

Zion Lutheran Church, Minot
Church Council Meeting, September 16, 2025

- Meeting called to order by President, Joe Stenvold, at 6:34pm.
- In attendance at this meeting: Joe Stenvold, Rondi Deaver, Harry Summers, Amanda Winkels, Sherry Broderick, & Pastor Elaine Sweet
- Check in and devotion: Book Study discussion and reflection led by Chris Torgeson.
- Agenda: Joe Stenvold added some items to the Agenda under Old Business: Item C~Cub Scouts, item D~Funding Forward, item E~Camp Out/New Events, and item F~CYAZ. Amanda Winkels made a motion to approve the Agenda with the added items. Seconded by Harry Summers. Agenda approved.
- Visitors were recognized: Chris Torgeson and Mike Uran (Treasurer) were in attendance. No introductions needed; no executive session needed tonight.
- The Consent Agenda was reviewed, including meeting minutes from August, the pastor's report, faith formation report, and any staff/committee meeting notes. Harry Summers made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda without the Financial Report at this time. Seconded by Rondi Deaver. Consent Agenda approved.
- Discussion was held regarding the Financial Report: Mike Uran shared hi-lites from the Financial Report.
 - August financials looked pretty good.
 - Profit & Loss from August ~ Line item Total #401 ~ Regular Offering: \$27,262 was quite a bit lower than budgeted, but when Amanda Babcock looked back in the current computer system from August for the last 4-5 years, numbers were quite similar, so that made it somewhat less concerning.
 - Profit & Loss January through August ~ Line item Total #401 ~ Regular Offering: \$332,010.95 vs. budgeted amount of \$313,466.68. This is more than likely due to the large contribution that came in within the last couple months.
 - Profit & Loss January through August ~ Line item #521.3 ~ Day Camp income: \$1,350 came in, \$1,637 went out; however, \$300 was listed in expenses incorrectly, so Chris Torgeson reported that the actual expenses were \$1,267.
 - Deficit is approximately \$16,000 which is not too bad for this time of the year with fewer staffing expenses upcoming.
 - The money for the Building Fund & Music Fund transfers comes from the Building Fund growth/interest (not the principle). This money has been moved into a savings account to make it more secure/accessible. This is what is used for transfers into those accounts. We will need to consider if we want to continue doing this long term.
 - There was brief discussion on how we want to present the financial situation in the Visitor newsletter. We don't want members to think we're doing so well financially that we don't need offering and larger donations, but also want to keep the congregation informed. If we decide to stop making the transfers from the Building Fund interest, that may keep the finances looking more realistic/balanced as our expenses will be less going forward due to decreased staffing expenses.
 - There was a suggestion of having our Edward Jones rep, Greg Tschetter, come to a Finance Team meeting to discuss options for the investment funds.
 - Agreed to have the Funding Forward discussion (**Item D in Old Business**) at this time before Mike Uran leaves the meeting. Joe Stenvold shared how Council has had previous discussions regarding fundraising ideas for the church. Some of those ideas were

reviewed at this time. Those ideas have included: providing after-school childcare for Washington School area children, renting out our kitchen to interested parties, holding conferences, using the empty south lot for rental income (camper storage, a Columbarium, etc.), hosting musicals/plays, doing group vacation/trip planning, etc. There could be tax ramifications; future discussion and research will be needed if we decide to pursue any of these options.

- Harry Summers made a motion to approve the Financial Report. Seconded by Rondi Deaver. Financial Report approved.

