

Zion Lutheran Church Minot  
Church Council Meeting, Tuesday, June 18th, 2024

- Meeting called to order by President, Rich Jensen, at 6:40pm.
- In attendance at this meeting: Rich Jensen, Melissa Helgeson, John Gruenberg, Sherry Broderick, Gary Leslie, Joe Stenvold, Matt Sundahl, Amanda Mahulum, & Pastor Elaine Sveet.
- Check in and devotion: Funding Forward discussion ~ Council members were asked to brainstorm assets of our church/congregation (financial assets, skills of staff/others, time/volunteers, and network/community partnerships). Things shared included: having no mortgage, a solid staff, rental income & potential for more, a great facility ~ building and grounds, great volunteers, and solid investments. Discussion regarding things we have that are untapped or underutilized included: not enough volunteers/people with time to give ~ we often struggle to get volunteers. We need to think about people who might have and be willing to donate their time. Pastor Elaine shared some of the staff's ideas of things being underutilized. They included: the kitchen (professional grade kitchen which is hardly used), the south lot (completely unused ~ could possibly be used for storage of RV's, campers, etc.), instruments (pianos ~ could be used for piano lessons), the entire building is underutilized in the summer months (it could possibly be used for other people or staff to do different types of camps for a fee), staff who have coaching training (life coaching, family systems coaching), staff who are musicians and/or have theater training, staff who have IT background/education who are capable of providing instruction to others.
  - Pastor Elaine shared that she feels we are underutilizing our location/neighborhood, including Washington Elementary School. Discussion was held regarding a possible after school or early out program to provide care for the school children at Zion as an income generating opportunity. This is a topic that will be discussed further at upcoming meetings, prior to the start of school in August. This discussion ended with a prayer.
- No introductions were needed and no executive session was required tonight.
- No additions were needed to the Agenda. A motion was made by Joe Stenvold to approve the Agenda which was seconded by Melissa Helgeson. Motion passed.
- The Consent Agenda was reviewed, including meeting minutes from May, pastors' reports, youth director's report, and financial reports from May. A motion was made by Matt Sundahl to accept the Consent Agenda. It was seconded by John Gruenberg. Motion passed.
- New Business:
  - A. May Financial reports ~ Pastor Elaine shared that with the way our reports are generated, it is very confusing to see actual income and expenses, so they are

hoping for a better way the reports can be displayed. Following discussion, the adjusted totals for the following were: Adjusted Expenses of \$281,851.80, Adjusted Income of \$251,477.84, resulting in a year to date deficit of \$30,373.96.

- Pastor Elaine reported that we are still waiting on some of our larger givers to donate the amounts they pledged (approximately \$50,000). Pastor Elaine may make some phone calls to them if their donations don't come in soon.
- Financial report was accepted.
- B. Forward thinking on how to celebrate our 130th anniversary in late 2027 ~ Council was asked to give some thought to how we want to start this planning. Some discussion was held regarding possibly holding the celebration in the fall with a month long festival/activities, possibly mid-September into October.

o Old Business:

- A. Food Faith Family Planning Team ~ Rich Jensen reported that he got some names/contact information and is working on this.
- B. Fundraising ~ This has not been addressed due to lack of time.
- C. Church Dinner (Lutefisk Feed) ~ Joe Stenvold reported that he had a meeting today with Connie Knudson and Todd Aasendorf. Todd brought notes from previous dinners that were helpful. They would like a few more people to add to the team. They would also like a younger/student rep on the team if possible. Discussion was held regarding holding the dinner on Saturday or Sunday. Their team felt that a Saturday would be better. Joe shared information on the amounts of different foods that were needed in previous years. They served 935 meals in one of the previous years. Meals were also provided for delivery to assisted living centers and nursing homes. Some food for the meal was donated by various organizations. Sponsors donated plates/meals to assisted living centers/nursing homes, etc. as well. Joe shared that the team discussed including the following with the meal: lutefisk, meatballs, mashed potatoes, corn, lefsa, and some other dessert (possibly apple crisp and/or pumpkin bars). Discussion was held how to advertise the dinner. Joe will get information to the office to put in the upcoming newsletter. Volunteers will be needed. There was discussion about using a sign up sheet with shifts listed. Confirmation students can also sign up and get worship assisting credit. Shifts will be needed for prep, serving, hosts, music, clean-up, etc. Last time the dinner was held, the lutefisk was ordered on the 1st of July, so this will need to be ordered soon. The date/time of Sept. 21st from 3-7 was discussed. Joe will double check with his team before setting the date/time. Possible prices were briefly discussed: \$20 for adults, \$10 for kids ages 6-12, and ages 5 and under free. Diners will eat family style at their tables. Pastor Elaine will be meeting with the youth group tomorrow and will see if she can find an interested youth rep for the team.
- D. Addressing our constitution and by-laws ~ Rich Jensen has done some work on these, but would like input/involvement from others. Once that's done, he said we can send it to the Synod attorney to see how it looks, give

recommendations, and then he'll send it back and it can be approved at the annual meeting in January/February, 2025.

- Melissa Helgeson brought up moving the annual meeting up to January rather than February. This is a possibility and will be looked at further. Pastor Elaine brought up that we need to know the date for the installation of new council members. So dates for both the annual meeting and installation of council members, earlier in the year, would be a good idea and will be discussed further.
  - E. Approving the account in which funds will be moved for Sanctuary Heat/AC ~ The total bill was \$36,469.80. We made a deposit of \$18,250, so we have a balance of approximately \$18,250. There was discussion about withholding 10% of the balance until the project is completed. Joe Stenvold made a motion to approve paying the balance, with the exception of \$1,800. Amanda seconded the motion. Motion passed.
    - Following discussion, Joe Stenvold made a motion to rescind the prior motion approved regarding paying the balance with the exception of \$1,800. This was seconded by Gary Leslie. Motion passed.
    - The new motion, made by Joe Stenvold, will be to pay the total balance owed of \$18,219.80. These funds will come from the savings account #3291 (line item 106). Amanda Mahulum seconded the motion. Motion passed.
    - Prior to the new motion being made, discussion was held regarding where the money was going to come from to pay this balance. The money will come from the savings account #3291 (line item 106 in the financial report) as stated above. There will be a plan to pay back this money. The money generated by the matching funds fundraiser (which will be organized in the future) will eventually be used to pay this savings account back.
- The next council meeting is scheduled for July 9th @ 6:30pm.
- A motion to adjourn was made by Melissa Helgeson and was seconded by Joe Stenvold. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 8:18pm. Council prayed together.

Submitted by Sherry Broderick  
Church Council Secretary  
Zion Lutheran Church