

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting Minutes

November 8, 2011

Members Present: Pastor Ken Nelson, Pastor Mike Pancoast, Pastor Kari Pancoast, Barb Solberg, Mark Westereng, Doug Mattson, Loraine Haugen, Pam Schmidt, Brandyn Hendrickson, Michelle Larson, and Wendy Keller.

The opening conversation centered around the thought "If ever there was a good time to flood...this might be it." We have been told that Minot is growing in spite of...not shrinking because of this terrible flood. Pastor Ken shared the projected enrollment and growth for the Minot Public Schools provided to him by Superintendent Mark Vollmer.

Pastor Ken shared the SWOT responses from the council members during the October 11 meeting. We listed what we felt were First Lutheran's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Discussion centered around the age of our congregation and the sense that our church doesn't seem to be friendly and open to our members and visitors. The entrance area to the main church is a main concern.

Pastor Ken opened the meeting with a devotion from Revelation 2:1-6. Revelation is the first of seven prophesies addressed to Greek cities where the church had been planted by the first apostles, primarily Paul.

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

Doug informed the council that Jeanne Sovak inquired as to whether or not we had considered getting a loan from another source other than SBA. She was concerned about the 2 ½ -3% 30-year loan. Doug stated that there have definitely been individuals not happy with the SBA, but he feels that Jennifer will do a good job of taking care of this entire process. We will continue with the SBA loan, per the congregational vote during the special meeting on November 6.

Loraine asked where we are at with the remodeling of the church basement. Barb suggested the possibility of putting the quilts into one of the rental houses. Pastor Mike stated that the houses will probably be used throughout most of the winter for LDR. Pastor Kari suggested that the congregational life committee put together a proposal regarding the long-term basement flood recovery for the annual meeting, along with visiting with Darwin Langseth or the architect.

Pastor Ken reported that we have a time frame for the resumption of the Capital Campaign. It is set tentatively for the beginning of January to resume the advanced gifts phase. Pastor Ken asked the council whether or not we should adopt a resolution asking the Campaign Committee to release funds for the heating and cooling system and asbestos mitigation before the completion of this campaign. Mark made a motion that the council ask the Campaign Committee to pay the bills for the heating and cooling system and elevator repair up to \$350,000 with a second from Brandyn. Motion carried.

Windows will, hopefully, be installed soon in the parsonage. Work will begin as soon as the windows are received from Marvin Windows, through Rolac Construction.

No report from the property committee other than the afore-mentioned flood recovery issues.

Pastor Ken informed the council that the weekend custodian has resigned. Steve, the full-time custodian, requested that we consider hiring someone for more than the few hours originally worked by this part-time position. Our current budget has already allocated the dollars needed for this.

Mark reported that attendance is down, but donations are up once again. Doug asked if the church experienced any savings due to the fact that we didn't hold services here throughout the summer. Mark stated he would check into this.

Pastor Mike mentioned that a decision hasn't been made regarding the purchase of projector(s) for the main sanctuary. He would like to see another projector installed on the other side and possibly purchase additional software made specifically for worship. He will gather some numbers regarding cost for a future council meeting.

Loraine asked that we consider "thanking" Julie Benson for going above and beyond her job description. Pastor Ken will take care of this for the annual meeting.

On Wednesday, December 21st, there will be a year-end gathering at the parsonage for the church staff and the council members.

Pastor Ken asked the council permission to include information regarding the City and Country Health Clinic matching grant offered by St. Joseph's Community Foundation in the church bulletin. It was also suggested that special envelopes be made available to those who would like to provide matching funds for this grant.

Pastor Mike informed the council that the airport is hiring and those that are hired receive free flights for \$50 per year. He applied and was hired to work approximately 19 hours a week. He asked if the council had any reservations regarding this and none were voiced.

Doug noted that John Mercer asked the council to write a letter to the governor requesting to have the water diverted to the east of the city of Minot which would provide better flood protection. Discussion followed.

The meeting was closed with a prayer from Pastor Ken.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Larson, Secretary