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
August 16, 2022; 7:00-8:00 p.m.

Members Present: Melanie Pedersen, Paul Freeburg, Deb Mitlyng, Rick Purrington, Brian Kruse, Rosie Sorum, Pastor Scott, Pastor Mike, Corlys Knudson, Denise Schneekloth, Tim Tomasek, Twila Henning, Shannon Pedersen, Eric Luther, Karla Luther, Becky Weber, Tonya Tomasek, Chuck Muller, Rolly Muller,

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

2) Opening prayer: Melanie opened the meeting with a prayer.

Special Guest: Tonya introduced Owen Elsen. He is a second-generation FLC member and is requesting donations to complete his Eagle Scout project. Owen is collaborating with the Lyon County library to create a "Story Walk". There will be 20 display frames anchored in the ground around the children's library, and they will be able to change the stories in the frames (plan for every four months). The first frame will include information about the story walk and will include donors. The total cost will be $9,000 ($450/frame). The goal is to have the project finished by the end of September. Pastor Scott thanked Owen for coming, said the committee would discuss his proposal and let him know.

3) Spiritual Development: Pastor Scott handed out the devotional: Salvation is an Experience by Frederick Buechner. He read the devotional and ended with prayer.

Visioning: Handout to help plan/provide ideas for FLC's 100th anniversary. Broke into four groups and discussed three areas: What part(s) of the church building would you like to have "fixed up", What people do you think should be interviewed or asked to speak at the celebration or preach at the worship service, and What are some good ideas for what we should do at the celebration. Groups handed in their paper with their ideas and Pastor Scott will share them with the anniversary committee.

4) Secretary's Report:

There were no corrections or additions to the June 2022 minutes. Twila/Chuck moved/seconded to approve the minutes; motion carried

5) Treasurer's Report:

- Checking account balance for July was $79,300.60. Giving was $88,856.25 but this included an entry to remove the $53,295 for PPE funds, so actual giving was $35,561.25. Expenditures were $72,680.04, which includes some building and grounds expenses like the air conditioning. Last year's checking account balance was $209,851, giving was $40,427 and expenses were $48,694.
- Pastor Scott/Rosie moved/seconded to approve the treasurer's report; motion carried

6) FLC Staff Reports:

- Pastor Scott said he is thankful for the summer as it is more relaxed. Sam Nielsen will be covering the Education part of Kitsi's job, and they are looking for someone to handle the Outreach duties. He said it was fun to go to Montana with the high school group and that he heard from several people that we have a great group. He recognized Tonya and the youth team for doing a great job with our youth.
- Tonya said this was the first trip for the high school group since Covid and it was amazing. The kids intermingled well and did not have cliques, and the adults understand youth well and do a great job. Two groups went to Klein Ranch, and they are back to full summer activities. August will be catch-up before fall activities start.
- Pastor Mike said he has had some interesting preaching opportunities this summer. He and Susan Jones picked up doing a service at Heritage Point once a month, and he has helped at Tyler. He will be doing a service at the SMSU Campus Religious Center on Tuesday, August 23 to welcome the students.
- Becky said the copier contract is up and they are switching companies. They are hoping to change out the equipment this week, and she thanked Melanie for her help with that process.

7) Business:
Agenda Item: Owen Elsen – Eagle Scout Project
Discussion on Owen's proposal. It was felt that we should accept donations for the next couple of weeks to try to get at least $450. The suggestion was made to have Owen do a Temple Talk and/or a video presentation to help seek donations. Tonya said she would let him know about that request, and that if the church raises $450, the Youth committee would match with another $450. Pastor Scott/Twila moved/seconded to support Owen's request and to follow through to purchase at least one frame, plus the match from the Youth for a second frame.

Agenda Item: 2022-23 TLC Meal Schedule
Tonya handed out the TLC meal schedule. TLC will be at 5:15, worship at 6:00 and supper served at 6:30. She asked that we try to keep costs down as much as possible as they would like to keep the charge to $2 per person. Not catering and using the Thrivent cards helps a lot with expenses. Paper products will be provided.

Agenda Item: Rally Day
Rally Sunday is September 11. There will be one service at 9:30 followed by brunch and activities. We are planning on egg bake, fruit and muffins for the meal in Fellowship Hall, and Tonya suggested setting up activities in the Fly Zone to get people down there to see the work that has been done. Blessing of the backpacks and teacher installation will also be on this day.

