

**Zion Lutheran Church**  
**“To Make Jesus Known to All in Our Words and Actions”**  
**Council Meeting Minutes – August 15th, 2018**

**Present:** Mike Bottin, Matt Christianson, Susan Gengler, Linda Isebrand, Adam Jones, Dan Lowis, Steve Marshall, Doug Midthun, Melanie Smith.

**Guests:** None

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

**1. Devotions**

Mike Bottin 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**

*Motion by Linda I. to approve the agenda; seconded by Melanie S. Motion carried unanimously.*

**4. Thank You Notes**

A thank you note from Drew Campbell, of Lutheran Social Services was shared.

**5. Reports: Consent Agenda**

There were no changes to the consent agenda.

*Motion by Adam J. to approve the Consent Agenda; seconded by Doug M. Motion carried unanimously.*

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

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

c. **Pastor’s Report:** Pastor Andrea is currently on medical leave.

d. **Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team (\*Gary Sandstrom, Doug Midthun, Open Position)** A review of the July 31, 2018 balance sheet reflected the fact that we are still carrying nearly a \$13,000 balance in the special projects account. This coupled with the fact that we received a \$5000 offering last Sunday has us in an advantageous cash position at present. Based on this fact, we would like to recommend that various benevolence accounts be at least brought up to date. Hopefully this will minimize the possibility of having to borrow monies again in December to “catch-up”. It was noted on the income statement that apparently only ELCA and Bible camp scholarships have been paid thus far. No mention of Green Lake, Good Earth, LSS etc. We assume that means they have not gotten any payments thus far this year. In regard to the special projects account balance, we would offer that we maintain at least a \$7000 balance in that account for potential youth coordinator but that still leaves over \$5000 that we perceive to be doing nothing at the moment. A review of 2017 and 2018 comparative income statements noted that the building fund offering is up \$3937.26 from last year at this time. That’s good. Non-benevolence is down \$2755.00 from last year but envelope offering is up \$11,108.85. That’s a net increase in giving there of \$8353.85 and that’s positive. We will begin compiling comparative income statements for at least last three years in order to begin preparation of the upcoming budgeting process. Lastly, we would like to recommend that a decision on spending based on the scenarios we presented earlier be listed under new business in order to garner a vote on these matters.

e. **Social Ministry Team (Beth Dostal, \*Linda Isebrand and Judy Meyer):** Caring Coins donations for July were \$70.00. Those dollars, along with late donations left from 2017, total \$155.90. We received a Thrivent Action Team grant for \$250, which will provide over \$400 to purchase items for school and personal care kits. A new supply of string backpacks for the school kits will also be

ordered. The Social Ministry team will meet over lunch on Wednesday, August 15, and will shop for items after that. Any supplies that have been donated and left at the church will be inventoried prior to Wednesday. Our Caring Coins donations for August, received on August 12, will be reported on at Wednesday's meeting.

- f. **Membership and Outreach Ministry Team (\*Steve Marshall, Diane Sandstrom and Doug Winter):** Discussed Thursday night services attendance and how we might increase attendance in the future. Zion sold all 20 tickets for Moon Dog Faith night; may have to order 25 for next year. We discussed the upcoming membership list at Zion as well as a letter to be sent to non-active members. The letter is pending.
- g. **Building and Grounds Ministry Team (\*Mike Bottin, Tony Jacobs and Brett Streng):** We received an estimate to cover the north Sub wall on the roof and a down spout on the east side of the main entrance, with a down spout connecting the now functional roof outlet, to the main drain we installed last year. The estimate came in at \$790.00. We will need to decide if we want to table or complete the project this year. Mid July one of the major rains, resulted in water going over the curb which frames the main air conditioning unit in the NW corner. This caused a minor leak in the ladies bath room. We will need to get 4 new ceiling tile. Brett took one down and will get the matching tiles from Mankato. A window in one of the upstairs class rooms was broken a while ago. Just the inside pane however it causes some moisture build up when it gets cold. We will check into the cost to replace that window before winter. We will pull the decorative frame from the wall in the SW corner of the balcony which will free up space to put choir materials. Dave Carlson plans to have some LED lights in the sanctuary in the next couple days. He also will get the thermostat moved in the office.
- h. **Youth Ministry Team (Kris Anderson, \*Taylor Antony and Susan Gengler):** At this time, Matt C. informed our team that he has not received any applications or inquiries about the Youth Coordinator position. We will continue working with Pastor on marketing and advertising this position. We are preparing for the next Sunday School season, which begins with Rally Day on September 9<sup>th</sup>. The youth who attended the ELCA Gathering in Houston will be presenting their experience on August 12 at 6 pm.
- i. **Worship, Music & Adult Ed Ministry Team (Karen Granger, \*Kristi Grindstaff and Mackenzie Jones):** The first item discussed was Dinner Church. We agreed that we are happy with the first year. We have had between 20 and 35 people at each service. Considering this was our first year and we have had a substitute pastor for most of the services, we are encouraged by the numbers. Ideas for next year: activities for kids, possibly have Action Teams help with the food for the meals, and make the service more friendly and comfortable for participants. Also discussed was the possibility of changing the day to Wednesdays instead of Thursdays. We also talked about the possibility of getting feedback from the congregation on what vision they see for Dinner Church. We began the discussion of revamping the Action Teams. The current list is good thru March of 2019. We will work on this project with the Membership and Outreach Team. Discussion was held on what this will involve. We will need to meet with current team leaders and get ideas from them on what worked and what didn't work, scrub the lists for current members and members that are no longer a part of our congregation and redo the lists.
- j. **Treasurers Report (As of January 31, 2018):** General Checking \$1,206.91; Memorial Fund \$2,610.75; Building Fund \$13359.48; Non-Benevolence \$390.53; Special Projects \$12,909.03; Overdue Bills \$0.00; Current Bills (due mid-month) \$4,000.00; End of Month Expenses (\$6,000); Line of Credit \$11,401.00.

*\*Indicates Ministry Team Chair*

## 6. Other Reports

7. **Old Business**
  - a. **Update on Youth Ministry Coordinator Position:** Matt C. informed the Council that there has not been any applications received for the Youth Coordinator Position. He did mention that there has been one interested individual that has asked questions about it and he along with Pastor Andrea will follow up with that individual to determine if it is a credible inquiry. Also, Pastor Andrea will check with the colleges on the status of our job posting when she returns.
8. **New Business**
  - a. **Balance Sheet Discussion...benevolence commitments, line of credit, etc.:** Discussion was held in regards to a recommendation from the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team to catch up on benevolence and/or the line of credit before the end of the year. There is approximately \$4,500 of benevolence that is due at the end of the year, and it might be nice to pay down 2/3rds of that total now, since we are in an advantageous cash position currently and could minimize borrowing monies at the end of the year. Also paying down a chunk of the line of credit may be a possibility. It was decided to table any further discussion until next meeting when the Finance and Stewardship Team could work with the treasurer to make sure that is a possibility and whether there is any upcoming bills that are due that will need to be considered.
  - b. **Siding Bid:** *Motion by Mike B. to approve a siding bid for the stub wall between the sanctuary and fellowship, of approximately \$790; Seconded by Steve M. Motion carried unanimously.*
9. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:42pm.

Next meeting is September 17, at 7:30.

Faithfully submitted,

Adam Jones, Secretary