responsibilities?
- D. Consent Agenda:
 1. Minutes:
 - a. May Council Meeting minutes were handed out at the meeting.
 2. Financial Reports: Financial reports for May 2022 were handed out. They included a Profit and Loss Statement for the month and a Balance Sheet dated May 31, 2022, which were handed out to all members present.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Joel to approve the minutes and the financials as presented.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Kennedy.
 - c. Action: The motion was passed with no opposition.
- E. Old Business:
 1. Weekly Envelopes for 2023. The bill for 2022 envelopes was over \$700.00 and we didn't even use half of the amount ordered. Lois suggested printing our own envelopes that can be given to people who request them. They can add the date and their envelope number to the outside.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Teresa to stop ordering the envelopes that we have been offering, envelopes created by Lois, to the people that would like them. People can keep their previous numbers if they want.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Ashley.
 - c. Action: The motion was passed with no opposition.
 2. Lois also suggested that people are informed that they can also talk to their banks about having an automatic payment come out of their checking account which would not cost them or the church a processing fee. Jill had also asked about getting reimbursed for the signs she had made at Bold Print for the Simply Giving campaign. Teresa said she thought we had already approved that, and it was decided to reimburse her.
- F. New Business:
 1. Pastor's Report –
 - Pastor Ale reported that Senior Recognition Sunday was held on May 22, 2022, and all but two students were in attendance. He also wanted to thank Joel for encouraging the kids to attend while he saw them at school
 - He will be having a service at St. Catherine's once a month.
 - Pastor went to Valley Fair with the kids and chaperones on June 10th
 - On June 22nd there will be a mentor/ student meeting for the kids who will be getting confirmed in the fall.
 - July 4th thru July 11th, Pastor will be gone for Continuing Ed, Rene will preach on July 10th.
 2. President's Report
 - i. Newsletter Name – Lois suggested that we ask for ideas from the Congregation for a new name for the newsletter. Lois will ask for suggestions through bulletins or the online newsletter.
 - ii. New safe in the office. Lois and Teresa both reported that the old safe is getting harder and harder to open. Lois suggested if we got a safe with a drop box that it can be stored in the extra office and then the offerings can be counted in there on Sunday and then just put in the drop box. It was felt that we should have a safe that is water and fireproof to protect the items in there. Lois noted that we had received some gifts in Memory of Tom Dietz that were undesignated and maybe we could use those funds to purchase the safe. Lois had found a safe with a keypad lock that is 80 lbs. and cost \$429.00.
 - A. Motion: A motion was made by Kennedy to purchase the safe that was described above using undesignated gift funds given in memory of Tom Dietz.

- B. Second: The motion was seconded by Teresa.
 - C. Action: Seeing no further discussion the motion passed.
 - iii. Roy Marohl / Checklist Maintenance (1 hr/week) – The breakdown of checklist items that Roy would be handled by Roy was passed around. Teresa wondered if she had not been doing a good enough job because several of these items were covered by her. Several members stated that it might just be another set of eyes on potential problems. Teresa had talked to Jim, and he was okay with this idea.
 - A. Motion: A motion was made by Joel to hire Roy to perform the checklist duties as listed on the sheet for approximately 1 hour per week.
 - B. Second: The motion was seconded by Teresa.
 - C. Action: Seeing no further discussion, the motion passed with no opposition.
 - iv. Ethiopian Night –Pastor Ale and Sunny will serve some of their traditional foods. We will find a date in the Fall. We are hoping to use this as a fundraiser to help pay for the elevator. Jill found out that we could use the Wahpeton Community Center for \$150.00. Other suggestions are having music and entertainment specific to their culture. Pastor Ale would like his sister to help with the preparations and she will be gone later in October so we decided that October 8th, 2022, might be the best date.
 - v. Chili Cookoff – The whole council thought this sounded like a good idea and decided that November 19th would probably be the best date from 4 until 7 pm. More discussion will continue at the next meeting.
 - 3. Building Committee – The main concern of the Property committee right now is the elevator resolution. They will get another bid from Otis for the Jack replacement. The elevator will also need to have a connection to the fire dept. They are still waiting on a bid for the rain gutter additions and for the heat tape and potential insulation under the roof. Lois will follow up with Janet Gagelin at Immanuel in Wahpeton regarding their sound system. Teresa will talk to the youth about moving the pavers away from the building so more soil can be brought in. Orrin volunteered to help with the landscaping, Teresa stated she will set up a meeting in the next week.
 - a. Motion: Joel made a motion that we hire a plumber to come in and plug the drains and the toilets before the rain falls again to proactively prepare for potential problems
 - b. Second: Ashley seconded the motion.
 - c. Action: The motion passed with no opposition.
 - 4. LYO Report – Joel reported that the LYO went to Valley Fair (33 went altogether) and cleaned the highway (14 in attendance) the week before. There is a family swimming night set for August 10th which will be open to families and kids too. Hopefully we will be able to get kids to walk in the parade and hand out water bottles and candy for the Headwater’s Day parade. We might possibly have an activity the night of the Wednesday service in August.
 - 5. Youth Education Update – Ashley reported that we have been invited to VBS at Bethel the first seek of August. We hope to have a planning meeting to discuss the curriculum for the next year.
 - 6. Finance update – We all thanked Orrin for his bulletin messages and messages in the newsletters about giving.
 - 7. Worship and Music – Kennedy announced that he had taken another job in another city and would be resigning from his position as music director as of the end of August 2022.
- G. Church Pulse
1. Lois stated that she has free COVID tests available in the Church Office.
- H. Pastor Ale led us in the Lord’s Prayer to close out the meeting.
- I. Adjournment –
- a. Motion – A motion was made by Joel to adjourn the meeting.
 - b. Second – Motion was seconded by Teresa.
 - c. Action – Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,
Debra Berndt