

**First Lutheran Church Council Minutes**  
**June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009**  
**7:30 P.M.**

**Present:** Gaylen Bierman, Pastor Bob Dahl, Dave Deines, Neil Frost, Jeff Jorgenson, Corlys Knudson, Shelly Maes, Marlene Nordby, Tom Nordby, Jason Peterson, Dawn Planting, Donna Reaves, Pam Russell, Bill Swope, Tonya Tomasek

President Jeff Jorgenson called the council meeting to order. The group read Mark 2 and discussed the passage. Pastor Dahl led the group in devotions and prayer. Trinity Sunday is not tied to an event in Jesus' life, but is tied to doctrine. There are many Bible passages that refer to the Trinity.

**Pastor's Report:**

- The June 20<sup>th</sup> Saturday worship service will be held at Shetek Lutheran Ministries. The First Lutheran staff is responsible for the worship service. Anyone wishing to attend the worship at the camp should meet in the church parking lot so cars can leave by 4:30. A potluck picnic will follow worship.
- The Internship Committee candidates – Ryan Myhrberg, Lori Obler, Helen Pedersen, and Sue Strautz have met. 3 more candidates – Joe Clark, Mary Jacobs, and Kitsy Marks – will meet next week. Housing is being sought. Pastor Jackie will provide a list of some things she would like present in the apartment in which she lives. She will be moving via U-Haul.
- Synod Convention: Seated delegates will be Pastor Dahl, Corlys Knudson, and Pam Russell. Kitsy Marks will be part of the Resolutions Committee. She was given a waiver and will also be a seated delegate.
- Pastor Dahl will be on vacation July 8 – 15 and August 3 – 10. Some possible supply pastors for other times would be:
  - the pastor at the Prisoners of Hope ministry at the prison in Appleton. It is hoped that First Lutheran can bring 15 people to the men's prison on a Tuesday evening for a worship service.
  - the Bishop has offered to fill the pulpit later in the fall.
  - It is hoped that an outreach team from Augustana College will come to First Lutheran for a Sunday.

**Secretary's Report:** Pam Russell moved, seconded by Shelly Maes to accept the minutes as printed with the following changes:

- **Access to the Safe Deposit Box:** . . . *were taken to Bremer Bank by Pam Russell, and all of those authorized have signed the authorization card at the bank.*
- **Suggestions for use of benevolence money:** *More information was*

*requested from Shelly Maes before deciding to contribute monies to this program.*

- **Youth Ministry:** Those going to the youth gathering *will pay* about 46% of their trip expenses.  
The motion carried.

**Treasurer's Report:** The checkbook balance is good at the end of May / for the beginning of the summer months. Special bills were listed on the report. The special assessment is due to the storm drainage system done with several years yet to be paid.

Tom Nordby moved, seconded by Jason Peterson to accept the report as printed.  
The motion carried.

### **Old Business:**

**A. Intern Committee Update:** The Internship Committee candidates – Ryan Myhrberg, Lori Obler, Helen Pedersen, and Sue Strautz have met. 3 more candidates – Joe Clark, Mary Jacobs, and Kitsy Marks – will meet next week. Housing is being sought. She will provide a list of things she would appreciate having in the apartment in which she lives. She will be moving via U-Haul. She will receive a stipend of \$1,100 / month, her housing, and her health insurance through the seminary. It is expected that expenses will be around \$30,000 for the year that the intern is at First Lutheran. Her clinical is going well. Her first day will be August 18<sup>th</sup>. She will begin by shadowing Pastor Dahl, then gradually working into the liturgy. It is expected that she will preach in September / once a month through 2009, then more after the first of the year.

**B. Strategic Planning Committee Update:** The committee will be trying to set aside a block of time so that by the end of the summer, they will have some of their ideas and plans on paper.

### **C. Benevolence List:**

- Shelly Maes was asked to bring more information on the Gillett Children's Mobile Outreach Program. The cost per visit is \$3,600; 9 – 10 clinics are held each year. Their annual budget is around \$30,000; \$7,000 is still needed for this year.
- Fargo, ND Oakgrove High School, the only ELCA high school in the country, was hit hard by the flood.
- Minot, ND Dakota Boys Ranch was also hit hard by flooding. This ranch serves troubled youth / youth at risk.
- The plans for the Refuge are making progress. They have the money to build, but not sufficient funds to operate the facility.
- Common Cup: The Ministerial Association has been working on this Christian multi-agency outreach for people in need. It may be housed at the Refuge.

