

Zion Lutheran Church
“To Make Jesus Known to All in Our Words and Actions”
Council Meeting Minutes – May 16th, 2018

Present: Taylor Antony, Mike Bottin, Matt Christianson, Kristi Grindstaff, Linda Isebrand, Adam Jones, Dan Lewis, Pastor Andrea Myers, Gary Sandstrom, Melanie Smith, Doug Winter.

Guests:

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 by President Matt Christianson.

1. Devotions

Gary Sandstrom opened the meeting with devotions.

2. “God Sightings”

Council members were invited to share their reflections about where they saw God at work during their lives.

3. Approve Agenda

These additions were made to the agenda: New Business b. Lake Crystal Parade; c. Youth Ministry Coordinator; d. Family in Faith Review

Motion by Linda I. to approve the agenda with these changes; second by Melanie S. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Thank You Notes

A thank you from the Bishop and also Southeastern MN Synod Staff were read thanking the congregation for its financial commitment to the synod. Also from Green Lake Bible Camp thanking the congregation for its financial offering.

5. Reports: Consent Agenda

There were no changes to the consent agenda.

Motion by Linda to approve the Consent Agenda with these changes; second by Pastor Andrea. Motion carried unanimously.

a. **Secretary’s Report:** Minutes were updated.

b. **Statistical Reports:** Council members received these reports via email.

c. **Pastor’s Report:**

i. **Upcoming Events – May 20 – Graduate Recognition; June 7 – Launch of Dinner Church (also June 21, July 5, July 19, August 2, August 16); June 25-July 2 – ELCA Youth Gathering Trip**

ii. **Zion Sermon Podcast:** Pastor is working on a project to launch a Zion podcast. The goal is to make sermons available on our website and for anyone who subscribes to the podcast. Next step will be to set up recording equipment and creating a branding name for the podcast. The goal is to be ready by Mid-June.

iii. **Confirmation Wrap-up and Planning for 2018-2019 –** Highlights from the past year and goals for the coming year were shared.

iv. **ELCA Youth Gathering Update –** An update for the Youth Gathering was given

v. **Synod Assembly Recap –** A report from Synod Assembly was given.

d. **Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team (*Gary Sandstrom, Doug Midthun, Open Position)**

Meeting commenced at 9:00 at Doug’s house. Gary and Doug attending. Began meeting with a review of four month comparative balance sheet. It was noted that between non-benevolence and special projects accounts, Zion has what could be termed as disposable assets in excess of \$11,000. Areas mentioned for possible spending include additional narthex tables, roof repair and line of credit reduction. We would like to propose that \$2,500 be applied towards line of credit.

Gary reported that he had sent a thank you card to Pastor Andrea's mother for her kind donations to Zion. Pastor Andrea asked us to look at what Zion's responsibility is for those who are regularly giving but are not members. IRS regulations state that tax-exempt organizations must send a statement when annual contributions exceed \$250. We recommend that Zion adopt that same \$250 threshold as it pertains to Logos reporting.

We next moved into analysis of the comparative profit and loss statement for the four month period. Noted that total income is up nearly \$10,000 from previous year but that primarily is from the recent \$10,000 bequest. So, in regard to offerings, we are basically on par with same period from last year. Expenses appear to be right in line with what we budgeted and also noted synod support increase of \$1,361.95 from previous year, probably due to SAS.

- e. **Social Ministry Team (Beth Dostal, *Linda Isebrand and Judy Meyer):** Social Ministry met at Linda's home at 4:30 PM on Wednesday, May 9, with all members present. Our Caring Coins recipient for May was Mission Circle. A total of \$302.74 was collected. June's Caring Coins recipient will be the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. The schedule for Prayer Ministry calling through the end of the year is as follows: *June – Judy, July – Beth, August – Linda, September – Judy, October – Beth, November – Linda and December – Judy.* Linda will write the newsletter and bulletin articles for June. We are considering three dates for an additional meal (June 23, July 14 or August 25) and will decide prior to June 1. Although we will accept donations to supplement the budget (we had to request additional funds after our March meal), Judy will apply for a Thrivent Action Team grant for this meal. The grant is larger than we typically need for groceries, so we will consider purchasing bars instead of cookies, or additional toothpaste or toothbrushes, two items that are always appreciated by the guests. We anticipate additional Thrivent Action Team grants for the REACH Drop-in Center and Project Promise. Linda shared an email sent to all Food for Friends contacts concerning the necessity of carefully checking bathrooms and hallways prior to locking the building. In April, a homeless man went to the restroom and was locked in the building until Sunday morning when he was found by officers. Diana Lantz shared information about another ministry she has become involved in while wintering in Arizona, which creates sweaters for children. The pattern is easy and multiple colors of yarn can be used to create each sweater. Linda will research this project and we'll consider it at our June meeting. Since we have an abundance of prayer shawls, this might be a nice second option for those who enjoy knitting and crocheting. We will also be encouraging our seamstresses to consider creating a new supply of Little Dresses for Africa. On April 23, Linda joined Pastor Andrea and Jason Mack, Executive Director of CADA. He shared information about their program and provided Pastor with several brochures. Social Ministry will consider this as a future Caring Coins project. We closed with the Lord's Prayer. Our next meeting is set for Monday, June 11, at 4:00 PM at Linda's house.
- f. **Membership and Outreach Ministry Team (*Steve Marshall, Diane Sandstrom and Doug Winter):** No Report
- g. **Building and Grounds Ministry Team (*Mike Bottin, Tony Jacobs and Brett Streng):** Most outside clean up complete; however, we will need an additional 4 or 5 bags of mulch for the north side. We will get feedback from council and membership regarding the gaps created after removing the bushes. We are also waiting on the city to bring fill for the west side of the church. Phase 1 of the Roof has been completed. The site foreman told Mary "with our service agreement in place our roof should be in good shape for many years." Dave Carlson will bring some LED lights and we will experiment with the overall lighting in the sanctuary to analyze the net effect of the better lighting. Note: The lights that face up on the north side are already LED. We will consult with a plumber regarding the old drain in the upstairs kitchen.

