

# **FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL**

**January 12, 2010**

**7:30 P.M.**

## **Council Members Present:**

Pastor Bob Dahl, Gaylen Bierman, Jeff Jorgenson, Betty Kauffman, Corlys Knudson, Shelly Maes, Marlene Nordby, Dawn Planting, Donna Reaves, Pastor Jackie Rostad, Pam Russell, Marie Sample, Tim Tomasek, Tonya Tomasek, Shana Zahrbock.  
Guest: Diane Halgerson

Chair Jeff Jorgenson called the meeting to order by reading the First Lutheran mission statement.

Pastor Dahl led the opening devotions by reading from Acts about the birth of the new church and the pains it was experiencing.

## **PASTORS' REPORTS:**

Pastor Jackie Rostad: Her internship project is on schedule to begin in February. She expressed her gratitude for being able to leave Marshall earlier than originally planned / before the Christmas storms hit so she could spend Christmas with her family.

Pastor Bob Dahl: The Christmas worship services were well attended except for the 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Christmas Day worship was cancelled due to the snow / storm. Worship on January 3<sup>rd</sup> was held only at 10:45 to allow time for snow removal. Some sections of First Lutheran Church's constitution were read for clarification. In 1988, the members of First Lutheran voted to become an ELCA Church and with that vote, entered into a covenant with the ELCA. First Lutheran is not an independent church, but has promised to support both our local church as well as the SW MN Synod and the ELCA / Chicago headquarters with our time, talents and financial support. Those who are withholding their donations from the ELCA are going against First Lutheran's constitution. The elected leaders of the church are called to uphold the constitution; those who feel they cannot uphold the church's constitution need to discern for themselves whether or not to serve. This constitution can be changed, but only through the proper procedures according to the constitution. (A lengthy discussion was held regarding these issues.)

## **SECRETARY'S REPORT:**

Pam Russell moved, seconded by Donna Reaves to approve the minutes as printed. The motion carried.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Donations in 2009 were around \$50,000 less than expected in the 2009 Financial Plan. Giving in December was very good and left the checking account with a \$38,000 balance as of December 31, 2009. \$100 per month continues to be put into a savings account for emergencies that the church may encounter. There is another savings account with a \$27,000 balance that remains from the tuck pointing and debt reduction drive. Tim Tomasek moved, seconded by Lori Obler and carried to accept the report as printed and given.

## **OLD BUSINESS:**

A. By-Law Changes – the information has been available for several months and is ready for a vote at the annual meeting on Sunday, January 17<sup>th</sup>.

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- B. 2010 Financial Plan – this plan was printed in the January newsletter, giving everyone a chance to study before the vote at the annual meeting.
- C. Nominating Committee – There will be a full slate on the ballot that will be voted on at the January 18<sup>th</sup> annual meeting. Those who are leaving the council were thanked for giving of their time to serve.
- D. Ad-hoc Education Task Force – the group met and has arranged for an informational meeting on Thursday, February 11<sup>th</sup> in the First Lutheran nave with the help of staff from the SW Minnesota Synod office. Members of St. Stephen Lutheran Church will be invited. An invitation will also be extended at the next conference pastors' meeting. This task force will not be meeting again.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Annual Meeting – The reports are complete and everything is ready for the meeting. **Council members, as the elected leaders of the church, are encouraged to be present at this annual meeting.**
- B. Annual Council Retreat – The 2009 council retreat was a success with most of the council members attending. It was recommended that the 2010 council retreat be held on Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> / the regular council meeting night. The retreat will begin with a light supper at 5:30 p.m., followed by committee meetings and a full council meeting. **Everyone is encouraged to mark their calendars and set this night aside for this important event.**
- C. Other items:
  - ~ Clarification: The foundation gift to the youth was to be used for youth outreach and technology. This gift was not the result of a request, but an outreach gift.
  - ~ Letter from Prisoners of Hope: The letter asked for continued prayers and financial support in 2010. The future for this ministry is still unclear at this time.
  - ~ Pastor Dahl asked for clarification on the issue of extra compensation for the staff. Jeff Jorgenson stated that due to the fact that 2009 was a rough year, with donations considerably less than was planned, and due to the many unknowns in the future as a result of the synod assembly vote, it was felt that extra compensation would not be possible at this time.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

##### **A. PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE:**

The insurance on the church and church property has been re-evaluated. Coverage on the new vehicle was raised due to the fact that it is newer and that it will be the vehicle used most frequently. Since this is within the committee's 2010 plan, no motion / vote was needed. The committee is getting estimates for the cost of new floor covering in the fellowship hall, down the hall and all of the rooms on the south side of that hall (fireside room and TV room). Estimates are also being sought for new countertops in the kitchen.

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**B. YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE:**

Youth for the Poor is an international agency that will have a representative at First Lutheran the weekend of February 21<sup>st</sup>. At 6:30 p.m. there will be a benefit concert by Dakota Road. Mileage for the group will be paid from a free-will offering. Whatever remains from the offering will be given to Youth for the Poor. Plans for the upcoming Lenten suppers are in place.

**C. SOCIAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE:**

First Lutheran Church will serve the meal at Esther's Kitchen the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, with January 21<sup>st</sup> being the next date to serve. First Lutheran will be responsible for Meals on Wheels the first 2 weeks in February. Donations to the Food Shelf and the Social Ministries Sewers are going well. They are checking to see if First Lutheran can help with snacks / food for the Alternative, a non-denominational youth center meeting at the Knights of Columbus building.

**D. FIRST LUTHERAN WOMEN:**

A group of ladies will travel to Plymouth, MN on January 23<sup>rd</sup> to see "Away in the Basement" performed by the Church Basement Ladies. There is still room on the bus for more participants. The afternoon on the last Sunday in February, the DVD "Created in the Image of God" will be shown at church for all women of the church.

**E. WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE:**

Tim Tomasek will be the new committee chair. The committee is looking into the making of a sound shell to be placed behind the choir loft.

**E. EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**

\$260 was given to the church library in lieu of Christmas gifts for the Sunday school teachers. Confirmation packets are ready for families to pick up. There will be a reception for confirmands on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation Sunday will be at 2:00 p.m. on May 2, 2010. Vacation Bible School will be June 7<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> with the theme "High Seas Expedition."

**F. EVANGELISM COMMITTEE:**

There are potentially 25 family units who will become new members on March 21<sup>st</sup>. The committee reviewed their past activities and are hoping to work more on visitation with inactive members.

There being no other business, the meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

**UPCOMING DATES:**

**Annual Meeting – January 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m.**

**Council Retreat – Tues., Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.**

Marlene Nordby, Secretary