

Zion Lutheran Church
“To Make Jesus Known to All in Our Words and Actions”
Council Meeting Minutes – April 18th, 2018

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

Guests:

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 by President Matt Christianson.

1. Devotions

Kristi Grindstaff 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 d. Sunday School Superintendent; e. Green Team; f. Henriksen bequest. Pastor’s Report moved to “other reports” under “c”.

Motion by Doug M. to approve the agenda with these changes; second by Steve. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Thank You Notes

No thank you were shared.

5. Reports: Consent Agenda

Changes to the Consent Agenda: Linda brought up that there was to be a fire extinguisher installed next to the organ, and it appears that that has not happened yet. Mike B will check into it and move forward on that if nothing has been done.

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

a. **Secretary’s Report:** Minutes were updated to fix grammar and punctuation.

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

c. **Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team (Doug Midthun, and *Gary Sandstrom, Open Position):** Gary and Doug met at 9:00 on Tuesday, April 10, 2018. First item on our agenda was a review of the 2017 audit report we received from Kim and Kari. The audit did not reveal any discrepancies and copies of the report will be filed in the church office. Thank you Kim and Kari for your efforts. Thank you to Pastor Andrea for writing the first quarter giving statement letter. Gary will be out of town for the council meeting on the 18th and Doug will be acting in his stead. A review of the March 31, 2018 financial statements noted that another \$1000 had been paid towards the line of credit. Wonderful! A review of the income statement noted that offering income reflects an increase of \$6316.86 over the same period last year. That would appear to indicate that our SAS efforts have proven fruitful. On the expense side, we noted that utilities reflected a decrease in expenditures of \$733.85. Considering the long cold winter, we are wondering how that happened and expect it is due to increased policing of the thermostats. Well done. Doug noted that he had received a telephone call from a fellow Zion parishioner about the mechanics of making a charitable contribution directly to the church from a tax deferred account. We reviewed some of the information on this topic that we have received in connection with SAS meetings. We began discussion on how to best inform congregation of this option and would welcome some discussion on how to proceed.

d. **Social Ministry Team (Beth Dostal, *Linda Isebrand and Judy Meyer):** Social Ministry did not hold a regular meeting in April. Caring Coins donations for Habitat for Humanity totaled

\$227.27; total gifts for 2018 are \$791.73. Our May designee will be Zion's Mission Circle. Linda will write the newsletter and bulletin articles for May. Beth is making the Prayer Ministry calls during the month of April. An additional \$40 was donated for our March Food for Friends meal, which essentially covers the cost of groceries. We anticipate volunteering for another date during the summer months, but will apply for a Thrivent Action Team grant and will use the additional funds that will not be needed for groceries (about \$65.00) for toothpaste and toothbrushes, two items that are appreciated by our guests. We will set a May meeting date when Judy returns.

- e. **Membership and Outreach Ministry Team (*Steve Marshall, Diane Sandstrom and Doug Winter):** Membership & Outreach met at the church on April 12, 2018 and filled visitor welcome bags. Steve will take photos on new member Sunday. Offering envelopes have been distributed at this time and we discussed how we can keep the membership list better up to date. We will ask council for their input on how we can best fulfill our responsibilities according to the Constitution of Zion Lutheran Church, Chapter 8, Membership. Moondog tickets have been ordered for the July 22 Faith Night event.
- f. **Building and Grounds Ministry Team (*Mike Bottin, Tony Jacobs and Brett Strenge):** Alarm system was repaired. The Alarm Company replaced three sprinkler monitoring devices. Vee Plumbing replaced an ignitor and air filters in the Fellowship Hall furnace. Clean up day may need to be postponed. Will decide in 2 weeks. Brett will look into a Thrivent grant to cover mulch expense. Tony will talk to the city about a part load of fill for the west side of the church. Arborvitaes are showing the effects of heavy wet snow. The committee feels they should be pulled out during or before cleanup day. It might be a good idea to experiment with LED bulbs. Mike will check with Dave Carlson regarding lumens sizes and the effect of replacing the south wall lights and the up lights over the pews.
- g. **Treasurers Report (As of January 31, 2018):** General Checking \$3,821.45; Memorial Fund \$2,584.00; Building Fund \$13,962.80; Non-Benevolence \$3,908.42; Special Projects \$1,665.09; Overdue Bills \$0.00; Current Bills (due mid-month) \$4,000.00; End of Month Expenses (\$6,000); Line of Credit \$11,801.00.

**Indicates Ministry Team Chair*

6. Other Reports

- a. **Youth Ministry Team (Kris Anderson, *Taylor Antony and Susan Gengler):** Kelly Strenge has offered to fill the Sunday School Superintendent position (pending Council approval). At our meeting, Kelly discussed some of the creative ideas she has for the Sunday School program. The Youth Ministry team will continue meeting with Kelly throughout the summer to begin planning for next fall. At this time, we have 22 adults registered for the "Discipline that Connects" Workshop on Sunday, April 22 from 4-6pm. The first VBS meeting will be on Thursday, April 19 at Cornerstone Methodist Church. VBS will be held on August 5-9. There are 12 kids registered for full-week camps at Green Lake. Camp scholarships will be awarded on Sunday, April 29, which is also the last day of Sunday School. We will be going to Crystal Seasons to deliver May Day Baskets!
- b. **Worship, Music & Adult Ed Ministry Team (Karen Granger, *Kristi Grindstaff and Mackenzie Jones):** Meeting began with Pastor Andrea leading us in prayer. We discussed Lent and Easter services. Total numbers were down from last year, but Easter Sunday was up. The numbers for the two Easter services were more evenly distributed. The Lenten devotional was well received. We discussed the possibility of assigned confirmands to help with ushering during Lenten services. Pastor Andrea has some ideas for a series for next year. We are working on our mid-week summer services. The dates will be: June 7 and 21, July 5 and 19, and August 2 and 16. We will promote it as a "come as you are" dinner service. Free will offering for meal and no offering

