

Church Council Meeting
April 12, 2022
7:00 pm in the Luther Room

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

Absent: Ashley Johnson

- A. The meeting was called to order by President Jill.
- B. Pastor Ale opened the meeting with devotions referring to Romans 8:37 and reminding us that the ultimate victory over death and sin was the Resurrection of Christ.
- C. Consent Agenda:
 1. Minutes:
 - a. March Council Meeting minutes were handed out at the meeting.
 - i. Motion: A motion was made by Orrin to approve the minutes as presented
 - ii. Second: The motion was seconded by Joel.
 - iii. Action: The motion passed with no opposition.
 2. Financial Reports: Financial report for March 2022 were handed out. They included a Profit and Loss Statement for the month and a Balance Sheet dated March 31, 2022, were handed out to all members present. There was discussion about whether we should continue to use envelopes for offering because of the cost. We decided to table this discussion until a later date.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Teresa to approve the minutes and the financials as presented.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Orrin.
 - c. Action: The motion was passed with no opposition.
- D. Additions to the agenda: Adding additional work to Lois's workload, and the possibility of hiring a part-time youth director.
 - a. Motion: A motion was made by Connie to add the items listed above to the agenda under New Business.
 - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Teresa.
 - c. Action: The motion was passed with no opposition.
- E. Old Business: None
- F. New Business:
 1. Pastor's Report –
 - Men's breakfast started April 7th at the Frying Pan, 10 men attended first week, and they will collect \$1.00 each week.
 - Funeral Service was held for Tom Dietz
 - First baptism was performed for Evelyn Marie Fuder.
 - First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 14, 2022, for Tyce Miller, Sydney Tischer and Easton Vig.
 - Rene will preach at the 7:30 service on Easter morning and Pastor Ale at the 9:30 service.
 - After Easter there will be three more weeks of Wednesday night services and confirmation and Wednesday school with supper.
 - May 1st, 2022 will be new member recognition Sunday – with Pastor Ale and Sunni joining, Kennedy and Karen Platt.
 - Laurie's benefit plans are under way.
 - Senior Recognition Sunday, possibly May 22, 2022
 - Vacation Bible School – Contact Bethel regarding dates.
 - May 15th, joint service with Bethel with Paul Oman giving a presentation, place to be determined.
 2. President's Report
 - i. Kennedy has signed a contract to be our Music Director and to be paid a yearly stipend of \$5,000.00 per year. He will be paid once a month and his duties and responsibilities are outlined in the contract.
 - ii. Elevator Update – Kyle with Schindler has been contacted and someone should be coming to the church shortly to inspect it and get it up and running again as soon as possible. It has been determined that the sump pump is too low in the pit. A new one has been installed. We need a plumber to revamp the conduit and check valves. We need to reach out to the electrician who did the work last summer to determine if it was

- compromised. The electrical work needs to be moved above the door and possibly another needs to be added. Teresa stressed the need to have an alarm system to notify someone if it fails.
- iii. Auto-withdrawal Sign-up Drive Update – Jill purchased the prizes to be handed out to the people who sign-up for automatic withdrawal or increase their giving. She asked for volunteers for people to sit by the table to help people sign up. We will have two tables set up the first two weeks after Easter on Wednesday nights and the two Sundays after Easter
 - iv. Laurie Allen Benefit – April 23, 2022, from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm. There will be a silent auction – Evie Fox in charge, a bake sale – Cindie VanTassel in charge, Raffle tickets for cash prizes, Teresa Pearson in charge, and a free-will offering Pasta supper – Teresa and Connie Jensen in charge. Jill will set up the sign-up genie for people to sign-up on-line for jobs and shifts. Joel will gather clipboards to be used for Silent auction. People can sign up with Thrivent for funds to help defray the costs.
 - v. Directory Update – Jill is planning on setting up pictures at the church for anyone who would like to instead of submitting a picture electronically. Lois will help draw all the information together 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.
 - vi. Communion – Back to normal? It was decided because of the increase in cases of COVID recently that we would continue having communion with the self-contained cups.
 - vii. Wednesday Services / Location – Jill suggested that since there are three Wednesday night services left that we try having them in the sanctuary to see how it goes since some people felt they should be held there.
 - viii. Raychel Bertelson and sons have transferred their memberships to Bethel Lutheran in Wahpeton.
 - ix. Quarterly Contribution statements – A suggestion was made to send them out quarterly to members, possibly with the newsletters. We will investigate the possibility of this by the mid-year mark.
3. Jill proposed adding the task of working with all the bids that come in for any property matters to Lois’s duties. Deb will train Lois on the weekly giving reports when she has time next month.
 4. Joel stressed the need to have someone to help with the record-keeping of the LYO funds, but we determined that at this time it is not in the Church’s budget.
- G. Church Pulse – Committee reports from the Mission committee and the Worship committee were distributed to members
- Property – Teresa also reported that there is work that needs to be done on the roof, there needs to be insulation added in several spots because there was severe heat loss this last winter causing ice jams, the heat tape needs to be put up again, there need to be more gutters put up in the back where people park. Several people have been reached out to fix their work or continue to finish projects.
- Stewardship – Orrin is continuing to work on the time and talents surveys.
- Education – The Wednesday School kids will sing Palm Sunday, Wednesday, May 4th and Mother’s Day at worship and will wrap up the year with something special on May 4th, which will be the last day of class for this year.
- Easter Morning Breakfast - it was suggested to order 3 doz. caramel rolls from Hills 210 or see if Jackie Mertes would make some.
- 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

