

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes
September 8th, 2009
7:30 P.M.

Present: Pastor Bob Dahl, Dave Deines, Bev Frye, Jeff Jorgenson, Corlys Knudson, Shelly Maes, Mark Mather, Marlene Nordby, Lori Obler, Dawn Planting, Pam Russell, Bill Swope, Tonya Tomasek, Shana Zahrbock.

President Jeff Jorgenson called the council meeting to order with the reading of First Lutheran's mission statement.

Pastor Dahl led devotions using a DVD from the Dakota Girls' and Boys' Ranch on "Who is My Neighbor?" This DVD was sent along with a thank you for the recent donation from the tithing benevolence fund.

While watching the DVD, cake, coffee / juice were served to thank and honor the staff. Several staff members have recently celebrated birthdays and anniversaries, and the council wanted the staff to know that everyone is deeply grateful for all that each staff member does for the First Lutheran Family.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Dahl reported that Pastor Jackie Rostad, a seminary intern, is now working at First Lutheran. She has been participating in worship, has given a sermon, and will be working with Tonya Tomasek as a confirmation leader, responsible for the format for the opening at confirmation sessions. She has shown a desire to help in any way she can and be a strong partner of the staff.

Secretary's Report: Bill Swope moved, seconded by Lori Obler to accept the minutes as printed. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Giving is behind \$52,000+ according to the plan, but all obligations have been met. After the first payroll of September, the checkbook had a balance of about \$9,000. A note will be put into the bulletins and newsletter to remind people to catch up on their pledge / not let the giving get farther behind. Mark Mather moved, seconded by Shelly Maes to approve the report as given and printed. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Intern Committee Update: The committee is working well. Pastor Jackie will attend executive committee and council meetings as part of her learning experience.

Strategic Planning Committee Update: The group will be meeting on September 24th to begin to prioritize ideas and come up with a plan for the congregation's future.

Benevolence List: Jeff Jorgenson continues to work on the list of gifts sent to groups, the amount and date given. Thank yous, for recently sent gifts, were noted from the Oak Grove High School and the Dakota Girls' and Boys' Ranch. Relay for Life was suggested as another possible recipient of a gift.

By-Law Changes: When all changes have been made, the by-laws will be put on the

church's website, copies will be made available at church, and changes noted in the bulletins / newsletters.

Military Board: Mark and Jean Mather were thanked for completing the Military Board. Everyone is encouraged to keep it updated with pictures / information, as well as adding others who are actively serving in the military.

NEW BUSINESS:

H1N1 Virus Concerns: By consensus, the council approved the following policy: During the flu season, there will be no shaking of hands during the "sharing of the peace," and the greeters and pastors will not be shaking hands. Classrooms and other areas in the church will have bottles of hand sanitizers.

Appleton Prison Visit: The ELCA pastor serving the prison will be preaching at First Lutheran the weekend of October 31st – November 1st. On Tuesday, November 17th, 15 people (those attending will be chosen on a first come, first served policy) from First Lutheran will be visiting the prison and participating in a worship service. After worship, the group will go to Zion Lutheran for a discussion of the experience. The group will leave the church around 5:00 p.m. to attend the 7:30 p.m. worship.

ELCA Assembly Discussion: The vote taken / the decision made at the assembly is a social statement, not a statement of doctrine. Scripture is very firm about sexual sin. No where in scripture is homosexuality lifted up as a model; it is out of the regular flow according to God. It was suggested that an adult forum be held to answer questions that members of the congregation may have. During the Rally Sunday ministry fair, people will be asked to write questions they have regarding this issue; these questions will be answered at a date to be determined.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Property & Management Committee: The malfunctioning fire alarms have been fixed. Water leaking from a restroom has also been repaired.

Youth Committee: Tonya Tomasek reported the following: Sunday, September 13, the senior high youth are having a video scavenger hunt kick-off with a Kenosis Service Project. Wednesday nights start up again including G3 liturgical dance, Middle School Handbells, Jr. High Alive, Sr. High Alive, Genesis Praise, and Little League Wild Wednesdays. Sunday, Sept 20th, the parenting video series study "A New Kid by Friday" with Kevin Leman will start up at 9:45 a.m. in the youth room. (six sessions). Shetek Octoberfest for grades 4-6 is Oct. 2-3rd. Shetek's Fall Fantasy for families is Sunday, Oct. 4th. DC National Gathering highlights will be given during worship on Sept. 26th and 27th. The youth fall fundraiser will kick off on Oct. 3. The Youth Committee is hoping to only do two main fundraisers as opposed to a lot of little ones. Kenosis Projects and Evangelism are going to be two main focus areas for the youth this year.....with the theme "Keep it Tight." Summer, 2010 sign ups are coming up on October 7this is for 7-8 graders for Klein Ranch and the Fort, and for the Senior High mission trip to Chicago. Adopt a Highway service project for the 8th graders will be Oct. 7th. Check out the web page for the youth as it is constantly being updated. Good News Bearers' sign up is in September with the first after school event starting up in October. Tonya is trying to fit in the youth's fall activities and sports events, too.

Social Ministries Committee: First Lutheran will serve at Esther's Kitchen on September 24th and October 26th. Food items collected for the Food Shelf will be taken to Esther's Kitchen this month. Volunteers will serve at The Banquet in Sioux Falls on Monday, October 26th. The garden has produced much fresh produce for the Food Shelf. Coats for Kids will again be collected. 54 school bags were sewn and distributed.

WELCA: The theme for the coming year is "All Women of First Lutheran are Under One Umbrella." The circles will begin their meetings this week and the quilters continue their regular schedule. In addition to these monthly activities, there will be an additional monthly event. It has been reported that there is an ant problem in the kitchen. The Property and Management Committee will look into someone coming to spray to rid the kitchen of these ants.

Worship & Music Committee: Karla Luther has agreed to finish out the term vacated by Luann Mjelde. The choir directors met and made out a schedule for all choirs to June of 2010. Committee members and organists will find special music for the open slots. A request for a contemporary worship service each Sunday was tabled for this year due to the choir schedule all ready in place, and also the need to organize several more praise teams to lead worship. The present team could not be expected to lead worship every Sunday. The committee will investigate the options and costs of a shell to be placed behind the choir loft. The committee is contemplating a change in the placement of the greeters. They would be near the outside doors to welcome people as they come into the narthex.

Education Committee: Rally Sunday is September 13th which will feature the ministry fair. Coffee, juice, and doughnut holes will be outside, weather permitting. The committee will be meeting on Wednesday, September 9th to set up for the ministry fair. Confirmation begins on Wednesday, September 9th.

Evangelism Committee: There have been temple talks and sign ups are being taken for the "Table of 8" program. Sign-ups will continue through September 20th; the groups will then be organized, followed by the potluck kickoff on Sunday, September 27th.

Stewardship Committee: The committee will be using the theme: "S.O.A.R. – Stimulate Our Area Resources." People will be given a \$5 bill to in turn add to / give to the charity of choice, or keep the \$5 if it is needed by the family.

Bible Study between services, beginning on September 20th, will be a 7-week course on "How Lutherans Understand the Bible." It will include Bible history, principles, what Martin Luther said about the Bible, etc. It will meet in the Fireside Room.

The meeting closed with the singing of the "Doxology" and praying the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Nordby, Secretary

