



# First Lutheran Church

*We are believers seeking to invite all into the caring, sharing and growing ways of Christ.*

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**FLC Council Minutes**  
May 18, 2021 7:00-8:30 p.m.

**Members Present:** Via Zoom: John Marshall, Deb Mitlyng, Paul Freeburg, Rolly Muller, Chuck Muller, Tonya Tomasek, Pastor Scott, Bill Weber, Becky Weber, Kitsi Marks, Rosie Sorum, Twila Henning, Danette Stoks, Corlys Knudson, Guest: Jeff Larsen

**1) Call to order & Reading of FLC Mission Statement:** John called the meeting to order with the reading of the Mission Statement.

**2) Opening prayer:** Pastor Scott opened the meeting with a prayer.

**3) Spiritual Development:** Genesis 1 – The Story of Creation. What was going on in God's mind as he was creating everything? Everything we experience is a gift from God. We are a partner with God and need to continue to create and give. If God is a giver and we follow in his image, we must be givers too. What feels good to give? Sharing God's word, helping others, etc. What gifts have we been given to give to others? Time, passion, energy, spirit, etc. We are created to be givers and it feels good to give of our gifts.

#### **4) Secretary's Report**

There were no corrections or additions to the April 2021 minutes. Rosie/Deb moved/seconded to approve the minutes; motion carried

#### **5) Treasurer's Report:**

- Checking account balance for April was \$228,163.30, giving was \$37,817.86 and expenditures were \$44,827.50. Last year's figures were \$133,397 checking, \$50,167 giving and \$45,822 expenses. This year's balances reflect both draws of PPE funds and last year's reflects the first draw. The first draw has been forgiven and does not need to be paid back. The congregation has done well to keep up with donations.
- Paul presented a monthly financial summary that can be posted on the website and put in the bulletin. If anyone has any suggestions/changes, please let an Executive Committee member know. John suggested adding in a sentence that the first PPE funds were forgiven.
- Deb/Twila moved/seconded to approve the treasurer's report; motion carried

**6) Pastor's Report:** He is back from a 10-day vacation and it was wonderful to have time with family and time away. He thanked everyone for all of the help and coverage while he was gone. He returned to some bad news that the staff is struggling with so he asked everyone to keep the staff in their prayers. He is looking forward to the call committee update.

#### **7) Staff Reports:**

- Kitsi enjoyed some time away also as they went to see Alex and Paige and their new granddaughter, and she is thankful for the time to do that. They are preparing for VBS to be in-person.
- Tonya shared that Logan graduated from college and will be here for the summer before going to the cities for chiropractic school at Northwestern.
- Becky shared that the Council meetings are now up on the website.

#### **8) Call Committee Update**

- Jeff Larsen reported that the committee has done initial interviews with three candidates and they are moving forward with one of them. This candidate and their spouse will come for an interview the last Sunday/Monday of May and will meet with the committee and staff, as well as tour the facility and community. The Call Committee will make a recommendation to the Executive Committee if the candidate is acceptable, and there would be



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another visit from the candidate for the congregation to meet them. There may be one additional prospect coming through from the Synod. It is possible that we may have an associate pastor by mid-to-late summer.

## 9) New Business

### a. Plans for “hybrid” in-person/zoom Church Council meetings

- Zoom meetings have been a blessing but with things being more open now and a little more comfortable, discussion on whether we could consider moving to a hybrid meeting starting in June. Deb suggested that we just do in-person because we tried hybrid and it did not work the best as the people at home could not hear what was being said very well. We could use the church laptop and projector but we would need a mic so everyone could hear better. John will check into what equipment would be needed to run a hybrid meeting effectively.

### b. Other

- Pastor Scott had sent an email in regards to changing the phone system to Vast. They have been having issues and changing to Vast would help. We currently have Mitel with voice over internet, and it works well if it works, but it doesn't work as needed. With Vast, the download and upload speeds would be faster, which would help with our livestreaming and posting the services to YouTube. Under Mitel, we need to purchase the phones but with Vast, the equipment is replaced at no cost if it is not working. The cost would go from \$320 to \$411, but it was felt that the added cost would not be a concern and that the benefits would outweigh the cost. Paul/Danette moved/seconded to proceed with the proposal as presented by the staff to replace the phone system; motion carried.

## 10) Committee Reports (Short Updates)

### *Executive:*

- John reported that they met, received a Call Committee update and planned for the Council meeting

### *Education:*

- Kitsi reported they are planning for VBS (three weeks away)
- They are wrapping up from TLC and confirmation and clearing things out for VBS

### *Outreach:*

- Kitsi said they are planning summer fellowship with outdoor activities. There will be one on June 13 from 4-5 pm and they will be playing lawn games. They are planning two in July and two in August.
- They are talking about possibly doing the “Table of Eight” ministry again starting in the fall. These would be small groups that meet once a month with flexibility on when and where they meet.
- They are not a full committee and Social Ministries is also short members, so they will help each other out as needed.

