

Church Council Meeting
September 13, 2022
7:00 pm in the Luther Room

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

Absent: Ashley Johnson

- A. President Jill called the meeting to order.
- B. Pastor Ale opened the meeting with devotions – Asking the question – Does it seem like some of us do more than others? He reminded us that maybe we should not get so worked up about that but remember that Jesus said “To whom much is given, much is expected.” He also led us in a prayer.
- C. Consent Agenda:
 1. Minutes:
 - a. August Council Meeting minutes were handed out at the meeting.
 2. Financial Reports: Financial reports for August 2022 were handed out. They included a Profit and Loss Statement for the month as well and a Balance Sheet dated August 31, 2022, and one thru the day of the meeting which reflected which included donations that had been received in the offering the previous Sunday were handed out to all members present. We had some discussion on the current balance in the elevator fund which was now at \$38,449.26. It was noted that the 50% balance due would be about \$25,000.00 and we decided that we would not need to take out an additional loan at this time. We looked at the funds that were available now in the Balance Sheet. Pastor Ale felt that he could contribute \$3,000.00 from the Pastor’s discretionary fund which currently has a balance of \$3,993.00 and that we could move \$4, 000.00 from the Undesignated Gifts fund which has a balance of \$5,981.00. We also discussed asking Faith Care and Share if they might be able to contribute towards the final balance for the elevator. We also discussed the need to have Jill the Council President to give a temple talk on Sunday to make people aware of the additional funds that we will need and ask for contributions. We also discussed using the donations collected for the suppers on Wednesday nights to first cover the cost of the supplies, second to be used for Wednesday School materials and supplies and then if there is anything left to go towards projects that might need them.
 - 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.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Connie to use \$4,000.00 of the Undesignated Fund account to help with the cost of the elevator if needed.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Orrin.
 - c. Action: The motion was passed with no opposition.
- D. Additions to the Agenda: None
- E. Old Business:
- F. New Business:
 1. Property Update – We changed the order of the agenda to accommodate Evie’s schedule conflicts. Evie reported Jim Grawe is planning on putting a new actuator in the room upstairs that will help keep the room cooler during the winter months so that it does not cause the snow to melt so quickly on the roof and cause the problems we have had with melted snow coming down the walls. She also added that they are planning on putting in some extra insulation which should help keep the roof from melting the snow so rapidly. Evie stated that the estimated bid for the heat tape would be about \$20,000.00 and the property committee had decided to wait on that. She stated that the additional gutter work was complete. The next big discussion was the sound system and the ability to broadcast

on the cable station. Many people had called the office this summer reporting that it was not working properly. Either there was no sound or the sound did not match the people's actions. It was suggested again to contact Immanuel Lutheran in Wahpeton because their broadcast is working all the time. Lois will contact Janet Gagelin to find out who they have worked with so that we can get the materials that we need and then get the person that has installed their system to modify our system. We will need to get an estimate of the cost.

2. Pastor's Report – Pastor Ale reported that Wednesday night activities will be resuming on September 14, 2022. He will have 9 confirmation students in the 7th grade, 6 in the 8th grade, 11 in the 9th grade. There will be 3 – 10th graders working with their mentors and 5 students to be confirmed. He said that last year the materials focused on what Lutherans believed and this year they will be studying Bible stories of great people of faith. We will also look at a date in October to have the 2nd graders begin their meetings preparing them for getting their Bibles. Pastor Ale will be attending a Theology for Ministry Conference on the following Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday in Mahnomen. They will deal with a program called "Food for the Poor".
3. President's Report
 - i. Ethiopian Night - Jill reminded us of the change in date for the Ethiopian night, which is now scheduled for Saturday, April 15, 2022, at the Wahpeton Rec Center.
 - ii. Float Space Rental – The float is currently being stored at Jason Hasbargen's and Teresa and her husband have paid the yearly fee of \$100 to \$150. We will ask Lois to put a notice in the bulletin asking if there is anyone else who has a spot to store it.
 - iii. Communion and passing the offering plate – The general consensus on the council was that we should resume both of these activities. Pastor Ale stated that most of the Congregations and Pastors that he has had conversations with have resumed these activities. We discussed the need to let the alter guild know so that they could start getting communion ready again for the first and third Sundays and Pastor Ale felt that we should do it one Wednesday a month for the Wednesday night services. Pastor Ale felt that we do not need to ask the Faith Care and Share to ask for communion assistants. He feels that he will have Rene and Clark help and maybe one other person that he might ask to help each time. Orrin also asked if we can have the Gospel responses written out in the bulletin.
 - iv. Mortgage Application Update – We will table proceeding with asking for additional funds until we see how the campaign to raise the funds progresses. Currently we have enough for the down payment.
 - v. Personnel Meeting mid-September – Hopefully this can be set up but there have been several scheduling conflicts.
 - vi. Church Management Software – Jill asked Lois to report on this topic. Lois stated that she had found this system that would be all done online and would combine Revelations which is used for the offerings and membership lists with a program which would also do the payroll and the accounting of the books. With this system she could also log in at home or other locations. The cost would be \$814.00 per year which is around the cost of the yearly QuickBooks updates for the accounting and payroll. There would also be a mobile app and people could update their own information.
 - A. Motion: A motion was made by Orrin to purchase the new software for record keeping
 - B. Second: The motion was seconded by Connie.
 - C. Action: The motion was passed with no opposition.
4. Mission Update – Connie reported that she had brought one load of items to Churches United and had one more load. The September Mission is for the Dakota Girls and Boys Ranch, the honey Sundy campaign. She will have committee members collect donations and cards for the purchase of the honey.

5. Youth Education – Deb read a text that Ashley had sent reporting that the staff of Bri Allison, Tracy Bommersbach, Patty Moses, Ashley Johnson and Deb Berndt had met to determine the curriculum to use for the new year and to set up a calendar for the year to ask Lois to print up for us to hand out to all the families. We decided on “Digging into the Heart of God”
 6. Finance Update – Orrin suggested a virtual fund-raising site that he had found for selling flavored popcorn. We thought this would be a great idea to look at closer to Christmas time. He also suggested possible a pie with the youth night.
 7. Worship Update – Kay Nelson has agreed to be the choir director. The Choir will perform three Sundays a month. The worship committee will be having a meeting to set up their schedule.
- G. Church Pulse
1. A suggestion was made to note on Facebook what the Wednesday night meals will be and remind the community that anyone is welcome.
 2. We decided that Pastor Ale, Lois, Deb, and Rene should all be put on the Safety deposit box as people who can open it. They will all have to go to the bank together to sign a new card.
- H. We said the Lord’s Prayer to close out the meeting.
- I. 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