

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes
October 13th, 2009
7:30 P.M.

Present: Joe Clark, Beverly Frye, Jean Haug, Amme Housemann, Jeff Jorgenson, Betty Kauffman, Corlys Knudson, Mark Mather, Marlene Nordby, Lori Obler, Dawn Planting, Pastor Jackie Rostad, Pam Russell.

President Jeff Jorgenson called the council meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Pastor Jackie Rostad led the council in devotions and prayer, asking that God to help us be God's loving character in the world.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dahl and his family are vacationing this week in Florida.

- The council was reminded of the congregational meeting on Sunday, October 25th between worship services. This meeting's only agenda item is First Lutheran's financial gifts currently being sent to the synod (The Plan for 2009 was set / voted on at the 2009 Annual Meeting in January, 2009) in light of the ELCA Synod Assembly vote regarding ordination of homosexuals.
- Pastor David Christianson, pastor at the SMSU Campus Religious Center, has requested that a Word Alone meeting be held at First Lutheran or St. Stephen Lutheran Church. The request was denied by both churches since both sides of the synod assembly's decision on ordination will not be present.
- Sign ups for the visit to the prison in November must be made by November 4th.
- First Lutheran Church will be hosting the Ecumenical Thanksgiving service. Ushers will need to be recruited and the coffee fellowship organized. The Worship and Music Committee will be responsible for these tasks.
- Pastor Kelly Wasberg will be on leave at the end of October. He will resting and reconnecting with his family.
- Pastor Rostad is a blessing to the staff and the church. We are all grateful for the way she continues to carry out her responsibilities and help with the mission of First Lutheran Church.

Secretary's Report: A motion was made by Pam Russell, seconded by Amme Housemann, and carried to accept the report as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Pam Russell reported that the checking account continues to be in the black despite the fact that giving is \$56,000 below what was expected in the plan. Committees have spent approximately \$4,000 more than was planned. If First Lutheran had 2 full-time pastors there would be considerable financial concern. A point of clarification: 90% of financial gifts remain at First Lutheran for the mission of First Lutheran Church; 10% of financial gifts is given to the following recipients on a monthly basis: 1) SW MN Synod (sent on to ELCA Regional office); 2) SW MN Synod (remains at the local district office level); 3) Shetek Bible Camp; 4) Lutheran Social Services; 5) SMSU Religious Center, and 6) Other Benevolence (distributions determined by Church Council approval).

A motion was made by Mark Mather, seconded by Betty Kauffman and carried to accept the treasurer's report as printed and given.

OLD BUSINESS:

Intern Committee Update: The group continues to meet monthly with Pastor Rostad. There will be a mid-year and an end-of-the-year evaluation. She continues to do a great job.

Strategic Planning Committee Update: The group has met and identified the top 6 priorities on which to focus. A meeting is scheduled for next Monday to continue to the process.

Benevolence List: A list of all places receiving benevolence gifts (10% of the 10%) during 2008 and 2009 have been listed. Some other possible recipients of these gifts are: American Cancer / Relay for Life, Heart to Heart, and the Minnesota All State Lutheran Choir. This list will continue to be updated as gifts are given.

Adjustments to the 2009 Plan (regarding extra pay for extra duties of the staff): A meeting with Pastor Dahl needs to happen before the recommendation is brought to the council.

By-law Changes List: The bylaws with the changes were handed out. These changes will be voted on at the 2010 Annual Meeting in January, 2010. The bylaws with changes will be posted on the website, copies put into the narthex, and anyone who wishes can request a copy of the bylaws be sent to their home. A question has been raised: Should family members of staff members be on the council? The council feels that family members should be allowed to be on the council as they have much to offer to the church's mission.

NEW BUSINESS:

Special Congregational Meeting – October 25th at 9:45 a.m.

There was much discussion on what should be discussed / voted on at this meeting. A letter will be sent to each member / home by the end of the week and as much information regarding where the First Lutheran benevolence dollars are sent / spent. If a vote is requested, these will be the 3 options on which a vote will be taken:

- a. Make no changes on the current plan
- b. Send no money to the ELCA for staff support / operating expenses, but send gifts directly to LSS, Disaster Relief, World Hunger, etc.
- c. Eliminate all synod financial gifts.

Concern was expressed about taking action / a vote; will members of the congregation be fully prepared for such a vote or have all the information they need for making a decision?

2010 Budgets: Each committee will be given information on how much they have spent thus far in 2009 and how much they have left to spend. They will then be asked to submit their request for the 2010 budget by November 1st. A draft of the 2010 budget will be discussed at the November council meeting

and approved at the December council meeting with final approval at the 2010 Annual Meeting in January, 2010.

Offering Envelope Changes: There have been some individual requests made regarding where an individual's money is sent. The present offering envelopes' choices seem to be causing some confusion, so the Executive Committee recommended that the front of the envelopes contain only these 3 options:

\$ _____ For the mission of First Lutheran Church
(includes debt reduction)
_____ I use Simply Giving

\$ _____ Other: _____

It was decided that a motion did not need to be made / a vote taken as the council approved of the changes.

Nominating Committee: The bylaws state that the nominating committee shall have 2 members from the council and 3 members that are elected at the annual meeting. The vote taken / the ballot at the Annual Meeting in January of 2009 did not include anyone to serve on a Nominating Committee. After much discussion, a motion was made by Jean Haug, seconded by Pam Russell and carried to have each committee find the needed replacements for their committee to be voted on at the Annual Meeting in January of 2010.