○ New Business:

- PSWOT (passion, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats):** Chris Torgeson has these materials available. She will bring them to each committee meeting in October and to the Council meeting in October for members to review and complete.
- Annual Meeting:** There was discussion about holding the Annual Meeting on February 22nd, 2026. The Constitution allows 60 days of operation without a passed budget, so we are good until March 3rd. **All Members were in agreement to hold the Annual Meeting on 2/22/26.**
- February Council Meeting:** There was discussion about holding the February Council meeting on 2/24/26, the week after the Annual Meeting. **All members were in agreement to hold the February Council meeting on 2/24/26.**
- Continuing with Building and Music Transfers:** Discussion previously held during Financial Report discussion. Further consideration will be needed.
- ZLCW Raffle Approval:** Pastor Elaine was approached about approval of this raffle and suggested it come to Council. The ZLCW is having a raffle to raise \$600 for contributions to area organizations for their yearly gift of giving. They contribute to INSPIRITUS for the following groups: Domestic Violence, Kalix, Lord's Cupboard, Lutheran Campus Ministries, Men's Winter Refuge Shelter, Metigoshe Ministries, Northern Plains Children Advocacy Center, and Salvation Army. By going through INSPIRITUS, they will match contributions. ZLCW also contributes to several other organizations. Pastor Elaine shared the request information. ZLCW plans to sell tickets before and after worship over three weekends. (It was suggested that they could also do Wednesday nights if they wanted.). The drawing will be held on November 17th, 2025. Pastor Elaine thinks they plan to charge \$10/ticket. Amanda Winkels made a motion to approve the raffle request. Seconded by Harry Summers. Motion approved.

○ Old Business:

- Staffing:** Pastor Elaine gave Council an update on staffing. The start of confirmation/confirmation leaders has been good. Pastor Rachel's week is this week (worship and confirmation), and Pastor Mike is really interested and looking to start in October. Kasie Vetter is in place as the FFF Coordinator, Chris Torgeson has found a 2nd prep team (3 new people) that are coming in tomorrow to learn the process, and things seem to be feeling positive and manageable at this time.
- Lutefisk:** The team had their last meeting today. Joe Stenvold reports that they are ready. The lefse is at MarketPlace Foods, and the lutefisk should be there tomorrow. The flyers/advertising is out in the area and in newspapers.
- Cub Scouts:** Chris Torgeson gave an update. More than 20 kids showed up to the meeting last week. They will meet on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Thursdays of the month. They will stay in the west hallway. Joe Stenvold will need to sign the initial agreement; Chris will be their rep and will be at Zion for the first meeting. Harry Summers made a motion to recharter Pact #4432. Seconded by Rondi Deaver. Motion approved.

- D. **Funding Forward:** Discussion was previously held on this item during the Financial Report discussion.
 - E. **Camp Out/New Events:** The camp out is planned for next Saturday, September 27th. A couple of families have already signed up. Amanda Winkels and her husband may be able to help with breakfast. Amanda and Pastor Elaine will discuss this more next week. Some other ideas for future events included: **1.) Financial Book Study** ~ Would possibly be held in January. Mondays were talked about as a good night, and 3 weeks/sessions were preferred over a longer time frame. **2.) November Book Fair** (Christian books). **3.) Vendor Fair.** There was discussion about combining a Book/Vendor Fair as a fundraiser in November as it's a good time to shop for gifts prior to Christmas. Discussion of continuing a small book nook store within the church was also discussed. The first step should be the book/vendor fair and then reassess the need for a continued Christian book store. The 9th graders and their parents may be a group that can help with the vendor/book fair. Amanda Winkels, Chris Torgeson, and Pastor Elaine will have further discussion on this next week. **November 15th is a potential date for this.** Pastor Elaine shared that the **Time and Talent Auction is set for Nov. 2nd** and **Yummy for the Tummy is scheduled for Dec. 7th.** The Quilting group is also planning to start again in October. They are planning to have an afternoon group and an evening group.
 - F. **CYAZ:** There were three people that attended the last meeting, four expressed interest, but were not able to make it. The group is planning to meet again next month to put together care packages from Zion. Pastor Elaine will send out a text with some possible dates/times for the next meeting. The care package items will be a Halloween/Fall theme. Will continue to meet in member's homes if possible.
- Amanda Winkels made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Harry Summers. Meeting adjourned at 8:48pm. The Lord's Prayer was prayed together.
 - The next Council meeting is scheduled for October 21st at 6:30pm.

Submitted by Sherry Broderick
Church Council Secretary
Zion Lutheran Church