

Zion Lutheran Church, Minot
Church Council Meeting, April 22nd, 2025

- Meeting called to order by President, Joe Stenvold, at 5:38pm.
- In attendance at this meeting: Joe Stenvold, Amanda Winkels, Rondi Deaver, Harry Summers, Sherry Broderick, Pastor Elaine Sveet, and Pastor Natasha Kolles. Arriving late due to other commitments were Mike Uran and Kinley Gruenberg.
- Check in and devotion: Pastor Natasha led us in devotion/prayer.
- Agenda: Amanda Winkels asked if we could add a discussion about some presentations at an upcoming Council meeting as item D under New Business. Also, after brief discussion, item B 'pony express' under Old Business was removed as it would be part of activities by the Generosity Committee which is item A under Old Business.
- A motion was made by Amanda Winkels to approve the revised agenda; seconded by Harry Summers. Agenda approved.
- No executive session needed tonight.
- Two visitors were recognized at tonight's meeting: Kortni Plorin and Chris Torgeson were in attendance.
- The Consent Agenda was reviewed, including meeting minutes from March, pastors' reports, youth director reports, and staff/committee meeting notes.
- A motion was made by Amanda Winkels to approve the Consent Agenda without the Financial Report, which will be reviewed on its own. Motion seconded by Harry Summers. Motion passed.
- Chris Torgeson shared some information about a Wellness and Leadership conference she attended in Dallas. She will also be doing a book study on Leadership Quotient with a team of colleagues from across the nation starting in May.
- After the information shared by Chris Torgeson, another motion was made to accept all information in the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by Amanda Winkels. Motion passed.
- Discussion was held regarding the Financial Report: Pastor Elaine briefly went over the Financial Report (as Mike Uran was delayed). She shared that line item #401 in the Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual (YTD) indicated regular offering to be at \$120,945.45 which is actually \$3,000+ above the budgeted amount for this time frame which puts us in a pretty good position. Also, our corrected YTD deficit is \$12,833.33. Last year our YTD deficit was \$29,000 at this time.
- There was discussion regarding Green Brothers, our snow removal company. We have no new snow removal bills, but they will be coming in and clearing the parking lot of dirt sometime soon. Other lawn bills will start coming in now in spring/summer.
- Amanda Winkels made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Seconded by Rondi Deaver. Motion passed.
- New Business:

- A. Child Care Property Taxes: On April 7th there was a resolution passed denying the tax exemption for child care centers housed in churches. There are about 10 churches that have child care centers in them. Some possible large property tax amounts were being proposed which are not feasible. The good news is that the tax commissioner did some investigating and they plan to use the broadest, most liberal understanding of the two ways to get around churches paying taxes ~ prove that the center we are housing falls under the education exemption or the exemption for being charitable (something could be written in the lease indicating this). Since we house a preschool, they should fall under the education exemption. So, Pastor Elaine shared that she thinks Zion will be fine (and we shouldn't be getting a tax bill), but we may need to talk with the Synod attorney for specific language to use in the paperwork (Zion will need to do this every 5 years).
- B. Council helping with Rebel Give: Council discussed the plan for helping members sign up for Rebel give at our Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday Services. We have all services covered (Wed before service-Amanda, after service-Sherry on April 23rd, 30th, & May 7th; Saturday, April 26th before and after-Nicole; and Sunday, April 27th before and after-Harry). We can set up a table in/by the office. There are pledge cards in the mailbox next to Pastor Natasha's office door for those wanting to fill out a new pledge card. Amanda Babcock made up a step by step guide sheet that Pastor Natasha will email to those involved. Council will bring their own computers to assist with this.
- C. Gas Stamp Council Sponsorship: They have discontinued the Marketplace Foods gas stamps which Zion had been using to provide gas to those asking for assistance. We now have a gas voucher program set up with Simonson's and they have been using group sponsorships. Pastor Natasha was wondering if Council as a group would like to sponsor the gas vouchers for the month of May. We have to have a donation/ sponsorship of \$100 or more for Simonson's to do the vouchers. Council is able to use Rebel Give to donate for the vouchers or stop in the office with cash for Amanda B.
 - Harry Summers made a motion for Council to sponsor the gas vouchers for the month of May. Sherry Broderick seconded the motion. Motion passed. Pastor Natasha shared that she will have Amanda send out an email to all Council Members explaining this plan and how we can donate.
- D. Discussion of a Presentation: Amanda Winkels was wondering if we could have Kortni Plorin and Chris Torgeson present at the next Council meeting, letting us know how church school and confirmation went this year. Kortni and Chris agreed and the current plan will be for them to do a short presentation at the May meeting.
- Old Business:
 - A. Generosity Committee: Pastor Natasha shared that currently she and Chris are the only two members. She is looking for volunteers. She would also like it to be called the 'Generosity Team' as opposed to Committee. Pastor Elaine shared that she had heard that Rich Jensen might be interested in being on this team.
 - B. -Pony-Express:
 - C. Retired Individuals Financial Transfers: Pastor Natasha sent an email to Mike Uran and Bruce McLean with the ELCA information/contact person. Mike thinks we should do this sooner rather than later. We have several Zion members that are licensed reps including Ginger Quam and Brian Eichhorn (Thrivent). Bruce Christianson was also brought up as a contact person.

