

Zion Lutheran Church, Minot  
Church Council Meeting, Tuesday, July 9th, 2024

- Meeting called to order by President, Rich Jensen, at 6:34 pm
- In attendance at this meeting: Rich Jensen, John Gruenberg, Sherry Broderick, Gary Leslie, Joe Stenvold, Matt Stephens, and Pastor Elaine Sveet
- Check in and devotion: Funding Forward discussion ~ The topic was Re-Imagining Your Congregation's Property. Continued discussion was held regarding pursuing/growing rental income and if this is something we want to pursue. We currently have rental income from Children's Garden Preschool. We also have other small fees for use of the building. Using the south lot for RV storage and/or creating a columbarium (church cemetery for ashes) were discussed. There was interest from council in looking into the idea of a columbarium. Discussion was also held regarding the use of the church's commercial kitchen, renting out rooms for meeting space, etc. and ways this might be done. To have more specific information, Pastor Elaine offered to bring the building rental fee schedule to the next council meeting. Council will continue with these brainstorming discussions in future meetings. The discussion ended with prayer.
- No visitors present, no introductions needed, and no executive session needed tonight.
- No additions were needed to the Agenda. A motion was made by Joe Stenvold to approve the Agenda; seconded by Matt Stephens. Motion passed.
- The Consent Agenda was reviewed, including meeting minutes from June, pastors' reports, youth director's reports, and financial reports from June. A motion was made by John Gruenberg to accept the Consent Agenda; seconded by Joe Stenvold. Motion passed.
- Discussion was held regarding the Financial report:
  - Pastor Elaine shared with the council that the large donor gift that had been pledged but not yet received has now been received.
  - Pastor Elaine has now sent letters to the top 10 givers; she will be doing the same for the next 10 donors (top 20).
  - Amanda will be looking into CD rates. The Finance Team will then be looking things over and giving a recommendation to council soon regarding putting some of the money from the savings account into a CD.
  - The financial report was accepted.
- New Business:
  - A. Approval of the Community Assistance Policy: Matt Stephens shared that a policy was put together by the Community Outreach Team with specific amounts to be given for specific items/needs. All donations will need to be

approved by pastors and members of the team. Discussion was held about how this information could be reported to council, so they can be made aware of how Zion is providing assistance to the community.

- Elaine proposed three changes be added to this policy: 1.) adding the statement “per year” for how often assistance can be given to an individual/household, 2.) adding that Zion offers Marketplace stamps for \$20 off food/gas “every 3 months,” and 3.) adding how/when the information will be reported to council (ex. monthly report given to council)
- Council voted, all in favor, of approving the draft of the Community Outreach Fund Policy with the three suggested amendments.

B. Membership Dues for the Minot Alliance of Nonprofits (\$40/year) and Minot Area Chamber EDC (\$150/year): Discussion was held regarding Zion joining these two organizations. Council agreed that it was a great idea for networking opportunities, sharing ideas, etc. Joe Stenvold made a motion to approve Zion joining both organizations. Sherry Broderick seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Joe Stenvold asked about the possibility of having a Wednesday night service next summer. Pastor Elaine shared that they did it last summer and had a poor turnout. Different ideas, such as having a Wednesday night service 1-2 times/month or offering a noon service with a potluck lunch were mentioned. Council will re-visit this topic.

o Old Business:

- A. Food Faith Family Organization ~ Pastor Elaine shared 5 ideas for FFF:
- 1.) each team would provide 4 suppers/year (if one more team is added)
  - 2.) create one more FFF team
  - 3.) need a volunteer FFF kitchen manager to: set a schedule, assign menus, give menu to teams, give menu/schedule to the newsletter for the month, provide grocery list weekly to the grocery shopper (John Thompson), and order supplies
  - 4.) do a kitchen orientation for teams and food safety review for teams
  - 5.) continue to ask for meal donators/sponsors ~ maybe set a goal of so many meals sponsored each year in order to try to break even with FFF (average cost per meal is \$250-300)
- Other things discussed: \*We need 3-4 families per team. \*Planning to ask Council, Trust, Men’s Ministry, and Sisterhood to possibly do a meal during the year. \*Finding a backup shopper for John Thompson. \*Finding someone to call and recruit for the new FFF team (possibly Ryan Callahan). \*Names of other possible team members were also shared.

B. Fundraising: Rich Jensen reports that he is just starting to look at this again. Pastor Elaine has some fall fundraiser dates: August ~ Chili/Mac-n-Cheese cookoff, September ~ Lutefisk/Meatball Dinner, October 26th~ Bingoween, November ~ Time/Talent Auction, December 15th caramel rolls, also Yummy for the Tummy fundraiser (dates to come).

- Joe Stenvold reported on the Lutefisk Dinner ~ much has already been done. They had a team meeting today. The lutefisk needs to be ordered (900 lbs for approximately \$6,000, also 2400 rounds of lefsa for \$3,500). Items will be ordered, money spent up front which will be reimbursed once the funds are raised. This money will come from line item 755 on the financial report. Other miscellaneous items will be purchased closer to the time of the dinner.
- Marketplace Foods will store the food/lutefisk for us until the dinner. The Korsliens will cook the lutefisk.
- Joe shared names of possible people to help work at the dinner.

C. Annual Meeting Date Change: February 2nd, 2025, was discussed as a possible date for the Annual Meeting. Pastor Elaine will run that date by staff. Council will revisit.

D. Addressing Constitution and By-Laws: Rich Jensen reported that he has started this and would like to have it done by the annual meeting.

E. Looking at Income Sources ~ rental income, music equipment, south lot use, possible camps to host, etc: This was previously discussed during the Funding Forward discussion.

○ Meeting was adjourned @ 8:13pm. Council prayed together.

○ The next council meeting is scheduled for August 20th @ 6:30pm.

Submitted by Sherry Broderick  
Church Council Secretary  
Zion Lutheran Church