

Zion Lutheran Church Minot  
Church Council Meeting, Tuesday, May 21st, 2024

- Meeting called to order by President, Rich Jensen, at 6:39pm.
- In attendance at this meeting: Rich Jensen, Matt Stephens, Matt Sundahl, Joe Stenvold, Gary Leslie, Sherry Broderick, Pastor Elaine Sweet, and Pastor Natasha Kolles.
- Check in and devotion: Funding Forward discussion ~ Pastor Elaine shared information on looking at how churches can think creatively on ways to generate funding. The data on future membership and worship attendance is very concerning (expected to decline significantly in the next 20-40 years). Discussion was held on ways that Zion is currently funded as well as ideas for other ways to look at funding in the future. In addition to congregational offering/giving and large donors, other sources of funding discussed included fundraisers and seeking out donations (going door to door). Discussion of other previous income streams (land sales, pew sales/rentals, etc.), how money was initially raised for the church to get started, ministries in the church that are funded with multiple income streams, and surprising patterns were discussed briefly. The lack of volunteerism and people willing to work/give of their time is a big concern now and going forward. We are going to have to find different ways to do some things in the future. Next month, the plan is for discussion to be about assessing our assets and talking about our mission. 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 Matt Sundahl to approve the Agenda which was seconded by Joe Stenvold. Motion passed.
- The Consent Agenda was reviewed, including meeting minutes from April, the pastors' reports, and financial reports from March and April. A motion was made by Joe Stenvold to approve the Consent Agenda. A second was made by Matt Stephens. Motion passed.
- New Business:
  - A. March & April Financial reports ~ Pastor Natasha pointed out that there was a large expense (\$1,122) in March for 'worship supplies' which included a yearly expense for the Sunday and Seasons subscription, which was almost half of the total expense.

- March income/giving was lower than expected. Pastor Elaine explained that some of the larger givers that usually give in the first quarter have not yet given. The Finance Team has gone through the reports and did not find anything significant.
  - Pastor Elaine shared some data which divided givers into groups by age and amounts given. We have 18 families that give a good portion of our total giving, many of the larger givers are ages 75-85 and others are ages 40-90 (which is quite typical in other churches as well). The concern is the level of commitment of the younger givers and if the current level of giving can be sustained.
  - The Financial report was accepted.
  - There was no other new business at this time.
- Old Business:
    - A. Food Faith Family Operations Plan ~ Still looking for a group of volunteers to meet 2-3 times/year to plan the meals and teams for FFF.
      - Pastor Natasha suggested starting with a list of current teams and maybe choosing one person from each team to meet and brainstorm / generate new names for this team.
      - It would be nice to have this team ready to go by August. Chris Torgeson has suggested it would be a good idea to add 2-3 more teams if possible. Rich will check with Amanda in the office for a list of current teams. Todd Aasendorf may be a good resource for names/ideas if he is feeling up to it.
    - B. Fundraising ~ Lutefisk Dinner ~ There was discussion regarding when other churches/organizations hold their Lutefisk dinners in order to find the best date/time of year for Zion's. The Hostfest is scheduled for Sept. 25-28th. Bethany Lutheran Church holds their dinner the first Saturday in December, and several others (Max, Butte, Stanley) have theirs in October.
      - Joe Stenvold volunteered to be on a team to coordinate this dinner. Pastors Elaine and Natasha will look for any old information on past Lutefisk dinners. Joe will let the pastors know what information/ advertising to include in the newsletter/on social media to recruit volunteers for this team.
    - C. Building Use Fees ~ The funeral increase on Saturdays of \$2 per person should actually be \$1 per person. A motion was made by Matt Sundahl to approve the new building use fees as amended. Seconded by Sherry Broderick. Motion passed.
      - Further discussion regarding updating policies which will include the new building use fees, etc. will need to be held in the near future as many of the policies are out-dated.
    - D. Fundraising Team ~ Matching Funds ~ Discussion was held regarding the possible restarting of the Stewardship team. The need for a

Stewardship/Fundraising team was discussed to generate creative ways of expressing the ministry of the church and creating connections and excitement for the church and potential giving.

- Rich Jensen volunteered to be a part of this team (Stewardship/Fundraising). Names of other potential team members / people to reach out to included: Bethany Jensen, Renae Beeter, & Bruce Christianson.
  - Pastor Elaine shared information from the Finance team regarding how we are thanking our givers. Starting in June, which is the end of the second quarter, the plan will be for the top 20 givers to be sent hand written letters from Pastor Elaine thanking them for their giving. The plan would be to do something similar at the end of the year.
  - Pastor Natasha brought up discussion regarding ways to thank confirmation guides, shepherds, etc. There are so many ways we can show gratitude. Further discussion will need to be had on this topic. This may be a good topic for the Stewardship team, once formed.
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- The next council meeting is scheduled for June 18th @ 6:30pm.
  - Meeting was adjourned @ 8:15pm. Council prayed together.

Submitted by Sherry Broderick  
Church Council Secretary  
Zion Lutheran Church