

Zion Lutheran Church, Minot
Church Council Meeting, October 21, 2025

- Meeting called to order by President, Joe Stenvold, at 6:33pm.
- In attendance at this meeting: Joe Stenvold, Rondi Deaver, Nicole Martin, Amanda Winkels, Sherry Broderick, Harry Summers, & Pastor Elaine Sweet
- Check in and devotion: Book Study discussion and reflection led by Pastor Elaine.
- Agenda: Several Agenda items were added ~ Under New Business: Item B~Worship Assisting, C~Youth Synod Gathering, D~Pastor Elaine's Continuing Education in Pennsylvania, and E~Exxon Oil. Under Old Business: Item, H~Staffing/Ed Assistant was also added. Amanda Winkels made a motion to approve the Agenda with the additions. Seconded by Nicole Martin. 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 September, the pastor's report, faith formation report, and any staff/committee meeting notes. Rondi Deaver made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda without the Financial Report at this time. Seconded by Harry Summers. Consent Agenda approved.
- Discussion was held regarding the Financial Report: Mike Uran shared hi-lites from the Financial Report.
 - Overall, Mike shared that the report looks good.
 - The September regular offering revenue was approximately \$3,000 above budget.
 - Lutefisk revenue of \$16,000; expenses not yet added.
 - The Year-to-Date numbers also look good. We are showing a revenue in regular offering of \$21,597.71. Overall, it shows we have a surplus of \$11,750.08. Last month, we were negative \$16,588, so that's a really nice increase.
 - Mike suggested stopping the Building Fund transfers so that the finances look more balanced going forward.
 - Amounts transferred monthly have been approximately \$5,900 to building and \$950 to music (\$6,850 total). Exact amounts sometimes vary.
 - The Finance Committee recommended not doing the transfers for October and then deciding on the transfers from month to month after that.
 - The Finance Committee is planning to meet with the Edward Jones rep, Greg Tschetter, soon. When Bruce Christianson gets back in town, they will schedule that meeting.
 - Harry Summers made a motion to approve the Financial Report with the Finance Committee's recommendation not to do the building & music transfers for the month of October. Seconded by Amanda Winkels. Motion passed.
 - There was discussion of reporting this decision not to do the building and music transfers in the Visitor (newsletter) to inform the congregation of this plan. Pastor Elaine will write something up and run it by Mike before putting it in the newsletter.
- New Business:
 - A. Time & Talent: Pastor Elaine shared that they could use volunteers to help ~ people to send texts/reminders, etc. The auction is scheduled for Nov. 2nd. The bid book needs to be out the weekend prior, which is this coming weekend; the deadline is October 23rd. Notes need to be sent out by the end of the week. There were council volunteers to send out these text reminders.

- B. Worship Assisting: There was discussion of having a sign-up for adults to assist with serving communion and scripture reading on Saturdays and Sundays. Wednesday nights are fine as the youth volunteer during this service. It would be helpful to have a schedule set up seasonally if possible.
- C. Synod Youth Gathering: We had 6 high school students attend (5 from Zion, 1 from First Lutheran). It was a great event in Dickinson. Three of our students are on the Board, Kiera Torgeson, Kinley Gruenberg, and Leah Dokken. Chris Torgeson is wanting to put a proposal in to the Trust Committee to supplement the cost of mileage and food for the trip. They had to cover two extra meals for all kids due to the distance (Dickinson). She is hoping to take it to Trust next week. All families paid \$100. The registration was \$125, and they did fundraising to cover the additional fees. Chris is guessing the request will be \$500-\$750. Amanda Winkels made a motion to approve a Trust request of up to \$1,000 for mileage and meals at the Synod Youth Gathering. It was seconded by Rondi Deaver. Motion passed.
- D. Pastor Elaine's Continuing Education in PA: Pastor Elaine provided Council with a handout from her 4 day Continuing Education: Lead Pastor Development United Lutheran Seminary training Oct. 13-16th at Lutherlyn, near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Council appreciated her report. There will be further trainings throughout the year.
- E. Exxon Oil: Zion owns mineral rights/acres in Williams county. They are planning to start drilling in that area. There will be 60 wells drilled in four different quadrants. If Zion decides to do this, Zion will need to pay our share of the drilling which is \$66/well or a total of \$3,900 (possibly per year, Mike Uran was unsure at this time). We are waiting to hear back from the Exxon rep as more information is needed before proceeding.

○ Old Business:

- A. Vendor & Book Fair: Amanda Winkels shared a little update. The event will take place on November 15th. There will be a contract for vendors to sign. The Christian book fair will be a part of this. Amanda and Chris Torgeson will meet to discuss more of the specifics.
- B. Christian Book Store: Nothing new to report; this is being tabled for now.
- C. Lutefisk: Joe Stenvold reported that the Lutefisk dinner brought in around \$8,000 in income. They fed about 650 people, less people than last year, but more donations. Joe shared that the Korsliens have committed again for next year. Next year will be the 50th year of Zion's Lutefisk Dinner. Joe reports they have 13 packs of lutefisk left and 3 packs of lefse were left, but have now been spoken for. Team members feel they need to add more meatballs for next year as those ran out. They are also planning another Fish Fry during Lent (end of February).
- D. Cub Scouts: Chris Torgeson reports this is going well.
- E. PSWOT: There have been no committee meetings, so this has not been completed and will remain on the Agenda for a future meeting.
- F. Annual Meeting ~ Feb. 22, 2026: This is set.
- G. Council Meeting ~ Feb. 24, 2026: This is set.
- H. Staffing/Education Assistant: Staff is feeling over-extended. In the area of Pastoral Care, Pastor Mike is fabulous, but because of his personal commitments, he feels he doesn't have enough time and has been hesitant to go out on his own. The hope was that he was going to cover Pastoral Care 20 hours/month, but this has not been happening. The other positions are going well, including Pastor Rachel covering confirmation and worship one week each month, as well as Blake Vetter teaching confirmation and Kasie Vetter being the kitchen/FFF director. More help is needed with music and musicians. Chris Torgeson is feeling very overwhelmed with education and music. We discussed some possible options for music help/a music director. A Personnel Committee meeting is likely needed to discuss these needs and concerns. After some discussion, a meeting with Council and Personnel was scheduled for Nov. 3rd @ 6:30 (location to be determined) to discuss these staffing needs.

- Amanda Winkels made a motion to adjourn. Harry Summers seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned @ 9:02pm.
- The next council meeting is scheduled for November 28th, 2025 @ 6:30pm.

Submitted by Sherry Broderick
Church Council Secretary
Zion Lutheran Church