### *Property & Management:*

- Chuck reported that they had the elevator looked at and there is a leak in the cylinder that needs to be fixed. The cost estimate for this is about \$4,000. Also, elevators will need to be brought into compliance at some point in the future and this will cost \$10,000+ so we may want to start budgeting for that.
- Talked about painting the basement by spraying it and they wondered if the youth could maybe help with that.
- There are leaks in the old sanctuary roof and they are going to have Buysse Roofing look at that to see if they can pinpoint the leaks and give an estimate to repair them. If they aren't repaired, the leaks will cause more issues.
- They have contacted Bisbee's Plumbing and Heating to look at the air conditioning units. They will get a cost estimate to fix them.
- Question on who maintains the church vehicles. Roger Marks gets them serviced at Ampride.
- Question on who maintains a list of items that needs routine maintenance. The janitors (Bill and Ron) try to help with this. Chuck suggested that they create a schedule of any routine maintenance that should be done and try to stay on top of some of that maintenance versus always having to do repairs.





#### *Social Ministries:*

- Twila reported they reviewed the Food Shelf and how they could partner with them to help them out.
- They continue to make calls to members just to check in.
- Pastor Scott has asked them to help with the outreach communion so they are figuring out how to make that work.
- Esther's Kitchen – Volunteers are needed on the fourth Thursday of every month – two people at 3:00 and three people at 4:00. They are currently preparing the food and help distribute it, as it is now picked up instead of dine in. She is not sure if they will go back to dining in-person or not.

#### *Stewardship: No Report*

#### *Worship & Music:*

- Rosie reported that she is filling service spots for May/June and it has been hard to get people for June. There are only three people on the committee when there should be six, so they each have to do four months instead of two.

#### *Youth & Family:*

- Tonya shared that they received an anonymous donation to the Timm Scholarship so two were given this year – Avery Anderson and Bensen Kuecker
- They are trying to get enough teams for a church softball league
- They cancelled the Senior High mission trip as the COVID numbers were high in Michigan at the time the decision needed to be made
- They will have two weeks of kids going to Klein Ranch – week one will go by van and week two will be by bus
- They are planning a variety of events for the summer

#### *FLC Women:*

- Corlys said her and Dawn have met and they will contact other former members and try to get them together again. Hopefully they will get things started again and have a report soon.

#### *Foundation: No Report*

### **11) Visioning**

- Broke into three groups of four to brainstorm two things to envision for the near future at First Lutheran: 1) for the centennial, what are one or two things you'd like to see changed or updated to the church physically, and 2) what would help us do ministry better or what would you like to see updated or changed in the ministry side of things.
- Large group responses:
  - Physical: Hang the new pictures behind the altar, heating/cooling fixed, revitalize the old sanctuary, storage for the chairs so they are not in stairwell, change the floor in the sanctuary, general cleaning and brightening of Gethsemane Chapel, remove the rest of the orange carpeting, replace carpet in youth room and put in laminate or vinyl instead, better signage, put the American flag up
  - Ministry: Have someone go visit people in their homes, struggling with volunteers (i.e. Altar Guild) – do we need to have staff do this or how do we revitalize volunteerism?

### **12) Closing Comments**

### **13) Adjournment and Lord's Prayer**

*Respectfully Submitted,*

**Rolly Muller**  
**FLC Secretary**





## Submitted Committee Reports

### Education

- Opening Devotions/Prayer
- VBS T-shirts: **can order from Western Printing for \$5.00 a shirt if order 150-200. Alyssia will also check with Julie Kent at the HS to see if she would be willing to print 60 T-shirts for the kids.**
- File past Spark Leaflets – **Committee filed left over leaflets**
- VBS work – None to complete at this time
- Closing Prayer
- Next meeting will be Tuesday, June 15 at 6pm in the Movie Room.