during service. Dinner will be at 5:30 and service at 6:00. We will promote at Grace, our newsletter, Chamber newsletter and the Food Shelf. Kristi will talk with Gary about creating a logo and making a sandwich board. We will be contacting the Membership team to help with the meals and the Green Team about the paper products. We would like the Council members to be “Ambassadors” to sit at the tables and help with the discussion/activity. We will be offering some of the old video equipment for sale to the congregation. If it doesn’t sell that way, we will put it on the ZLCW garage sale. We tabled the discussion on Adult Education classes until a later date. Pastor informed us that the decision to cancel church on the 15th was made by her and Matt C. It was put on KEYC’s website and on Zion’s Facebook page.

c. Pastor’s Report

- i. Dates/Reminders:** **April 22** – “Discipline that Connects” Workshop, 4-6pm; **April 29** – Celebration Sunday, Camp Scholarships Awards; **May 4-5** - Synod Assembly in Mankato; **May 20** – Graduate Recognition.
- ii. Lent/Easter Recap:** Thank you to all the volunteers who organized suppers, led worship, participated in Action Teams, and to everyone who participated in worship, especially on Wednesday and Holy Week! Given that LCWM Spring Break coincided with Holy Week and Easter, I was pleased to see that our worship attendance for Easter still increased from last year
- iii. ELCA Youth Gathering Update:** Thanks to a successful Easter breakfast and additional Shareholder sales, we have met 100% of our fundraising target! The trip dates are June 25-July 2.
- iv. April 14-15 Blizzard:** The blizzard brought more than a foot of snow to the area. After considering the weather forecast, the expected road conditions and the fact that the blizzard warning wouldn’t expire until 7am, Matt C and I made the unusual decision to cancel worship on April 15. As it turns out, no other Lake Crystal churches held their services either. The decision was communicated with KEYC and Facebook, email to scheduled worship leaders and a few phone calls.

7. Old Business

- a. Sanctuary Lights:** The Building and Grounds Ministry team informed the Council that they are working with Dave Carlson about upgrading the lights in the sanctuary to LED, which should help improve lighting issues. It was suggested that they test the lights out first with 4-5 LED lights and see what the effect is before the new lights are purchased. The team will inform the Council on their recommendation after the testing.
- b. Mid-Week Summer Worship:** Logos for the mid-week summer service are being made, which would help communicate and reach out to others in our community that may be interested in a meal and service like this. Council members are invited to be “ambassadors” of the church for the meal and discussion. Music has been ordered, but not yet received. It should be a similar format to “Holden Evening Prayer”, which is used during Lent. How to plan for meals was discussed. Mike knew of a church in Windom that is currently doing the same type of service in the summer and it is working well. He will contact that church to ask questions on how they got started.

8. New Business

- a. Summer Decorations/Narthex Funding:** Linda updated the Council on some work being done updating centerpieces/decorations for the summer months in the narthex and fellowship hall. Kari Gustafson has made centerpieces in the past, but there has been some discussion about purchasing succulents, which could cost \$150-200. The Council had no concerns about the group asking the congregation for possible contributions to this project.

- b. **Membership List:** The Membership and Outreach team had some questions come up about the different types of membership in the church. It seems the constitution isn't clear on inactive/active membership and how to move people between the different types of membership. After some discussion, the team members, Pastor Andrea and the office need to develop an updated process for addressing membership changes.
 - c. **Clean-up Day:** The Building and Grounds team had planned a clean-up day for May 5th. Depending on snow melt and weather, it may need to be moved back until a later date. That decision will be made closer to May. The Arborvitaes (8 of them) have taken some abuse from the heavy snow and need to be pulled out. Also some other plants need to be divided and replanted.
 - d. **Sunday School Superintendent:** *Motion by Taylor, from the recommendation of the Youth Ministry Team, to appoint Kelly Strenge as Sunday School Superintendent; Seconded by Doug M. Motion carried unanimously.*
 - e. **Green Team:** Linda gave some updates from the Green Team. On Easter the only garbage was cups and silverware. More help is needed on Sunday for clean-up and sorting, and help is needed for events (funerals, etc). There is a need for sorting containers and receptacles. Zion is halfway to the goal of being fully compostable, but more help is needed from the congregation if we are to continue.
 - f. **Henriksen Bequest:** The Council was informed of a Memorial Gift of \$10,000 given to Zion from the estate of Dorothy (Torgerson) Henriksen. Dorothy was baptized at Zion and was raised in the community before moving to California. She is the daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Torgerson. Some discussion was held on which fund to deposit the gift, since it was an undesignated/unrestricted memorial. No decision was made on what to use the gift towards at this time. *Motion by Doug M. to deposit the memorial in the Special Projects Fund; Seconded by Kristi. Motion carried unanimously.* A thank you will be sent to the family on behalf of Zion, with appreciation of the memorial.
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 9:00pm.

Next meeting is May 16th, at 7:30.

Faithfully submitted,

Adam Jones, Secretary