Annual Bisbee Financial Gift: The annual financial gift from the Bisbee estate resulted in a check for \$869.70. (Last year it was used to help fund the replacement of furnaces.) It was suggested that the money be used to do some repairs / improvements to the kitchen – replace countertops, replace the ovens / stove, etc. A motion was made by Pam Russell, seconded by Jean Haug, and carried to give the money to the women's group / WELCA and have them use the gift and some of their money to make kitchen improvements.

Due to the late hour, committee members were asked to submit their reports to the council secretary via e-mail or in writing.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Nordby, Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

WELCA / Women of the ELCA's REPORT:

- October 31 to November 15 – dates for the Thank Offering Tree: Gifts given will be given to the Food Shelf and “God's Global Barnyard” which gives pigs, goats, chicks, and seeds to our brothers and sisters around the world.
- Dates for the annual quilt sales: November 7th and 8th, and November 14th and 15th

- Monday, December 7th – date for the annual Christmas luncheon
- January 23rd – day trip to the Plymouth Playhouse to see Church Basement Ladies' Third / Christmas production of "Away in A Basement"

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

- *Thanks for the successful "Ministry Fair" on Rally Day.
- *53 NRSV Spark Bibles were given to the 2nd and 3rd graders on Rally Day.
- *33 two year olds will receive the Spark Story Bible as a gift from the church on Reformation Sunday, October 25.
- *the Sunday School Christmas Programs will be on Sunday, December 13th
"Jesus: Light of the World", presented by 3 year olds – 1st graders: 9:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. during the worship services. "Christmas In Reverse", presented by 2nd – 6th graders in the afternoon.
- * In lieu of giving individual Christmas Gifts to Sunday School Teachers, families have the option to donate money for "Library Resources" to the church library in honor of their teachers. Education Committee members will be available to receive these gifts of money on Dec. 6 and Dec. 13 in the narthex.
- * We are off to a great start with Sunday School, Confirmation and Adult Education.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE REPORT:

- *The "Table of 8" Dinner Groups met for their organizational meeting on September 27th with a "pot luck" meal in the church's fellowship hall.
- *New Member Sunday is October 25th, when 8 family units will be joining First Lutheran.

PROPERTY & MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT:

The committee is working on the snow blowing schedule for the upcoming winter.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE REPORT:

Esther's Kitchen:

----First Lutheran is sponsoring the meal on October 22nd and November 5th

----We are still looking for volunteers to help prepare and serve the meals

The Banquet in Sioux Falls:

-----This service project is October 26th. We are still in need of a few people to experience this with us.

Missionary Tree:

-----Angels for the Missionary Tree for the upcoming Christmas season will be ordered.

Food Drive Items:

-----We are continuing the donations of the Food Drive items for the months of October and November to replenish the pantry at Esther's Kitchen.

Mitten Tree:

-----We are going to try something new this year. We will be asking for and collecting donations of new or gently used mittens, socks and other winter accessories (i.e.-- gloves, hats, scarves, etc.). These items will be donated to areas in need here in Marshall. One idea mentioned was elementary school classrooms.

Social Ministries Sewing Club:

-----Some of the items made by the sewing club will be offered for sale during the November quilt sale. These items will have special tags to distinguish them from the items sold by the First Lutheran Quilters.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT:

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT:

Dave Deines has resigned from the youth committee. The committee is recommending that we wait until January to fill the position.

Summer 2010 is getting organized already with junior highers going to Klein Ranch or the Fort. Senior High youth will be participating in a Mission Trip to Chicago through Youth Works.

Past events and weekly programming have been going well. The youth are excited and energetic. Senior High youth had a video scavenger hunt along with their first Kenosis Project (random act of kindness). Junior High youth had a video and pizza event watching the movie "Pay it Forward" along with a discussion on random acts of kindness, service as a Christian, and a challenge to do the "FLY Pay it Forward Challenge". Elementary youth had the opportunity to attend Shetek's Octoberfest overnight. DC Highlights weekend services went well. Parenting video forums on Sunday mornings have been going well and are well attended. We have so many kids coming to the Junior High Synod youth gathering that we need to reserve our own bus! ☺

Good News Bearers for grades 3-6 will be starting up Oct 28th with the early dismissal schedule. Breakfast Club for the senior high youth will also be starting up on Oct 30th at 7:11 am at Burger King. (the FLY football team would challenge anyone to join us and have a double angry whopper for breakfast! ☺)

Genesis has started up also and will be leading the praise services in November. Middle school-aged youth are joining G3 and Sprite bells. That is fun to see staying strong in First Lutheran Church.

The Envelope Fundraiser was kicked off in October. Still have envelopes available. We have heard good responses from members appreciating not having to have to purchase things. Kenosis Projects will be connected on to this fundraiser. People just need to call into the office and request help with something and a group will be organized.

Thrivent Financial will no longer be providing their "Care in Congregations" program which means the youth ministry will no longer be receiving \$1200 as a matching fun with the Lenten Supper. We have concern as to where and how we will be making up this money in our financial plan for 2010.

Looking ahead to Advent, the Y and F ministry will be providing advent candles and daily devotionals for families or First Lutheran. They can be picked up the weekend before Advent starts.

Little Leaguers will be going bowling on November 1st.

Plans are being made for the Post High School--College Student Recognition Services the weekend of Thanksgiving. Anyone who knows if their son or daughter would be able to help with something should contact Tonya.

Tonya will be leading the next four week series for the Junior High Sunday morning forum with confirmation. Starting on November 1st.

Fall sporting events/games are closing up and it's time to start hitting the winter stuff on the school calendar for Tonya!

UPCOMING EVENTS:

November 10th – 5:30 p.m. – November Executive Council Meeting

November 10th – 7:30 p.m. – November Council Meeting

November 17th – 5:00 p.m. leave First Lutheran - visit to the Appleton Prison

November 25th – First Lutheran hosting the ecumenical Thanksgiving worship