

First Lutheran Church Council Minutes
April 14th, 2009
8:00 P.M.

Present: Kim Christianson, Joe Clark, Gordon Crow, Pastor Bob Dahl, Dave Deines, Neil Frost, Bev Frye, Jeff Jorgenson, Corlys Knudson, Shelly Maes, Mark Mather, Heather Miller, Marlene Nordby, Jason Peterson, Dawn Planting, Bill Swope, Tonya Tomasek, and Shana Zahrbock.

President Jeff Jorgenson called the council meeting to order at 8:10 p.m., after the presentation by Rev. Bjertness and his wife, from Peace Lutheran in New London, MN about his, and his church's experiences during his 20-month deployment. (Rev. Dahl led the group in devotions and prayer before the presentation. Bishop John Anderson spoke briefly, thanking the troops for serving and the church for its support to the troops and their families while the troops are deployed.)

Pastor's Report:

A letter was received from Luther Seminary indicating that Jacquelin Rostad, a 30-year old single woman from Trinity Lutheran, Moorhead, MN, will be an intern at First Lutheran from mid-August, 2009 to mid-August, 2010.. She has expressed an interest in senior adults and people with dependency issues. She will be in Marshall on Saturday, April 25th, around 1:30 to get acclimated. The council is welcome to briefly meet and welcome her at that time; a more formal welcome will take place when she arrives in mid-August.

Pastor Dahl will be attending a workshop at Luther Seminary on May 19 – 20th, at which time he will receive more information on what is involved and expected of both the intern and host church in the intern program.

With the coming of an intern, the following things are needed:

- a. An Intern Committee (5 people) to meet with the intern on a monthly basis (without the pastor). It would be nice to get a cross-section of people, but it is more important to get 5 people who are committed and willing to show up for the meetings. Any council member interested in serving on this committee should contact Pastor Dahl.
- b. Housing / living space: Since one of her interests is senior adults, Hill Street has been contacted as a possible site in which to live. (They have some empty apartments and she would be only 2 blocks from the church.)

Secretary's Report: Since there was not a quorum at the March council meeting, there was no meeting and thus no minutes.

Treasurer's Report: At the end of March, the checking book balance was around \$8000. Giving is about \$10,000 short according to the plan. Easter was at the end of March last year, so it is hard to compare with a year ago. It was moved and seconded to accept the report as printed.

OLD BUSINESS:

Strategic Planning update: The group is meeting on a weekly basis and looking at where the church is going. They are looking at the church's **SWOT**

(Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) and hoping to develop a plan that moves the church into the future and better defines people's responsibilities.

NEW BUSINESS:

Congregational Leadership Day in Granite Falls in March: Joe Clark, Jeff Jorgenson, Marlene Nordby, and Pam Russell participated. There was a keynote speaker as well as smaller workshops – such as meetings with the bishop, evangelism workshops, etc. Everyone felt the day was worthwhile.

Benevolence: The Prairie Conference funds an HIV /AIDS coordinator position. First Lutheran has not paid its portion for 2008 (\$100) nor for 2009 (\$100). Gordon Crow moved, seconded by Shelly Maes to pay the \$200 from the Benevolence Fund. The motion carried. The council is encouraged to bring ideas for uses of this fund to future meetings.

Access to the Safety Deposit Box: There was some difficulty getting the van's title card out of the box with only Pam Russell having access to it. Gordon Crow moved, seconded by Bill Swope, to have the senior pastor (Rev. Robert Dahl), the council chair (Jeff Jorgenson), council vice chair (Shelly Maes), and the council treasurer (Pam Russell) on the bank's list of those who have access to First Lutheran Church's safety deposit box. The motion carried.

Adjustments to the 2009 Plan: Meetings are taking place to review the plan after the first quarter in the year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Youth Committee: The school year programs are wrapping up. The committee is looking for new ways to do fundraising in the future.

Social Ministries Committee: Dates for serving for the next 6 months at Esther's Kitchen have been set up. 6-7 people are needed for each meal; sign up sheets will be on the bulletin board in the narthex. A group will be working at the Banquet in Sioux Falls and a garden plot will be planted; the produce will be given to the Food Shelf.

First Lutheran Women: First Lutheran will be hosting the SW MN WELCA Convention on May 7th and 8th. 300+ women are expected to participate; neighbors of the church will be notified of the parking issues this will present. A supper and noon meal will be served. 2 church-wide cleanup days are scheduled for Thursday, April 30th beginning at 6:00 p.m. and on Saturday, May 2nd beginning at 9:00 a.m. An Over 80 Tea Party is scheduled for June 25th.

Worship & Music Committee: New clapper heads are needed for the C4 to C7 octaves of the bells. A quote of \$550 was received. \$500 of this amount was in the budget with the remaining coming from designated gifts for the bells. The committee will be meeting with all choir directors in early May to set up special music in an effort to be better organized to provide music for all worship services – Saturdays and Sundays.

Education Committee: The Confirmation Reception and Confirmation Day went well with 20 being confirmed. First communion was held at the 5:30 worship on April 8th. An acolyte training will be held with acolyte installation taking place on May 3. The 2nd – 6th graders will participate in a Hunger Banquet. The young people will be divided into 3 groups – some receiving rice, another group a bit more, and a third group receiving pizza. A discussion will follow on how everyone felt during the experience. Teacher Appreciation Day will take place on May 17th. Julie Christianson, guest speaker, will share her Norwegian heritage. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 1 – 5. 2nd – 6th graders will meet from 8:15 – 10:00 a.m. each day while 3, 4, & 5 year olds, kindergarten and 1st graders will meet at 10:30 – noon each day. “Crocodile Dock,” the theme, will include worship, Bible stories, crafts, singing, and snacks. The committee is in the process of choosing Sunday School curriculum for next year.

Evangelism Committee: The new church pictorial directories arrived before Easter. Those directories not picked up will be delivered. The committee wants to address the issue of inactive members and do a better job of fostering new members so they become involved and stay active. Inviting them to join a choir, etc. would be a start.

Stewardship Committee: 2009 is the 3rd year of a 3-year plan. A new plan for 2010 is needed / being worked on, and will be presented to the council in the near future.

Property & Management Committee: A volunteer has indicated a desire to do odd jobs around the church, such as washing windows, changing light bulbs, etc. The youth room continues to have water issues. This will be looked into and perhaps some additional landscaping will need to be done in that area. After the crash of the youth’s laptop computer, a new one was purchased. It was found that the church’s computers have not been updated as needed and should be done on a regular basis. The old van needs a new fuel pump (\$500) and it will be installed before being sold. The committee is looking into the problems with the fellowship hall’s sound system.

Deployment Information: Denise Brewers has agreed to be Captain Kindness (a military program) to coordinate ways to help the families of those deployed. Some examples of help needed might be meals, lawn care, drivers for youth, etc. We need to be very sensitive to the families’ independence and needs.

Pastor Dahl led the group in prayer and the Lord’s Prayer. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Nordby,
Council Secretary