**D. Adjustments to 2009 Plan:** tabled until after the committee reports.

## **New Business:**

**By-Law changes:** a copy will be sent via e-mail to all council members. Shelly Maes will receive feedback / ideas and form a committee to work on the suggested changes.

The church does have a sexual harassment policy which needed to be in place before the intern application was made.

## **Committee Reports:**

**A. Property and Management Committee:** The contract with Johnson controls has been signed. The lawn is being mowed and Brenda Hovaldt has graciously placed a planter of flowers at each entrance to the new addition. Her name will be added to the Christmas "Thank You List." She will be sent a thank you.

- **Cleaning the church:** Someone is needed to take charge of this project. A list of tasks needs to be made; these tasks would then be available for people complete these tasks on their own time.

**B. Youth Ministry:** Final plans are being made for the trips to The Fort, the Klein Ranch, and the youth gathering. There will be children at Shetek Lutheran Ministries most weeks during the summer.

**C. Social Ministries:** The garden is up and growing and First Lutheran will serve at Esther's Kitchen on June 18<sup>th</sup>. They are hoping to grill out in when First Lutheran serves the meal in July.

**D. First Lutheran Women:** June 25<sup>th</sup> is the date chosen for the celebration of women who are 80 years and older and their spouses. There will be a program, food, and a celebration. On August 5<sup>th</sup>, women will be going to Shalom Hill Farm near Windom for an all-day retreat. The staff from the retreat center will be leading the Bible study and providing the food. There will be several quilting days during the summer.

**E. Worship and Music Committee:** The committee is planning a luncheon for all music leaders / directors to recognize them and show appreciation for the work that they do. The directors will be making a master calendar for the coming year once the new school calendar is published. Special music for the summer has been assigned to committee members, directors, and organists.

**F. Education Committee:** VBS was a huge success with 166 children (34 children were visitors from outside the congregation.) participating with over 100 adults / people involved / helping. Offerings resulted in \$702.00

(usually around \$500) which will be sent to “Operation Kid to Kid” which helps children who have experienced a disaster in their lives. Rally Sunday has been set for September 13<sup>th</sup>. It is hoped that groups will set up booths to educate the congregation on each group’s work / mission. A new curriculum called “Spark” will be used and Bibles from this curriculum will be given to 2 year olds and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. It is hoped older students will also get these new Bibles.

**G. Evangelism Committee:** Plans for the next year of Table of 8 are being organized. Directories and envelopes that were not picked up at church were delivered. What to do with people who don’t come to worship / are inactive continues to be an ongoing question. The committee is working on a tri-fold brochure about First Lutheran.

**H. Stewardship Committee:** The committee will be meeting with Pastor Dahl to get a theme and more ideas for the new drive that will take place this coming fall. A rough outline is in place, but more work will be done on this plan.

#### **Adjustments to 2009 Plan:**

The Planning and Personnel Committees met and have the following recommendations:

- Pastor Dahl will be highly encouraged to take 1 day off per month by being given (1) additional day of vacation / month in addition to the usual time off granted; this additional day per month will not be accumulative.
- Other arrangements for worship services will be made to allow Pastor Dahl to have 1 weekend off per month.
- Staff pay will be re-evaluated in September after the summer months and additional compensation determined for all staff, after assessing what additional duties each has taken on.  
(There is uncertainty about the giving level during the summer; the economy is bad, etc.)

Pastor Dahl has requested:

- 1 day off per month; if not used now, these days can be used later / he will be paid at the end of Pastor Kelly’s leave for any unused days.
- \$300 per week extra compensation for extra work. This precedence was set in the past when Pastor Wasberg was gone for 10 weeks. (He was alone for a full year between Pastor Belgum-Blad and Pastor Wasberg and stated that he’d not received extra compensation. Pastor Wasberg has been gone a lot on military duty and the remaining staff has had to carry a larger load.)

Pastor Dahl stated that the Planning and Personnel Committee's recommendations are unacceptable. After some discussion, Pastor Bob stated that:

- "due to the spirit of delay, lack of positive approach, and no consultation along the way, he will not accept any additional time off or any additional compensation for the duration of deployment."

The Planning and Personnel Committee will meet again to come up with a new plan. The extra compensation will be retro-active from April 1.

Corlys Knutson closed the meeting with prayer. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Nordby,  
Council secretary