

Zion Lutheran Church, Minot
Church Council Meeting, Tuesday, August 20, 2024

- Meeting called to order by President, Rich Jensen, at 6:34 pm
- In attendance at this meeting: Rich Jensen, Melissa Helgeson, John Gruenberg, Sherry Broderick, Amanda Mahulum, Gary Leslie, Joe Stenvold, Matt Sundahl, Bostyn Edwards, Pastor Elaine Sweet, and Pastor Natasha Kolles
- Check in and devotion: Funding Forward discussion ~ The topic was Social Enterprise. Council brainstormed ideas for income generating sources which included: after school childcare, private music school/lessons, educational/religious travel (bus tours), a homeless shelter/soup kitchen, funeral catering, online classes/podcasts, and adult respite care/disabilities respite care. Pastor Elaine talked about how we would need to make sure the mission and the money align for this to be successful. Ideas should also focus on the use of the church in the summer months when the building is much less busy and more available.
- No visitors present, no introductions needed, and no executive session needed tonight.
- Agenda: A motion was made by Matt Sundahl to approve the Agenda; it was seconded by Joe Stenvold. It was then decided to add the beginning of a landscaping discussion; therefore, Matt's motion to approve the Agenda was amended to accept the Agenda with the addition of a discussion of needed landscaping. Seconded again by Joe Stenvold. Motion passed.
- The Consent Agenda was reviewed, including meeting minutes from July, pastors' reports, youth director reports, staff/committee meeting notes, and financial reports from July. A motion was made by Amanda Mahulum to approve the Consent Agenda. Bostyn Edwards seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Discussion was held regarding the Financial Report:
 - The Finance Team is hoping for a meeting with Accounting Solutions this fall to get the layout of the financials changed to make it less confusing.
 - Pastor Elaine shared that our financials are actually looking pretty good right now, better than they have for awhile.
 - There were no red flags in the financials when reviewed by the Finance Team.
 - One of Zion's large givers (top 20) passed away recently.
 - Finance Team wants to take the lead for the Stewardship Campaign (Bruce McLean will take the lead.).
 - Pastor Elaine shared that they have started putting some financial information into the newsletter to make the congregation more aware of some of the costs/expenses and needs.
 - The Financial Report was accepted.
- New Business:
 - A. CD Rates: Amanda looked into rates from First Western Bank & Trust ~ 5.11% interest for 6 months, and 4.75% interest for 12 months. We are looking at putting \$50,000 (of the \$112,000 in the savings account) into a CD.
 - Council decided to have the Finance Team look into other possible options for generating interest/income from the \$50,000 other than a CD at this time. Hoping they can have a recommendation for Council by the next Council meeting. If they don't find a better option, the CD is still a possibility.
 - Following discussion, Council felt it would be good for the Finance Team to meet with Greg Tschetter from Edward Jones regarding possible investment

opportunities. Council would like a recommendation regarding the best thing to do with that \$50,000.

- B. Summer Worship Luncheon 2025: Pastors Elaine and Natasha will discuss our 2024 summer attendance, and Natasha will bring up the possibility of summer worship/ worship with potluck lunch with the Worship Team at the January meeting. She will then bring that info back to Council in February for discussion.
 - C. Visitation Plan: Council reviewed the list of names of those receiving visitation from the Pastors. There is now a specific plan in place for those that are homebound, in the nursing home, hospitalized, and those wanting home communion. The plan for pastoral care will be: home bound & nursing home ~ bi-monthly visits; home communion ~ 2 times/year (Christmas and Easter) unless requested more frequently; hospitalized ~ weekly reach outs/visits. There can always be exceptions, but this is a more clear plan. There is also a plan for leading worship at a nursing home bi-monthly. The Pastors will alternate assignments.
 - Other plans for pastoral care include: recognizing one year anniversaries of deaths, baptisms, and weddings. Notes/cards from the pastor/staff involved will be sent. Pastor Elaine also wants to start an 80+ club at Zion with events held twice per year.
 - D. Pastor Elaine's 6 month Evaluation: Because the Personnel Team is involved in several other things, Council will do Elaine's eval. It was agreed that the Executive Council will meet (at another time) and then send out an email to all Council members to make any additions/changes. Then someone from Council will go over the eval with Pastor Elaine.
 - E. Landscaping: Joe Stenvold shared some thoughts from the Buildings & Grounds Team meeting. There is a need for a plan for landscaping. There are many weeds, dead branches, etc. around the church property that are not appealing for those coming to Zion, especial people new to Zion. This has been a long term issue and there is no long term plan for landscaping.
 - One idea is to purchase large planters to enhance the doorways/entrances. We could get 4 large planters from Home Depot for \$400, which would be within the budget. However, we would need someone to volunteer to fill and maintain the planters. A few names were brought forward to serve on this team during the Building & Grounds meeting.
 - The juniper bushes are out of control. We may need to get suggestions from someone at Lowes or elsewhere. Joe suggested Dorian from Lowes to take a look and give an estimate or propose a long term plan.
 - Discussion was held regarding having two "clean up" nights on Wednesdays during confirmation/church school in order to have church families help with the clean up process. The plan is to put this in the Newsletter with the dates of Sept. 4th and Sept 11th.
 - Pastor Elaine also shared that the lights are out on the cross out front. Joe ordered some lights. Bostyn plans to ask someone she knows about getting the equipment needed to replace the lights.
- New Business:
- A. Food Faith Family Organization: Pastor Elaine reported that they have found a potential kitchen manager. They have added one new team, but one team also dropped out, so they are still in need of one more FFF team. She reports that Ryan Callahan has been a wonderful resource throughout this process.
 - B. Fundraising: Rich reported that he will have more information for the Council soon.
 - C. Forward Thinking about Zion's 130th Anniversary: No discussion was held tonight.
 - D. Constitution and By-Laws: Rich reports that this continues to be a huge job. He is hoping to be able to bring it to Council in September. He has a template from the Synod to follow. Once completed, we will need to have a lawyer review it and get it back to us. Our goal is to have this completed in time for the Annual Meeting in February.

E. Looking at Income Sources: Covered this in our Forward Thinking discussion tonight, but Council will continue to talk about this topic.

○ Bostyn Edwards made a motion to adjourn which was seconded by Amanda Mahulum. Meeting adjourned @ 8:15. Council prayed together.

○ The next council meeting is scheduled for September 17th @ 6:30pm.

Submitted by Sherry Broderick
Church Council Secretary
Zion Lutheran Church