**Zion Lutheran Church**

**“To Make Jesus Known to All in Our Words and Actions”**

**Council Meeting Minutes – March 21st, 2018**

**Present:** Mike Bottin, Matt Christianson, Susan Gengler, Linda Isebrand, Adam Jones, Dan Lowis, Steve Marshall, Pastor Andrea Myers, Gary Sandstrom, Melanie Smith.

**Guests:** Tony Jacobs

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 by President Matt Christianson.

1. **Devotions**

Linda Isebrand opened the meeting with devotions.

1. **“God Sightings”**

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

1. **Approve Agenda**

These additions were made to the agenda: Old Business c. Fellowship Hall Use Policy; and New Business c. Sanctuary Lights.

*Motion by Linda to approve the agenda with these changes; second by Mike. Motion carried unanimously.*

1. **Thank You Notes**

Matt Christianson thanked everyone for their help in donating food and serving during the Lenten supper.

1. **Reports: Consent Agenda**

Changes to the Consent Agenda: There were no changes to the consent agenda

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

1. **Secretary’s Report:** Minutes were updated to fix grammar and punctuation.
2. **Statistical Reports:** Council members received these reports via email.
3. **Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team (Doug Midthun, and \*Gary Sandstrom, Open Position):** Reviewed comparative financial statements comparing this 2 month 2018 period to same 2 month 2017 period. In perusing the balance sheet it was noted that total checking and savings this year is up $7,376.13. The Thrivent Scholarship fund also reflects an annual increase of $4,747.31. This probably reflects the strong position the stock market had in 2017. It was also noted on the balance sheet that a $1,300.00 payment was made towards the line of credit on 2-23-2018. That’s great news. A review of the profit and loss statement noted that building fund offerings increased $928.54 during the two month period. Also noted that total offering income for the period reflects an increase of $3,974.97 over past year. Overall Zion’s financial position has improved by $2,965.62. Have not heard from Kim in regard to the audit. Will follow up on that. Reviewed proposed guidelines for kitchen/fellowship hall use. For the most part we have no problem with the proposal other than the 50% refund to non-profits. We don’t see the purpose of that and feel it creates a record keeping problem - too much extra work. We will be consulting with Pastor Andrea in creation of first quarter giving statement letter.
4. **Social Ministry Team (Beth Dostal, \*Linda Isebrand and Judy Meyer):** Caring Coins: ECHO/Lake Crystal Sharing Shelf were the recipients of the March Caring Coins when a total of $308.73 was received. We decided to give $200 to ECHO and $108.73 to the Sharing Shelf. Late donations should be added to the Sharing Shelf gift. A total of $791.73 has been received since January 1. The next Caring Coins will be designated for Habitat for Humanity. We tentatively set the rest of our Caring Coins as follows: May – Mission Circle, June – American Red Cross, July – Project Promise, August – Backpack Food Program, September – Crossroads Campus Ministry, October – REACH, November – TBD and December – LC Ministerial Association. Prayer Ministry: Calling assignments were set for the rest of the year: April – Beth, May – Linda, June – Judy, with the rotation continuing through December. Newsletter: Linda will write the newsletter and bulletin articles for April. Food for Friends: Nine families donated cash and 13 members assisted with serving a total of 97 people on March 17. This included 91 guests and 6 workers. Our next meeting date is set for 4:30 on April 12, at Linda’s home.
5. **Youth Ministry Team (Kris Anderson, \*Taylor Antony and Susan Gengler):** We will be having our last Family of Faith event on Sunday, April 8. We will be working with the quilting group and tying quilts. As we work on the quilts, we will also be encouraging some great conversations between all those around the table! We have decided that April 15 will be the deadline for camp scholarships. All camp scholarships will be announced on April 29 during worship. April 29 will also be the last day of Sunday School and the youth will be delivering May Day Baskets to Crystal Seasons. We will be strongly promoting our Discipline that Connects event on Sunday, April 22 from 4-6 pm by reaching out to our Zion families and other local churches. Our goal is to have around 30 participants. We have reviewed the job description for the Sunday School Superintendent and we will begin personally asking members to consider fulfilling the position.
6. **Membership and Outreach Ministry Team (\*Steve Marshall, Diane Sandstrom and Doug Winter):** Membership and Outreach met 3/15/18 to discuss envelopes not yet picked up. We ended up calling the members to see if they wanted to continue receiving envelopes in the future or the undelivered ones for 2018. We will follow up with Mary to bring that list up to date as soon as messages are returned on unanswered calls. We also discussed how many Moon Dog tickets to order for Faith Night this summer. We decided to stick with 20 unless we hear that more members are interested in attending. Will continue to update the membership list and would appreciate input from anyone with up-to-date information.
7. **Worship, Music & Adult Ed Ministry Team (Karen Granger, \*Kristi Grindstaff and Mackenzie Jones):** Pastor Andrea opened meeting with prayer. The feedback from speakers for the Lenten services has been good. Pastor is preparing for Holy Week. There will be a promotional video for the Connected Families Workshop during the service on Sunday, March 25th. The sign up deadline is April 9th and the program is on April 22nd. There will be babysitting but parents need to sign their kids up in advance so that we have a number. We still do not have a Sunday School Superintendent. Worship music planning is done through June. Pastor is working on supply pastors for her time away from the pulpit. There will be a baptism on Easter Sunday. There will be a new member services in April. Sunday school is ending in April this year. We discussed looking at attendance trends to see how this affects attendance. We are looking at the possibility of having a midweek service this summer. We are looking at having a service on two Thursdays a month with a light meal prior. It would be a very casual service, possibly in the Social Hall.
8. **Building and Grounds Ministry Team** **(\*Mike Bottin, Tony Jacobs and Brett Strenge):** We reviewed the pending Social Hall rental form and all agreed if a member signs the form for a non- member use there would be no charge. However, whoever signs the form needs to be responsible for the criteria regarding the hall use. Funds generated should go into a building maintenance fund if we have one. We targeted Saturday May 5th as spring clean- up day conditions permitting. We contacted Schwickerts regarding roof upgrade phase one.   Sounds like as soon as water and snow are off the roof they will get started with that project. They agreed to make the anniversary date on the service agreement September of each year. So that $850 amount will not be due till then. Lighting in the sanctuary is a concern of some members.  We actually had an estimate on that project, the council decided to hold off pending the projector lighting issue. Tony was going to check with the city on a possible energy rebate if we installed LEDS and dimmer type controls. Dave Carlson will be contacted regarding the thermostat location in the main office.
9. **Treasurers Report (As of January 31, 2018):** General Checking $5,833.61 Memorial Fund $2,583.58, Building Fund $12,645.97, Non-Benevolence $3,072.84, Special Projects $683.06, Available to Pay Bills and Payroll $8,906.45, Overdue Bills $0.00, Current Bills (due mid-month) $4,000.00, End of Month Expenses ($6,000) Line of Credit $12,800.
10. **Pastor’s Report**

