

Zion Lutheran Church, Minot
Church Council Meeting, March 25th, 2025

- Meeting called to order by President, Joe Stenvold, at 6:32pm
- In attendance at this meeting: Joe Stenvold, Amanda Winkels, Matt Sundahl, Rondi Deaver, Nicole Martin, Harry Summers, Mike Uran, Pastor Natasha Kolles
- Visitors present: Chris Torgeson, Kortni Plorin, Jennifer Baker, Chris Baker, and John Gruenberg
- Check in and devotion: Pastor Natasha led us in prayer.
- No introductions and no executive session needed tonight.
- Agenda: Harry Summers made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Matt Sundahl. Motion passed.
- The Consent Agenda was reviewed, including meeting minutes from February and the special March meeting, Pastors' reports, Faith Formation reports, and staff/committee meeting notes.
- A motion was made by Matt Sundahl to approve the Consent Agenda without the Financial report, which will be reviewed. Harry Summers seconded the motion. Consent Agenda was approved.
- Discussion was held regarding the Financial Report:
 - February looked better than January, so that was good.
 - Income was \$51,352 vs. the budgeted \$43,885. Expenses were slightly higher than budgeted.
 - Line item #709 ~ Received a large bill for snow removal (\$6,325). The snow removal was from December, but was billed in January. Eric has since spoken to them and renegotiated. Now the new plan is for them to come when we get over 3 inches and Eric will now call them as needed if we have an event going on and need additional services. The company is Green Brothers. Eric feels they are more efficient than others we have had in the past.
 - Amanda Winkels made a motion to approve the Financial report. Rondi Deaver seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- New Business:
 - A. Synod Meeting: Joe Stenvold gave a brief overview of our meeting with Bishop Craig. Council, Personnel Committee members, Pastors, and Staff had interviews with the Synod team and those available met with Bishop Craig last night. Bishop Craig shared some common findings from the interviews, shared next steps with the group, and asked that what was shared stayed within that meeting. They will have a recommendation for us in the coming weeks.
- Amanda Winkels brought up a suggestion made by Bishop Craig to send letters to the congregation asking them if they could increase their giving, even a little bit, to help out the budget. There was discussion of a yet to be formed Stewardship Committee, which Pastor Natasha suggested we call the 'Generosity Committee'. Pastor Natasha is willing to serve on this Committee (starting after Easter) and will look at getting a team together. Pastor Natasha will take suggestions from Council or staff if they have ideas of people that might be interested in serving on the committee.

- There was mention of a 'pony express' that Zion utilized many years ago in which teams went door to door to talk to members about giving.
- There was discussion about Council volunteers helping congregation members get signed up for automated giving. It was agreed that during April we would have several services in which council members would come 30 minutes early and/or stay 30 minutes after service to help those wanting to sign up. Personal computers and the church's 2 iPads could be used. We could also have them fill out new pledge cards at that time so the office will know what's coming in. It was decided that the April 23rd and 30th Wednesday services would be covered by Amanda Winkels before service and Sherry Broderick after service (and maybe May 7th). The Saturday, April 26th service would be covered by Nicole Martin, and the Sunday, April 27th service covered by Harry Summers. With automated giving, members can have their giving come directly out of their bank account or use a credit card. There are fees associated with each credit card transaction, so we should encourage them to use their bank account or choose to cover the fees. We need to stress that even a small amount can make a big difference in overall giving.
- Mike Uran spoke about how retired people can make qualified financial transfers directly from their retirement accounts (401K's annuity's, etc.) to the church without paying taxes. He thought it might be a good idea to have a local Thrivent representative come in to talk about this sometime to make congregation members aware of this option. Pastor Natasha thinks the Synod actually has someone that can come in and speak to us about this and about how to do it as well. She thinks this is a free service. Mike Uran will look more into this and Pastor Natasha will share with him what the Synod has, and this will be revisited at a later date.
- There was some discussion about Venmo. Following discussion, it appears that there are issues and technicalities with Venmo that make it difficult to use for church giving.
- Nicole Martin asked about the possibility of a 50/50 raffle. We would need a raffle permit and there are some limits to the monetary amount of prizes and amount of money brought in annually. There was also discussion of Bingo and a Cash Calendar raffle. There are rules about permits, etc. for Bingo, but these are all good options for future fundraisers to be discussed again.
- Also under New Business ~ Zion's Constitution ~ We currently need a 10% quorum for congregational votes. Bishop Craig spoke with Joe Stenvold about other ways to do this, other than needing 10% for a quorum. He said that we can just pick a number, like 50, and go with that. Making this change would require calling a special meeting for constitutional change. Would need a vote to present and a 2nd vote for it to be ratified (at the annual meeting). Pastor Natasha shared that there is a new constitutional model coming in August, so we would want to wait until after this if we are wanting to pursue making any changes to our constitution.
- Discussion was held regarding the recent Fish Fry. Joe Stenvold shared that we made \$1,900 minus the advertising bill. The Moose Lodge also agreed to buy the leftover fish, corn, rolls, tartar sauce, and coleslaw, so the money from that will still be coming in. Joe needs to talk to Amanda about sending them a bill. He is hoping to make a profit of about \$2,500. It was a success. Many positive comments were heard.
- Joe Stenvold shared that a recommendation was made by Luke Schaefer to change the Personnel Committee to a Staff Support Committee. This will need further discussion.

- Old Business: Joe Stenvold brought up the discussion of adding more members to Council. We currently have 8 and can have up to 16 members. Anyone having names of potential Council members can share those names with Joe.
- Reviewed ideas that have been brought up in our Funding Forward discussions ~ renting out the building/kitchen, etc. We were asked to keep thinking of ideas for generating income. The raise in rent from the current preschool starts in the fall.
- There was discussion of Food, Faith, Family (FFF) meals. Some members and groups have donated money to cover meals for FFF. We have lost money doing FFF in the past. Last year we had money left over, and we are currently ahead in the account again this year. Our FFF Manager, Diana McLean, is doing a great job. She does an amazing job of using leftovers and organizing and planning the meals.
- A motion to adjourn was made by Matt Sundahl, seconded by Amanda Winkels. Meeting adjourned @ 7:43pm.
- The next council meeting is scheduled for April 15th @ 6:30pm.

Submitted by Sherry Broderick
Church Council Secretary
Zion Lutheran Church