- h. **Worship, Music & Adult Ed Ministry Team (Karen Granger, *Kristi Grindstaff and Mackenzie Jones):** Worship, Music and Adult Ed Ministry Team met on Sunday, May 6th. We opened with prayer. We discussed the logo options that Gary had created. It was agreed to go with a cross made from a knife and fork that the shadow shows as a cross. The cross will be in a circle that looks like a plate and the words, "Dinner Church" will be on the top with the church information in the lower right hand corner. Image needs to be able to be legible in multiple sizes. Gary will work on making and painting the sign. The menu for June 7th will be: BBQs, chips, veggies & dip and cookies. We may be able to use leftover BBQ from the ZLCW garage sale. We are also planning on serving hot dogs, taco in a bag, pulled pork and possibly turkey sandwiches. We will firm up menus at a later date. We will be planning on serving approximately 50 people. We are looking for one other person to help Kristi with food prep and serving. We will ask Council members to sign up to help. Pastor had the music and service program that we purchased. We read over the service and listened to some of the music.
Pastor also discussed that she would like to start a podcast of her sermons. She will be looking into a recorder that records through the soundboard, editing software and will look into costs of the hosting service. We ended with the Lord's Prayer.
- i. **Treasurers Report (As of January 31, 2018):** General Checking \$3,066.53; Memorial Fund \$2,584.44; Building Fund \$12,934.14; Non-Benevolence \$5,564.27; Special Projects \$11,601.00; Overdue Bills \$0.00; Current Bills (due mid-month) \$4,000.00; End of Month Expenses (\$6,000); Line of Credit \$11,601.00.

**Indicates Ministry Team Chair*

6. Other Reports

- a. **Youth Ministry Team (Kris Anderson, *Taylor Antony and Susan Gengler):** The Team reported that they are working on a game station for Vacation Bible School in August. They are also working on promoting VBS and urging people to register their children via the online registration portal. Volunteers may also register the same way. Updates to Sunday School were discussed. Some changes will be that they will be looking for parents and member volunteers to be on a 2 week teaching rotation for the classes, so that they can work around everyone's busy schedules. The team would also like feedback from the Family of Faith Events that took place throughout the Sunday School year. The team is looking for more interaction between the congregation and the students.
- b. **SEMN Synod Assembly:** Phil Bachman, Matt Christianson, Dan Lewis, and Pastor Andrea attended this year. Their experiences were shared.

7. Old Business

- a. **2018 Ministry Initiatives:** Pastor updated the Council on the status of the 2018 ministry initiatives. Initiatives that are complete are: Bible Camp Scholarships; ELCA Youth Gathering Fundraising. Initiatives that are ongoing: Intergenerational programming; Repayment of the Line of Credit; Maintain mission support. Initiatives that have not started: Expand High School Ministry (Youth Ministry Coordinator); New Programming to support new youth events; Narthex Design Project; Repair and Maintain original exterior walls of sanctuary; 5 Year Strategic Planning.
- b. **Henrikson Bequest:** More discussion was held on how to use the memorial money from Dorothy Henrikson's estate. Options included starting a planned giving or endowment fund with portion of the money; something that would be flexible for future use. Endowment can also possibly be a beneficiary for other congregants interested in giving. Other options would be to pay down the line of credit, or use it for building repairs.
- c. **Narthex Design Update:** There has been a \$2,000 gift donated to buy tables for the Narthex. The Narthex design team will need to meet. The previous estimate to purchase new tables was

approximately \$2,500 (4 high top tables and 3 low tables). The team will need to revisit the quotes before any decision will be made.

- d. **Table Centerpieces:** Enough money has been donated to purchase new centerpieces for the tables. The ZLCW will make up the difference and make purchases.

8. **New Business**

- a. **SAS Enrollment for 2018-2019:** *Motion by Pastor Andrea to give the Council Reaffirmation of SAS (Stewardship for all Seasons) and to re-enroll in the program. Seconded by Mike B. Motion carried unanimously.*
- b. **Lake Days Parade:** A letter from the city was received asking if Zion was interested in joining the parade again this year. The Church was in the parade last year to help celebrate the 125th anniversary. There was no action taken from the Council
- c. **Youth Ministry Coordinator:** Discussion was held about if Zion decides to hire a Youth Ministry Coordinator, action needs to take place soon so that the person is in place before school starts. The target for this position will be to involve the post-confirmation students in activities to keep them active in Church (monthly activity for Sr. High students and service projects). Questions and discussion were shared regarding if the time is right to move forward.
Motion by Mike B. to move forward with the process of advertising, interviewing and hiring a Youth Ministry Coordinator. Seconded by Kristi G. Motion carried unanimously.
- d. **Family in Faith Events:** The Family in Faith events took place this past school year every 2nd Sunday of the month. Input and discussion from the Council was gathered on how to get more members of the congregation involved in these events. The purpose of the events are to help encourage and facilitate conversations/activities between youth/young families and members of the congregation. Ideas were shared on how to better involve the whole congregation into these events.

- 9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:41pm.

Next meeting is June 20th, at 7:00.

Faithfully submitted,

Adam Jones, Secretary