- D. Fundraisers: Joe Stenvold shared that the Fish Fry netted just under \$2,400. There was some discussion of having a roast beef dinner in the fall, sometime after the Lutefisk dinner in September.
- E. Staff Support Committee: Pastor Natasha shared information regarding a 'Mutual Ministry' Committee. The ELCA has guidelines for a Mutual Ministry Team to help support rostered leaders (and staff). Pastor Natasha suggested Council google and read more about this. Most ELCA churches use a Mutual Ministry model. Chris Torgeson shared that most Mutual Ministry Teams have a team member for each staff member to confide in and receive support from. Staff would have a part in selecting these team members. This would need to be a separate Team or Committee from the Personnel Committee; they would need to have clearly defined roles. Mike Uran suggested that in previous years (10+ years ago), the past 4 Council presidents made up or served on the personell committee which worked well as they were aware of the goings on of Council. This may be something to look into as having at least one past president on Council or Personnel/other Committees would be helpful. Pastor Natasha will email Council some links with information regarding Mutual Ministry.
- F. Additional Council Members: Joe Stenvold shared that we are still open to new Council Members, but have not had any new names brought forward.
- G. Funding Forward: Kortni offered her tandem bicycle for rent if there is any interest. :o) Pastor Elaine brought up the previous discussion of Zion hosting a conference or symposium. Nathan Anderson suggested that there is a program that the University offers that they may be willing to host. We have a great building for hosting conferences and have expertise within our staff to host something with other church leaders, we could potentially use that as a fund raiser. We have this built into our budget, so doing something this spring or summer might be good. Nathan Anderson, Luke Schaefer, and John Gruenberg are some people that have offered to possibly help with and/or host something like this. Pastor Elaine shared some new concerns with some previous rental ideas due to the new tax issues (if not falling under our mission). So, the past ideas of renting out our kitchen, building, etc. may not be feasible if there could be tax ramifications. Pastor Elaine suggested that maybe the Synod attorney could do a workshop at the Synod Assembly this year explaining some of the new tax liabilities. Amanda Winkels said she would look into some of these tax issues as well as she works in the city auditor's office (i.e. renting parts of Zion for a day or two rather than long term, being taxed on just a portion of the building vs. the whole building, etc.)
- Amanda Winkels made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Rondi Deaver. Meeting adjourned @ 6:55pm. Council prayed together.
 - The next council meeting is scheduled for May 20th @ 6:30pm.

Submitted by Sherry Broderick
Church Council Secretary
Zion Lutheran Church