### Outreach

- Opening Devotions & Prayer
- Ask the Social Ministries Committee if they would like us to partner with them on some projects  
**Kitsi will send an email to Twila to let her know that the Outreach Committee Members are willing to help and partner with Social Ministry projects**
- Emailing/Calling new Outreach Committee Members  
**Lisa is going to contact Ellen Griebel. Marcia is going to contact Michael & Lori Engebretson. Amy will contact Doug Krogen, Matt Pedersen, Jason Anderson, & Carole Kerkaert in June. Kitsi is going to email Lisa & Marcia to responsibilities of an Outreach Committee Member.**
- Fellowship Event Ideas
  - a. Small Group Ministry – Table of 8 **Plan to start in the Fall – will get info out in the summer**
  - b. Movie night in the Sanctuary – **Tabled for now**
  - c. Outdoor small group ministry **Will start on June 13 with a Yard Game Event from 4-5pm. Kitsi will get the word out on Facebook, in Newsletter, & Bulletin. Continue with more outdoor events in the summer... 2 in July and 2 in August. Some ideas for those outdoor events are: Kite making and flying, a craft, & yard Bingo**
  - d. Thank you's to our Tech, Music, & Pastor Scott for all their work during COVID – **Tabled for now**
  - e. Others? **Honor Teachers by including their photos on slides the Sunday of the Blessing of the Backpacks. Honor Local Heroes – 1<sup>st</sup> Responders, Nurses, Doctors, etc. photos on slides and then host a breakfast. Pumpkin Palooza – Decorate pumpkins & fall photo booth. Homecoming Service (anniversary year), Paint Party, Box Build, Master Chef cooking night, Sponsor a breakfast for teachers at a local school, School's Out Celebrations, Student Camp Sendoff, Digital thanks at Thanksgiving time.**
- Closing Prayer
- We will meet next on Tuesday, June 8 at 6pm in the Fellowship Hall

### Property & Management

- Elevator up-date: Met with Jim the service guy, he explained the compliance issue and showed us a leak. Talk to MEI, Mike is our rep and he sent a quote for fixing the leak. Mike said the compliance thing would probably take effect after the inspector comes here. Do have an estimate for repair of the leak.
- Painting basement: Can rent a sprayer for 118.00 per day. Can the youth help paint?
- Roof Leaks: Can we get Buysse to look at it and get an estimate for repairs? So far, the leaks are by the entry by the office, old sanctuary by the windows, and new sanctuary by the pulpit. Could be a small charge to get them to come. Guessing at the most 500.00.
- Air Conditioning: Bisbee will come and go through them to see what we need to get them all working again. Will give us an estimate for repairs. Guessing the cost of that 800.00.
- Maintenance: Who takes care of the following:
  - Service for the cars





- Service John Deere lawn tractor
- Softener salt
- RO system filters
- HVAC filters
- Bi-fold doors
- Lighting: Have we ever considered talking with MMU to see if they have any rebates on switching the florescent lights to LED?

### **Social Ministries – No Report Submitted**

### **Stewardship – No Report Submitted**

### **Worship & Music**

- We met in the nursery at 5 p.m. on Tuesday May 11, 2021.
- Brian Kruse led with devotions from Insight For Living, “Learning Humility”, by Charles Swindoll. - From 1 Peter 5:5-6 “Clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for God is opposed to the proud, but gives grace to the humble. Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time”. Brian also read, “Attitude”, from Charles Swindoll.
- Rosie is in charge of the May & June Service Group. We helped Rosie fill in remaining openings in May.
- Full Council will be held Tuesday May 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.
- Our next committee meeting will be planned for Wednesday June 9, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. in the nursery. (Note change in time).

### **Youth & Family**

- Little League, Junior High Alive, Senior High Alive, Game Changers, and Grace Gang are done for the school year. Praying for a NORMAL fall!
- We will be planning various summer activities for the youth.... So be looking for details and information.
- The Timm Scholarship is being offered again to our senior class. The scholarship is for \$500. The youth committee had an anonymous donation of \$500 and voted to give another scholarship this year. The two recipients of the scholarships are Avery Anderson and Bensen Kuecker.
- Baccalaureate Worship for the Class of 2021 will be May 30 at the 10:45am service. Graduating seniors are: Avery Anderson, Addison Arndt, Aubrey Bjella, Chase Douglas, Evan Estebo, Thor Fischer, Andrew Fuhrmann, Allison Gelster, Taylor Gilbertson, Abbey Goldtrap, Jenna Holien, Izabella Hunsley, Bensen Kuecker, Regan Luther, Tanner Myhrberg, Courtni Nielsen, Kelli Remme, Brevin Runia, Laura Schmig, Emma Tammeus, and Peyton Whitesitt.
- We will hopefully be having a church softball team this year. They are still looking for more teams. If anyone is still interested, contact the church office.
- We ended up cancelling the Senior High Summer Mission Trip to Michigan. We had to make this decision months ago so we wouldn't lose our deposits. At that time, the numbers were still high in Michigan and masks were mandated. And the cases were involving younger aged people. It would be different if we were attending a camp where we wouldn't be interacting with other organizations, kids, clubs, etc. But we will be in their community, around many other people, and potentially exposing ourselves or unknowingly spreading the virus.
- June 13-18, 6 people will be attending Klein Ranch. We can safely take the 12 passenger van.
- June 20-25, 24 people will be attending Klein Ranch. We will be taking a bus for transportation to be able to safely spread out our participants.

### **FLC Women – No Report Submitted**

