

Church Council Meeting  
October 11, 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, Ashley Johnson, and Deb Berndt

Absent:

- A. President Jill called the meeting to order.
- B. Pastor Ale opened the meeting with devotions – He read from Ecclesiastes and reminded us that no matter what age we are it is important to not put God on the back burner. God should be on the front burner and we should not just give Him our leftovers. He also led us in a prayer.
- C. Consent Agenda:
  1. Minutes:
    - a. September Council Meeting minutes were handed out at the meeting.
  2. Financial Reports: Financial reports for September 2022 were handed out. They included a Profit and Loss Statement for the month as well and a Balance Sheet dated September 30, 2022. There was a question as to why we had not moved the funds that we made a motion to move last month, and it was stated that we had received enough funds through donations to pay the rest of the balance that will be owed on the elevator and therefore we will keep the undesignated funds and Pastors Discretionary funds where they are for now.
    - a. Motion: A motion was made by Connie to approve the minutes and the financials as presented.
    - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Evie.
    - c. Action: The motion was passed with no opposition.
- D. Additions to the Agenda: None
- E. Old Business:
- F. New Business:
  1. Pastor's Report – Pastor Ale reported that the Wednesday night activities were continuing to go well. There will be 4 or 5 kids getting confirmed on October 30, 2022. Since the class is so small Pastor Ale suggested having the Confirmation during the regular church service so that the whole Congregation could be a part of the special service. He will verify this change with the Confirmands parents. The 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Bibles have not come in the mail yet so Pastor will wait until November 20<sup>th</sup> to hand them out and will meet with the kids and their parents on the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of November. Pastor Ale also reported that at the Ministerial meeting they talked about the Thanksgiving service to be held the Sunday before Thanksgiving. They had discussed that it will either take place at Breck Lutheran or at the Methodist Church. Father Dale will preach, the service will be at 4:00 pm with Pie and coffee to follow. He also reminded us that we will have the meatball dinner at the church on election day. We were hoping the elevator would be ready but not sure that it would. Pastor Ale also made a final generous suggestion that he was willing to waive the Social Security match that is normally paid to Pastors of about \$5,000.00, his mileage allowance and reimbursement for Continuing Education and we can use those funds to help reduce the Mission Investment loan that we currently. He also thanked Jill for her Temple talk asking for funds to pay for the elevator repairs.
  2. 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 115, 2022, at the Wahpeton Rec Center. Evie suggested that we investigate using the Hughes Shelter in the Park because it is not quite as big. The Wahpeton Rec center seats over 400 people and the Hughes shelter maybe 120.

- ii. Chili Cookoff – originally scheduled for November 19, 2022 was tentatively changed to January 28, 2023 after we realized so many people were going to be out of Town that weekend and we decided that maybe the November date was too close to the election night fund raiser. Ashley, Jill, Connie, and Deb volunteered to help organize the event. Ashley will check on prices for the Styrofoam cups we would need for sampling.
  - iii. Float Space Rental – Krystal Schaible has offered to let us store the float in one of the garages at her home. We just need to make arrangements to get it moved there.
  - iv. Personnel meeting – It was reported that the personnel committee had met with Lois, Teresa, and Pastor Ale. They need to meet again to determine PTO and keeping track of it and any other potential changes that may need to be made
3. Property Update – Evie reported that they had only been able to get one bid for the heat tape and that it would cost \$21,000.00. The Council discussed the fact that there was only one bid and therefore nothing to compare it too and with all the other projects we have going on that maybe we should just get the actuator fixed and add more insulation to the roof area and hope for the best. She also reported that they were getting the much needed equipment from Tri-Core in Fargo to fix and upgrade the sound system/recording system so that we can once again depend on televising our weekly service on the cable station and people will be able to see and hear it properly. We also discussed how do we clean the stucco on the church. Can we power wash it or paint it? This item will need to be addressed in the Spring. Lois wondered who handled the organ repairs as she had been told that there was a key that stuck. She was informed that that would be the Worship committee
  4. Mission Update – Connie reported that they had collected \$340.00 for Honey Sundays and that the Church would receive about \$100.00 of the profits. November Mission emphasis will be the Circle of Nations in Wahpeton and that we will be collecting funds to help provide tennis shoes or other things needed for the students. Joel suggested checking with the schools because often there are clothing and shoe items that are never picked up by the students which we could maybe get the school to donate. The Mission Committee is hoping to partner with the LYO to raise funds for the Operation Christmas Child program next year in November and then in December get donations for kids in Wilkin County to help buy presents.
  5. Youth Education – Ashley reported that we have a new curriculum this year for Wed School that seems to be going over well. We have had great attendance and she is asking to start a text chain to remind parents when things are going to be happening at the church, such as when they sing or will get their Bibles. There will also be a coloring page that the Wednesday school kids will color and write on to send with Operation Christmas boxes.
  6. Finance – Orrin suggested putting up a Thanksgiving money tree that can maybe help remind us of all the gifts that we have to be thankful for.
  7. Worship Update – There was no one present.
  8. Upcoming Elections / Nominating Process – We discussed the need to be thinking about possible candidates for the office that need someone and to be reaching out to them so that they may be giving it prayerful consideration.
- G. Church Pulse – Lois reminded us that we need to go to the Bank to sign the signature card for the safe deposit box – Pastor Ale, Lois Fenske, Rene Hasbargen and Deb Berndt. We also discussed the need to have another signer on the checking account and we decided that it made sense to add Lois.
- a. Motion: A motion was made by Orrin to add Lois Fenske to the signature card for the checking account.
  - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Connie.
  - c. Action: Seeing no further discussion the motion passed with no opposition.

Lois also reported that the Credit card that the church has is only in Laurie Allen and Pastor Mannings name. She suggested that we get a credit card through the bank.

- d. Motion: A motion was made by Connie to establish a new credit card through Bank of the West with one for Lois and one for Deb as the treasurer.
- e. Second: The motion was seconded by Orrin.
- f. Action: Seeing no further discussion the motion passed with no opposition.

Lois also stated that she and Jill would set up a text chain with Mail Chimp with parents' numbers.

- H. Closing Prayer: We closed with the Lord's Prayer.
- I. Adjournment – President Jill called for a motion for adjournment.
  - a. Motion – A motion was made by Orrin to adjourn the meeting.
  - b. Second – Motion was seconded by Connie.
  - c. Action – Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Debra Berndt