**Pastor provided information on upcoming dates:** **April 1:** Easter Sunday; worship at 8am and 10 am, breakfast at 9am; **April 29:** Celebration Sunday; **May 20:** Graduate Recognition

* 1. **UPDATE REGARDING DRAFT SOCIAL STATEMENT ON WOMEN & JUSTICE:** During February I hosted two conversation sessions on the draft social statement. The lively conversations addressed topics like defining “sexism” and “patriarchy,” how culture informs our interpretation of scripture, and how scripture gets used (or misused) to reinforce cultural prejudice. Participants were interested in continuing our study of the document, so we will gather again on Tuesday, April 3rd at 6:00 p.m. You are welcome to join us! Discussion will focus on pages 11-37 of the document. (Document can be downloaded from elca.org by searching on “women and justice,” or contact me and I can send a link.)
  2. **ELCA YOUTH GATHERING UPDATE:** The response to our Gathering Shareholders fundraiser has been excellent. We are currently at 84% of our fundraising target, with just under $600 remaining. My hope is that a successful Easter breakfast on April 1 and the sale of additional shares will help us reach that goal. If you are interested in investing in the trip, I will bring the certificates with me to the March council meeting. In addition, shares will be available at the Easter breakfast. The students participating are Kendall Anderson, Reese Goeringer, and Caden Albrecht. The four of us will gather with our Epiphany (Eagle Lake) group members for a lock in at the church on April 27. The trip dates are June 25-July 2.

*\*Indicates Ministry Team Chair*

1. **Other Reports**

No other reports were submitted.

1. **Old Business**
   1. **Line of Credit:** A payment of $1,300 was made toward the line of credit at the end of February. This money comes from the left-over funds from the 125th Anniversary Celebration, along with a small, monthly principal payment.
   2. **Personnel Team Representative:** Linda Isebrand volunteered to be the council representative to the Personnel Team.
   3. **Fellowship Hall/Building Use Policy Guideline:** The facility use policy was reviewed. Some clarification was given that if a member reserves the building for a non-member, the member is the liable for damages. Funds received from building use will go into the Building Repair Fund. Some discussion was held regarding the issue with non-profit use of the building, whether they would be able to pay the annual use fee. The Building and Grounds Team would discuss this and revise the plan as needed going forward.
2. **New Business**
   1. **Community Daycare need/opportunity:** Susan Gengler was asked to bring the council up to speed on the need of a community daycare in Lake Crystal. Lake Crystal has been facing a shortage or childcare, particularly infants, for some time. It now appears that within the next 6 months, 3-5 home-based childcare providers will be closing, leaving 30-50 children and families without local childcare. A group of community members and leaders have been working to develop options and proposals. The primary idea now under development is the creation of a community non-profit childcare center. Building or renovating a space will take some time. In the meantime, they’re exploring the possibility of one or more churches hosting the childcare center on a short-term basis, perhaps 1-3 years. It was agreed that Zion should be part of this discussion, since our building has several assets in terms of location, condition and layout that could make this possible.
   2. **Mid-Week Summer Worship:** A proposal from Worship, Music and Adult Education Ministry Team to offer a mid-week summer worship during the months of June, July and August. Not everyone is able to attend Sunday worship services during the summer when travel and camping take families out of town. The details of the proposal include gathering for a simple dinner in the fellowship hall and then remain at the tables for the worship service, including communion. The format would be casual and would gather around tables for dinner, and remain at the table for worship. Two weeknights a month in June, July and August, either the 1st and 3rd Wednesday or Thursday or each month. There may be potential conflicts with Community Band Concerts on Wednesday nights and the Classic Car Roll-in on Thursday nights. Pastor Andrea’s schedule won’t permit us to shift to the 2nd and 4th week of the month. More details will be forthcoming as the summer approaches.

*Motion by Mike to give the endorsement from the Council to proceed with Mid-Week Summer worship; Second by Linda. Motion was carried unanimously.*

* 1. **Sanctuary Lights:** A recommendation from the Building and Grounds Ministry Team to improve the lighting in the sanctuary, by switching to LED light bulbs. Replacement of light bulbs will cost around $1,200, but we will be able to receive a rebate from the city of Lake Crystal for $540 to switch to LED bulbs. Scaffolding has been tentatively lined up for May 5th, during the spring clean-up day to replace these bulbs if approved. Council will act at the April meeting to the approve purchase of the light bulbs.

1. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer at 8:52pm.

Next meeting is April 18th, at 7:30.

Faithfully submitted,

Adam Jones, Secretary