Agenda Item: Other – No other items were discussed

8) Committee Reports (Short Updates)
Education: No Report

Outreach: Shannon reported they are floundering a little with Kitsi gone. They will be meeting on September 6 and will get back on track.

Property & Management: Chuck said all of the air conditioners are in, the bat mitigation is done, all of the outside lights are working, and they are working on the final handicap door. They are also getting ready for the landscaping project to prevent water from getting in the basement. He said there are wall dividers in the youth room that some have asked about taking down but Chuck said he wouldn't do that without the Council's approval. Chuck said the walls work fine and they can install the carpet with them there. Tonya said that she was fine with the walls staying there.

Social Ministry: Twila passed around a sign-up sheet for Meals on Wheels, and they are creating a video for Esther's Kitchen. They will be doing God's Work Our Hands on October 16 and will be putting together personal care bags for the Food Shelf (goal of 75). Stuff the Bus was very successful with 56,000 items donated overall. Connie Knott is off the committee now but Dorothy Krogen is back on.

Stewardship: Still looking for people

Worship & Music: Brian said he is finishing the August service schedules, Denise will be doing September/October, and Rosie will do November/December. He said the service in the hoop barn at the fairgrounds was a great venue – wonderful service and music. If we do it again, we need to remind people to bring lawn chairs and we should have shuttles for the elderly and disabled.

Youth & Family: Tonya already gave her update under the staff reports. Summer trips were all successful. Gearing up for fall activities.

FLC Women: Corlys reported they held their retreat at Shetek on August 2. They had a good turnout with 25 members there and the theme was Chocolat Café. They hope to continue doing this every summer. A group also went to Arco for a retreat. FLC Women meet the first Wednesday of each month. On November 1 they will be having speaker Pati Kachel in place of the Christmas Tea. They are planning this now and will give more information later.

9) Other/Closing Comments: Pastor Scott and Pastor Mike are going to start offering adult TLC between services beginning in September – they just need to determine where they can meet (perhaps Fellowship Hall).

10) Adjournment and Lord's Prayer: Deb/Pastor Scott moved/seconded to adjourn. Meeting was adjourned and ended with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rolly Muller
FLC Secretary

Submitted Committee Reports
Education – No Report

Outreach – No Report

Property & Management

- All A/C units in and running
- Bat mitigation is complete
- Two outside lights on A street fixed and controlled on a time clock
- Still trying to get the handicap doors done = no date for completion
- Ron has been in contact with Redwood nursery for the landscaping, should start that this month.
- Ron has been in contact Allan Forbes to check on the joist beam connection on the outside wall of the basement by the parking lot. We think we may need to do something with that, could be part of the water issue
- We will try to sturdy up the chiller unit fence to make it safe. We can't find the material we would like to use so will address this in the spring
- Sprinkler had a leak, Mike Thomson repaired
- Turned on some of the sprinkler zones so we could find the heads so we can flag them when the landscaping starts

Social Ministries

- **Opening Devotions**: Twila – Bound by Peace - Ephesians 4:3-4 - You were all called to travel on the same road, and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly…. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness. Always keep yourselves united in the Holy Spirit and bind yourselves together with peace.
- **Old Business:**
  1. Summary of Church Council Meeting – No comments
  2. Stuff the Bus: Container in Narthex – pick up week of August 1st. First Lutheran filled the barrel, it has been picked up.
  3. Blankets for Maggie Jean Foundation. Yarn will be taken to Golf Tournament
- **New Business:**
  1. Maggie Jean Foundation Golf Tournament – Volunteer opportunities
     a) Help with registration
     b) Work with building boxes and assembling the items into the boxes.
     c) Help with the blankets and caps
     d) Nancy will bring yarn and items for table display

