

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes
August 11th, 2009
7:30 P.M.

Present: Denise Brewers, Kris Campion, John Campion, Kim Christianson, Joe Clark, Pastor Bob Dahl, Renee DeAustin, Dave Deines, Bonnie Dretsch, Bev Frye, Jeff Jorgenson, Corlys Knudson, Linda Konn, Pam Larsen, Shelly Maes, Mark Mather, Heather Miller, Marlene Nordby, Tom Nordby, Jason Peterson, Donna Reaves, Pam Russell, Dave Sample, Bill Swope, Tonya Tomasek, Deb Werpy, Shana Zahrbock.

President Jeff Jorgenson called the council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. First Lutheran's mission statement was read.

Philippians 1:27 – 2:10 was read and discussed.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dahl read a note and part of an e-mail from Pastor Wasberg who is deployed in Kuwait.

Pastor Dahl's vacation in July was spent in Boise, Idaho with family. His vacation in August was spent in the Alexandria area moving his mother into an assisted living facility / taking care of family business, and at a family reunion.

Secretary's Report: Mark Mather moved, seconded by Tom Nordby, and carried to accept the secretary's report as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Pam Russell shared some thank you notes / letters from Shetek Lutheran Ministries, Lutheran Social Services, SMSU Campus Religious Center, Prisoners of Hope Ministry. Giving is between \$30,000 – 35,000 below the plan. The report for July shows the committees' standings on their budget. The tithing benevolence account has \$2,568. The council has asked for suggestions on where this money should be sent.

Tom Nordby moved, seconded by Pam Larsen, and carried to approve the report as given and printed.

Regarding Benevolence Distribution:

The Stewardship Committee would like to give \$5.00 to 200 families on Rally Sunday, September 13th, at the Ministry Fair. The families will be challenged to keep / match / double / add to however each family decides, and the money given to the charity each family chooses.

The Executive Committee recommended 3 different donations from the benevolence account of \$400 each to: Gillett's Mobile Outreach Program, Oakgrove Lutheran High School in Fargo, ND, and the Dakota Boys' Ranch in Minot, ND – the latter 2 hard hit by the spring flooding.

Pam Russell moved, seconded by Bill Swope to give \$1000 (\$5 to 200 families) on Rally Sunday, plus \$400 each to the Gillett's Mobile Outreach Program, Oakgrove Lutheran High School in Fargo, ND, and the Dakota Boys' Ranch in Minot, ND. The motion carried.

Old Business:

Intern Committee Update: The committee has met several times. Wednesday, the committee will clean up the office the intern will be using. When available, the committee will check on the apartment in a duplex on Genesis, purchase some cleaning supplies and some food staples. Pastor Jackie will be moving in on Friday or Saturday (14th or 15th) and her first day in the office will be August 18th.

Strategic Planning Committee update: The committee has not met during the summer, but will move forward in the fall.

Benevolence List: Jeff Jorgenson will be compiling a list of who has received benevolence money, when given, and how much was given to each recipient.

Adjustments to the 2009 Plan: The Personnel and the Planning Committee will be meeting in August to come up with some recommendations. The meeting of Bishop John Anderson, Pastor Dahl, and Jeff Jorgenson cleared the air and everyone is ready to move on.

By – Law Changes List: A complete list, with suggested changes, will be sent to each council member via e-mail for approval at the next council meeting. Some of the changes recommended are:

- The annual meeting be on or about the third **Sunday** in January.
- Council quorum: 10 **elected council** members must be present.
- The **Executive Committee along with members from the Property and Management Committee and the Stewardship Committee** shall prepare the annual congregational financial plan and make recommendations to the full church council.

The council needs info submitted 60 days before a vote is taken and the congregation needs to be informed of recommended changes 30 days prior to the congregation's annual meeting.

A suggestion was made that the Personnel Committee should meet with each staff member once a year, or more, to keep communications open and going.

New Business:

Military Board: A volunteer is needed to put up a bulletin board with pictures and information on those deployed from First Lutheran Church. Denise Brewster suggested that the military website could be used for up-to-date information on the troops. Mark Mather volunteered that the Property and

Management Committee would see that the military board was completed and set up in the narthex.

Church Use Request from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints:

This request was turned down as the mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is not in harmony with the ELCA beliefs.

Committee Reports:

Stewardship Committee: Gordon Crow has resigned as he will be taking a job near Rochester at the Good Earth Village. The committee requests names of people who might be asked to fill out the 5-month term. The committee also seeks suggestions to give to families about organizations / agencies to which they may donate their Rally Day \$5.00 bill.

Property and Management Committee: Johnson Controls has checked the air conditioning system and it seems to be working well.

Youth Committee: The D.C. trip was amazing! The D.C. trip stockholders' meal will be on Sunday, August 16th. The committee is working on fall activities. They will be presenting a new fundraising idea in October.

Social Ministries: Esther's kitchen is in need of funds and food. First Lutheran will be delivering Meals on Wheels in September and serving at The Banquet in Sioux Falls on October 26th. The garden spot is doing well. A group of women have been meeting on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week to make things needed in the community and surrounding area. Some items they have been making are blankets, layettes, pillows, quilts, items for babies and runaways, etc. They need some funding with which to purchase supplies not donated. They requested the council's permission to be able to sell some items during the WELCA's annual quilt sale. The council gave permission to sell items during the annual quilt sale the first 2 weekends in November. The council also strongly supports and encourages the group in its efforts to help those in need in the community.

First Lutheran Women: a birthday celebration for those members 80+ years was held in June. A nursing home birthday party was held in July. In early August, 12 ladies from First Lutheran enjoyed a day-long retreat at Shalom Hill Farm near Jeffers, MN. The group did 3 Bible studies during the day. The quilting chair has resigned; a new chair is being sought. Until someone is found, Bonnie Dretsch will serve as the chair and the treasurer.

Worship and Music Committee: Luanne Mjelde has resigned ; she and Ritch will be moving. Someone to fill the 5 months remaining in her term will be sought. An anniversary celebration will be held the weekend of

October 3rd and 4th to honor Rosie Sorum for serving as one of First Lutheran's organists for 40 years. A plexiglass shell is needed for the choir loft. The cost of such a shell is between \$15,000 - \$20,000. Ideas for ways to raise the funds needed for such a purchase are needed. An appreciation luncheon for the choir directors will be held.

Education Committee: The fall programs are ready. A ministry fair will be held on Rally Sunday, September 13th, during the Sunday School hour. Each committee will be asked to fill out and return a worksheet to Corlys describing the mission / work of each committee. Juice / coffee / doughnut holes will be moved outside - weather permitting on Rally Sunday. The Sunday School will be using the new curriculum – “Spark – Activate Faith;” new Bibles will be given out. There will be a teacher orientation on August 12th. Women's adult Bible study of Proverbs will begin again for women to attend on either the evening of September 14th or during the day on Thursday, September 17th.

Evangelism Committee: There will be temple talks about the program – Table of 8 in September. The kickoff dinner for the Table of 8 will be on September 27th. There will be new member orientation sessions on October 4th and 11th with new members received on October 25th. Using pictures taken for the directory, the committee is making 1000 tri-fold brochures and postcards about First Lutheran.

On October 31st and November 1st, the minister from the Prisoners of Hope Ministry will be preaching at First Lutheran. On Tuesday, November 17th, a group of 15 adults (18 years of age and older) will travel to the prison near Appleton to worship with the prisoners.

There being no further business, the meeting closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Nordby,
Secretary

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, September 8th at 7:30 p.m.