

**First Lutheran Church**  
**Congregational Council Meeting Minutes**  
**December 20, 2022, 6:30 p.m. FLC Dining Room**

“Renewed by Christ in Word, water, bread, and wine, we go in peace to serve our community and the world”

Members present: Pastor Chris Culuris, Michelle Doose, Steve Erickson, Harry Hunt, Bill Kautt, Dave Kennedy, Garrett Paul, Pat Pehrson (new member), Mary Spear, Randy Stuckey, John Sylvester, Grace Timm (new youth member), Nancy Timm, Michelle Twait, Dawn Wenner (new member)

Members absent: Sarah Chambers, Callie Voeltz

1. Call to Order: Council President, Garrett Paul at 6:37 p.m.
2. Devotions: John Sylvester
3. Approval of the agenda: M/S/C
4. Approval of the November 15, 2022 Minutes: M/S/C
5. Welcome to new council members present at the meeting: Pat Pehrson, Dawn Wenner, and Grace Timm. Other new council members not present at the meeting are Aaron Banks, Ruth Johnson, and Tobias Twait (youth member)
6. Pastor’s Report for November: Pastor Chris Culuris
  - a. Participated in the following activities for October: Hospital visits: 1, Nursing home visits: 4, Assisted Living/Office/Others: 29, Preached Wednesday Advent Service
  - b. Events: Youth Group at Trinity, Ten Commandments Hike with Boy Scouts of America in Rochester, Attended the musical “Shrek” at SPS, Preached at the Thanksgiving Eve Community Service at Trinity, Served at the Soup and Chili Cook-off and was the auctioneer for the Desert Auction
  - c. Committee meetings: Altar Guild, CCM, Worship & Arts, Finance & Stewardship, Executive, Staff Support
  - d. Other meetings: Strategic Planning Task Force, Finance Budget
  - e. Church office will be closed Dec. 26 - Jan. 1. Karen will be present in the mornings to receive end of year donations.
  - f. Upcoming vacation time:
    - i. December 26-January 1<sup>st</sup>; Pastor Heather Culuris covering worship on January 1<sup>st</sup>
7. President’s Report: Garrett Paul
  - a. Reported that the Congregational meeting on December 4 was a success. He said there have been a number of people who have increased their pledge to the church since the meeting and he will continue to ask for an increase in pledges and for new pledges.
  - b. Expressed thanks to the congregational council and committees for their work.
8. Treasurer’s Report:
  - a. Jim Stenson was absent so there was no Treasurer’s report.
  - b. Harry Hunt reported on the work of the Finance Committee. He said there is a deficit in the budget as of the end of November. The committee is awaiting year end giving and pledges before they provide exact budget numbers for the end of this year’s budget and the 2023 budget.
  - c. Someone from the Finance Committee will make a presentation on the congregation’s financial status at the January Congregational meeting.

## 9. Committee Reports

### a. Finance Committee

- i. Motion to approve Housing Allowance of \$16,701 for Pastor Chris for 2023.
- ii. Motion Carried
- iii. Motion that First Lutheran Church not pay for staffs' spouses health insurance to take effect February 1, 2023.
- iv. Motion Carried

### b. Worship & Arts

- i. Michelle Doose proposed that we begin to use name tags during worship to help identify members.
- ii. Encourage those who still have permanent name tags to wear them and she will look into having name tags made for those who would like them.
- iii. Information about name tags will be included in a newsletter article and on the church website.
- iv. Garrett Paul expressed a desire to have a children's sermon every Sunday instead of the one Sunday a month that Pastor Chris gives a children's sermon.
- v. Pastor Chris is willing to give children's sermons more than once a month but he thought that having a sermon geared towards children on a designated Sunday of the month might involve more families on that Sunday.

### c. Building & Grounds

- i. A community member inquired about renting space at the church for her daycare business. She would need a fairly large amount of space to run her daycare.
- ii. Motion to deny request for room rentals for a daycare center.
- iii. Motion Carried

## 10. Strategic Planning Task Force Report

- a. Information was gathered from Council members on what they think, wish and wonder for First Lutheran church at a meeting on December 16. A survey was also developed with questions about and is being distributed to all congregational members.
- b. The Thought Leaders will meet on January 29 to discuss the findings of the survey and in person meeting.

## 11. Unfinished Business

- a. Council liaisons should notify their respective committees that annual reports are now due and should be submitted to the church office.

## 12. New Business

- a. Harry Hunt asked that we resume kneeling at the communion rail for Communion. For those who can't kneel, it would be announced that they could stand at the rail.
- b. Recognized Harry Hunt, Bill Kautt, John Sylvester, and Michelle Twait as out-going council members and thanked them for their service.

## 13. Motion to adjourn at 7:42 p.m. Seconded and Carried

## 14. Council Christmas Party followed meeting

Next Church Council meeting will be held on January 17, 2022 at 6:30 p.m.

Devotions for January: Mary Spear