2. Gods Work our Hands – October 16, 2022 after 2nd church.
   a) Put together Personal Care Bags
      i. Request donations from congregation. Twila will put together a list of items and ask Becky to post in September newsletter, on the screen, and bulletin.
      ii. Suggestion that we add a Bible and information about First Lutheran to the bags. Twila will check with Lori at the Food Shelf to see if this is acceptable. If it is ok to have a Bible in the bag, we will ask the Gideons to see if they could provide a New Testament copy for the bags.
      iii. Set up a table with examples and baskets for donation.
      iv. Goal will be to put together 75 bags.
      v. Will use Social Ministries budget to fill out needed supplies.
   b) Have yarn available for anyone who wants to make a blanket.
   c) Check with the Outreach Committee to see if they would like to serve lunch, if it does not work for them, the Social Ministries Committee will put together barbeque and chips.
3. Meals on Wheels – Announcement in August Newsletter, will have the announcement on screen and in weekly bulletin, as we get closer, we can do a Temple Talk and pass the signup sheet.
4. Esther's Kitchen – Discussion regarding how to get more members. Dennis will do a video during the August volunteer night, to show people what is involved. Twila will reach out to Tonya to see if Confirmation Students could use volunteering for Esther's Kitchen as a service project.
5. New Committee Members – There are two spots to fill. Dennis will reach out to Ron McKenzie and Chris will reach out to Steve Hamner

Stewardship – No Report

Worship & Music

- Rosie Sorum led with devotions from, "When negative thoughts rule your life" by Tracy Miles. This passage was based upon the book of Proverbs 4:31. Your thoughts run your life. Also, attitudes are everything! It is easy to get caught up in negative thoughts. Stay positive!
- Brian Kruse finished up on the August Service Group.
- Denise Schneekloth will be working with September & October Service Groups.
- Rosie Sorum will work with November & December Service Groups.
- We also learned this evening that our committee will be working with the Wednesday TLC Meal this fall on Wednesday November 30th, 2022, with serving planning on beginning at 6:30 p.m.
- We plan to serve the barbeques for 100 recipe! We will assign specific jobs to put this meal together for a successful supper on November 30th!
- We will plan our next committee monthly meeting for Tuesday September 20th at 6:30 p.m. Tim Tomasek will plan to have devotions.

Youth & Family

- This summer we had:
  2 weeks at Klein Ranch in June
  Summer Grace Gang Bible Study
  Valleyfair day trip in July
  Senior High Montana at Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp in July
  Wild Water West day trip in August
- No other churches organized a summer softball team this year….. So, I guess we will keep the trophy AGAIN…. one more year. Haha!

- Many elementary youth and adults had signed up for Shetek Bible Camp throughout this summer. The camps range from week long, minicamp, ABC camp for a day, Servant Trips, Grandparent-Grandchild Camp, SOS Camp etc. First Lutheran youth have always been active at Shetek over the summer…great support from our church.
- The youth ministries and families helped out the community again this year with their annual National Night Out at Independence Park. GREAT volunteering response!!
- TLC…..weekly youth ministries…..monthly events…. Leader/volunteers are all being organized at First Lutheran is being planned and organized to kick off again in September. Wednesday TLC looks different this year, as it will happen at 5:15pm and no early out activity time at 2:30pm. We can't find enough help at this time with everyone's busy schedules.
- Assigned Wednesday TLC meals for all of the committees will be discussed at the council meeting and were emailed out.
- Milestone Ministries will continue this year with each grade receiving a stone for their bowl. Different highlights for each year.

FLC Women

- Our summer retreat, Chocolat Café, was held on August 2nd at Shetek Lakota Retreat. 25 members and their friends attended to enjoy some laughter, fellowship and learning of God's grace in our lives. And of course lots of Chocolate! We had everyone fill out an evaluation form and will use this information in our planning of our next retreat.

- We had a summer bible study on the 1st Wednesday of June, July and August at noon. We used the study from the *Gather* magazine. We studied about how we can compare our lives to the making of a quilt. Our regular bible studies will begin again in September.

- All women are invited to the Prairie Conference Fall Gathering at Christ Lutheran in Cottonwood on October 8th.

- We were invited to a Ladies day at Bethany Lutheran in Arco. Four women attended and enjoyed some good fellowship and listened to a great speaker who shared her humor with us. We all needed a good laugh.

- Instead of a Christmas gathering, we are planning a gathering on Tuesday, November 1st from 5:30-8. Our speaker will be storyteller, Pati Kachel. The theme will be *Cookin vit de Norskies.* Her humorous program pays tribute to all Norwegian women who were resourceful and creative in their kitchens. We'll enjoy some laughs, fellowship and a special meal. We'll be looking for women that can help in various different ways.

- We're discussing possibly having a mother and daughter banquet next summer.