

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

October 11, 2011

Members Present: Doug Mattson, Loraine Haugen, Elizabeth Slotsve, Michelle Larson, Mark Westereng, Brandyn Hendrickson, Wendy Keller, Pam Schmidt, Pastor Ken Nelson, Pastor Mike Pancoast, and Pastor Kari Pancoast. Special Guest: Matthew Hom

Pastor Ken opening the meeting with a devotion from Ruth, Chapter 1, followed by a short exercise asking the council to list the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for our congregation.

President Doug Mattson called the meeting to order. The minutes from the September meeting were approved as read.

Discussion centered around the possibility of having a congregational meeting on Sunday, November 6, between services. This meeting is needed for a congregational vote regarding three items: authorization of the \$400,000 SBA loan, to encumber the Parish Center and to make adjustments to the current operating budget for flood recovery costs. A motion was made by Barb with a second by Brandyn to set up and facilitate this meeting. Motion carried.

Pastor Ken reported that the Capital Fund Campaign is still front and center. He estimates that flood recovery costs will exceed \$600,000 and it needs to be determined as to whether or not dollars donated to this campaign may be used to offset these costs. He mentioned the following costs at this time: heating and cooling system--\$300,000; asbestos abatement--\$50,000; elevator repairs--\$50,000; flood-cleanup costs--\$115,000; new phone system--\$6,000; and new windows to the parsonage--\$100,000. Barb noted that the goal is to complete the Advanced Gift Phase this fall and resume with the Community Gifts Phase in the spring.

Brandyn updated the council on various property issues. The elevator work has been set up to be completed on October 24. Holmes Electric will take care of the electrical work for the elevator. The bid for the parsonage windows came in at \$93,000 and the windows have been ordered. It may take a couple of months before they get here. The asbestos abatement cost amounted to approximately \$50,000. The new phone system through Ebel is in place. The first phase of the heating and cooling system bill has been received from Mowbray for \$179,000. Mowbray will be in the process of pressure testing the end of the week, with the system being operational by the end of next week.

Mark reported that even though the attendance numbers are low, the giving numbers have been good. For the month of September, giving amounted to \$34,643.50, in comparison to September 2010, which amounted to \$28,416.78. Pastor Ken stated that the church has

received approximately \$48,000 to use for flood repair, while the foundation donated an additional \$22,000. Of those dollars, approximately \$48,000 has not been spent.

Two new custodians have been hired. Steve Wing will be the full-time custodian, while Chuck Olson was hired as the weekend custodian.

Wendy reported that the congregational life committee met and made a list of immediate, intermediate, and long-term needs for the church facility. Loraine provided two sketches of possible layouts for both the basement of the church and the basement of the parish center. Much discussion followed regarding these possible changes and how they might tie into the new proposed facility. There is special concern for both the quilters group and the youth group. Pastor Kari suggested that we try to figure out a way to use the space in a temporary manner so that these groups, along with others, can get back on track. Work will begin to line up volunteers to help prepare these rooms for future use.

Pastor Mike reported that a worship committee is tentatively set for Tuesday, October 18, to discuss among other things, the possibility of purchasing the projector(s) for the main sanctuary. He has received a great deal of positive feedback regarding the use of the projector during the worship services.

Pastor Mike stated that Sunday School, Wednesday School, and Confirmation are all up and running. The cross-generational Sunday School is back in place with parents participating. There is concern regarding attendance, but the pastoral staff feels that this is a great way to provide a faith-based curriculum that can be used in a portable manner throughout the week.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Larson, Secretary