

Church Council Meeting
August 9, 2022
7:00 pm in the Luther Room

Present: Pastor Ale Tulu, Jill Ockhardt Blaufuss, Connie Jensen, Lois Fenske, Joel Herder, Kennedy Niska, Orrin Ausen and Deb Berndt

Absent: Pastor Ale Tulu, Ashley Johnson, Evie Fox Connie Jensen

- A. President Jill called the meeting to order.
- B. Pastor Ale was home under the weather so Jill shared a message about whatever is inside of us is what will come out. What is inside each of our cups, gratitude, forgiveness, kindness? What do we want to have come out? Connie also shared a daily devotion from 2 Timothy 1: v 6-7.
- C. Consent Agenda:
 1. Minutes:
 - a. July Council Meeting minutes were handed out at the meeting.
 2. Financial Reports: Financial reports for July 2022 were handed out. They included a Profit and Loss Statement for the month as well as a year-to-date income statement and a Balance Sheet dated July 31, 2022, which were handed out to all members present. We had some discussion for suggestions of how we can make members of the Congregation more aware of deficits we have had in meeting our budget. Lois has been adding a statement of weekly giving and comparing it to the budget amount needed.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Orrin to approve the minutes and the financials as presented.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Connie.
 - c. Action: The motion was passed with no opposition.
- D. Additions to the Agenda:
 1. Jill asked if we could add discussion of Fund-raising ideas to help pay for the cost of the elevator jack replacement if that project is passed or any other building projects that might need to be completed.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Connie to add Fund Raising as an additional item to the agenda under New Business.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Joel.
 - c. Action: The motion was passed with no opposition.
- E. New Business:
 1. Pastor's Report – There was no Pastor's report since Pastor was home sick.
 2. President's Report
 - i. Jill stated that we had had an informational meeting that was open to the entire Congregation on August 1, 2022. We addressed the current problems that we are having with the elevator jack leaking fluid and the need to have the jack replaced and the contaminated soil disposed of. She had also asked Shelly Conzemius to attend the meeting to discuss the costs of building on so that we could have the fellowship room on the main level. The forum was opened to questions and suggestions, and it was finally decided that because of the cost of construction we would have to start a Capital Campaign to raise the funds and the best thing to do right now would be to get the elevator up and running once again. It was decided that we would advertise a Congregational meeting to be held on August 28, 2022, after the Church service and we would vote on whether the elevator should be repaired to make it functional, or the funds spent to abandon it and remove the soil which the Council had been told needed to happen whether it was fixed or not. The meeting will be advertised for two weeks. Some research was going to be completed but it was felt that we needed a quorum of 30 members to vote. The vote will be done by secret

ballot. It was also discussed that the decision of which bid to use for the work would be decided on by the Property Committee.

- A. Motion: A motion was made by Connie to have the vote on August 28, 2022
 - B. Second: The motion was seconded by Orrin.
 - C. Action: Some discussion followed on why Schindler had a higher bid the first time they submitted a bid and we wondered why their bids were different. It was stated that Schindler planned to remove the contaminated soil and make sure it was disposed of properly. Seeing no further discussion, the motion passed.
- ii. Constitution & Bylaws review and update. Jill stated that we will need to go back through the Annual Reports back to 2014 and looked for any votes that might have happened and make sure any changes are reflected in our permanent copy of these documents.
 - iii. Ethiopian Night –Pastor Ale and Sunny will serve some of their traditional foods. Upon checking with the Wahpeton Community Center there were not any dates that were available when Pastor Ale’s sister would be able to help and then they were concerned about the weather during the winter months. It was decided to table this fund raiser until the Spring.
 - iv. Fund-raising – Jill had been talking to Congregational members who felt that once there is a decision made about the elevator a committee should be formed who will contact people who have been significant donors in the past and determine their willingness to help with the financing. We also wondered about any Thrivent funds or any ADA grants that might be available. Orrin stated that he had investigated grants before and had not had much luck finding sources, but he would look again.
3. Building Committee – Evie had not been able to attend the meeting since Teresa had stated that she would no longer be the Council Rep. It was reported that Shelly Conzemius had stated that she would try to attend Property management meetings when possible. She felt there are other structural problems that she could be a resource to help figure out the resolutions.
 4. Mission Update – Connie reported that the August monthly mission is Churches United, people can drop the items asked off at the Church or they may give a financial donation. The July monthly mission had been the Valley Boys & Girls Ranch and that \$400.00 had been collected. Connie stated she is hoping to schedule a planning meeting with the kids soon. September will be the month that they are raising money for the Dakota Boys and Girls ranch with Honey Sunday where 30% of the profits are kept by the organization setting up the event. We also discussed the idea of maybe raising additional funds with a Cookie walk.
 5. Youth Education Update – Possible upcoming events.
 - a. Pool Party (8/10/22)
 - b. Summer Service 8/24/22
 - c. Headwaters Parade (9/10/22)
 - d. Rally Wednesday (9/14/22)
 6. Finance Update – Orrin suggested that we need to update our membership lists and that maybe we need to start having more visitations. We talked about what type of things would appeal to people with evangelism and mission outreaches. How do we get people back to Church? He also stated that we need to look at improving our Mission Statement.
 7. Worship Update – Kay Nelson has been approached to be the choir director, but she will need an accompanist. We also discussed the idea of having some prerecorded music that could be used if there was a Sunday, we need an accompanist, or if we could have some CD’s ready for use. Orrin stated that he would be interested in helping with hymn selection.
- F. Church Pulse
1. Lois stated that several people had expressed dissatisfaction with the Television Broadcast and said she felt that this is an issue that needs to be addressed. It was reported that Evie has been in touch

- with Janet Gagelin from Immanuel Lutheran and she was told the name of the person that they work with at Min-kota Communication and that a person from there was coming to investigate the problem.
2. Janel Butts has been working with us to order supplies for the weekly suppers from Food Service. We are going to work on getting our own account set up so that the supplies can be delivered right to the Church.
- G. We said the Lord's Prayer to close out the meeting.
- H. Adjournment –
- a. Motion – A motion was made by Connie to adjourn the meeting.
 - b. Second – Motion was seconded by Joel.
 - c. Action – Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,
Debra Berndt