

First Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Zion Lutheran Church

August 9, 2011

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

Others in Attendance: Julie Benson, JoAnn Linrud, Ryan Ackerman, Doug Larson, Ron LaCount, John Sinn, Reggie Morelli, Bonnie Brekke, Severin Brekke, and Bill Mowbray.

Pastor Ken called the meeting of the church council and capital campaign committee members to order at 5:55.

Doug Larson of Davison Larson Associates asked the group how they wanted to proceed with the building project. He realizes that the uncertainty of cost and what will happen in the future with flood control is a major concern. Ryan Ackerman stated that the flood control issue will be a very long process and it will be difficult to answer many of the questions that have been raised.

It was asked if it would be smart to change the original building plan and place the front door on the north side of the church. It was also suggested that we could take out the parish center and then build in that direction. The existing parish center has shallow lower floor areas and doesn't tie into the church. Building below grade is not considered to be a good idea. Pastor Ken stated that building permits would not be a problem even if we make some changes to the plan. Barb asked if there is any concern that the foundation may crumble away and Ron stated that the basic structure needs some work, but is still in very good shape. It was also asked if we should look at an alternative plan like building elsewhere and Ron again stated that the structure is fine even though the church is settling to the west.

Liz asked whether or not we should wait on this project based on what city decisions will be made. Ryan stated that First Lutheran will always be there and that we should continue ahead. Liz is concerned as to whether the congregation will have the money to give to the project, while Doug Mattson stated that the longer we wait, the higher the cost. Ron stated that Mowbray and Sons is using two rooms in Luther Hall for the boilers.

Reggie feels that the congregation is still confident about this project and that business is booming in Minot. Barb stated that we have had 2.4 million dollars in pledges from 49 different families. The smaller contributions are yet to be sought after. Since the basement of the church is totally gutted, Pastor Kari asked if we could get some input from the architect on how to change the plans, rather than redo everything the same. Doug Larson stated that the old plans for the parish center are available so could be put into Auto Cad and have changes made to them.

Doug Larson senses that we feel that we need to come out strong and send the message to the congregation that we are going to continue on with the building project. We are on Doug's work schedule and could possibly have building plans by October 1. Pastor Kari mentioned that she would like to see a large play space built into this plan.

Ron asked whether or not there might be any buying opportunities for any other houses and Pastor Ken has asked Duane Peterson to check on this. Pastor Ken then asked what the timetable for resumption of the capital campaign might be.

Pastor Ken said the goal is to be back in the church by September 11 with one rally service. Doug Mattson feels that we should have a congregational meeting that day to disseminate information. Liz asked if we should ask the congregation if we should continue the capital campaign at this meeting. Doug then stated if we took any kind of a vote, it would be nonbinding vote, but we could get a sense of what the congregation wants. Reggie then stated that we are not forcing anyone to contribute and we have many who want this campaign to continue. JoAnn noted that we need to get information out to the congregation before the meeting.

Pastor Ken then stated that he senses a desire to continue with the advanced gifts phase of the campaign. We need to figure out where the campaign was left at before the flood and then continue on after Labor Day.

After a five minute recess, Doug reopened the meeting with only the council in attendance.

Pastor Ken reported that the total giving to the church through the month of July is approximately \$45,000, which is twice the amount given to that point last year. Some of these dollars are special flood gifts and those gifts will be segregated.

The folding machine will be purchased by the end of August, with the bill coming due in September.

Doug asked that the bills for the line of credit and money owed to Ron LaCount be taken care of by the end of the week.

Brandyn reported that the bid for the elevator repair is \$52,750.13. Liz made a motion to go ahead with this repair, with a second from Pam. Motion carried.

After much discussion, a motion was made by Michelle with a second by Barb to replace the windows throughout the parsonage with a maximum budget of \$100,000. Motion carried.

Pastor Ken reported that the Foundation has donated \$22,000 to the general fund to be used for carpet, paint, tables and chairs for the entire basement of the parish center. Loraine stated that this will be completed as an Eagle Scout project under the supervision of Gary Wenstad. Western Paint and Glass will provide the paint for just over their cost. Milford Gandrud will help replace the walls.

Julie Benson reported that September 18 is set for Rally Day. She hopes to have a paint party before the carpet is installed. She also discussed the possibility of asking families to "Adopt a Room" and decorate the classroom as they see fit.

Bill Mowbray informed the group that demolition has begun and the boilers will be installed into two rooms in Luther Hall. He stated that things are going well and that grant monies might be available through the government.

Rental houses #1 and 3 are vacant at this time. Lutheran Disaster Services may use these, but Pastor Ken isn't sure at this time.

SRT scoped things out regarding the phone system and stated that the brain system will need to be replaced.

Lorraine reported that there will be a congregational picnic after Rally Day on September 18.

Pastor Mike stated that the worship committee may adjust the worship times since there are overlaps between the services and the adult forum and Sunday school times. Times suggested include 8:30 instead of 8:45 and 11:00 instead of 10:45 for the services, while adult forum and Sunday school times would be at 9:45. Wayne Schempp, director of the cathedral choir was concerned about how the earlier times might affect their Sunday morning run-through. Brandyn made a motion, with a second from Liz, to accept the new times. Motion carried. Pastor Mike also informed the group that they will be incorporating a cross-generational family forum into Sunday morning services.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Larson, Secretary