

**First Lutheran Church
Congregation Council Meeting Minutes
January 19, 2021 6:30 p.m. via Zoom**

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

Members Present: Bill Kautt, Pastor Bill Nelsen, Cindy Nadeau, Michelle Doose, Garrett Paul, Mary Spear, John Sylvester, Harry Hunt, Bethany Valentini, Nancy Timm, Steve Erickson, Kim Bovee, David Marlow, Michelle Twait, Raina Roemhildt

Members Absent: Mary Thompson

1. Call to Order: Bill Kautt at 6:32 p.m.

2. Devotions: Michelle Doose

3. Approval of the Agenda: M/S/C

4. Approval of December 15, 2020 Council Minutes M/S/C

5. Pastor’s Report: Interim Pastor Bill Nelsen

- A. Today at 4:30 our church bells rang for national remembrance of those who died in 2020 of COVID-19.
- B. What I have been busy with:
 - 1. Funerals/ Memorial services via technology
 - January 14- Mort and Dorothy Eliason family
 - January 18- Paul Baumgartener family
 - 2. Special worship services
 - Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Baptism Day, Special Message relating to Jan. 6, Martin Luther King Jr. Sunday, Reconciling In Christ Sunday with special guest Kari Lipke.
 - 3. Planning for Lent- Ash Wednesday February 17 Zoom service with the opportunity to do own ashes.
 - 4. Committee meetings, lots of phone calls and in person meetings
 - 5. Confirmation class- in person starting Jan. 20
 - 6. Pastor’s report for the Annual Report
 - 7. Pastor’s Discretionary Fund- more than 1,870 additional dollars added. The fund has helped 8 specific families. I have reached out to the school district to identify families in need. Eight thousand dollars will go to them, there is still 5,000 in our fund for needs arising in our congregation.
 - 8. Small group meetings and planning

6. President’s Report: Bill Kautt

Working on getting ready for the January annual meeting, worked with Pastor Bill on mailings to the congregation, working on technology, participated in two small group meetings between Christmas and New Year

7. Treasurer’s Report: Harry Hunt

- A. Audit committee met and we are good. Karen did a great job.
- B. Building Fund: we owe \$1, 295,193. This is not part of our budget. We pay 10, 779 a month for mortgage- it is up to date

8. Organizational Items

- A. Meeting Day and Time: Traditional 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 has been changed to 6:30 start with Zoom. Motion to continue meeting on 3rd Tuesday at 6:30. S/C
- B. Devotions Sign Up: Members volunteered, schedule will be sent out
- C. Election of Officers: Short discussion to change title of Vice President to President - elect. The President-elect would have a year to work with the current President with the expectation that the President-elect consider becoming the Council President the following year.

Nominations were received:

- 1. President: Bill Kautt was nominated and accepted nomination. A motion was made to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Bill Kautt as Council President. S/C
- 2. President-Elect: Garrett Paul was nominated and accepted nomination. A motion was made to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Garrett Paul as President-elect. S/C
- 3. Secretary: Cindy Nadeau was nominated and accepted nomination. A motion was made to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Cindy Nadeau as secretary. S/C
- 4. Treasurer: Harry Hunt was nominated and accepted nomination. A motion was made to cast a unanimous ballot to elect Harry Hunt as Treasurer. S/C

9. Informational Reports

- A. Health Advisory Team: Met yesterday. In person confirmation will start on January 20 since school is also starting in person. Outdoor youth activities are ok- sledding, etc. In person worship- trying Zoom Ash Wednesday service and Good Friday. Still thinking beyond that for in person. Maybe some outdoor options for Spring. Hoping vaccines can happen before in person services. Exploring the option of offering special services around vaccinations as we have done with blood drives- maybe being a vaccination site.
- B. Contact Information: Bill has most committee assignments, emails and phone numbers.
- C. Lifelong Learning Charter: Motion to accept the Lifelong Learning Committee charter as presented S/C

10. Unfinished Business:

- A. Budget: Harry Hunt presented the budget that will be presented at the annual meeting. Everyone will have copies of details- using a sheet that should be easy to read.
 - Actual budget and what was spent
 - Special gifts and PPP loan
 - Committees spent less
 - Benevolence increase
 - Maintenance
 - Salaries
 - Presenting a deficit budget. \$125,000 surplus is in reserve to pay for needs like organ repair. Challenge to congregation to increase membership and pledges.Motion to recommend this budget to the congregation at the January meeting- S/C
- B. Small Group Meetings: Two very good meetings were held between Christmas and New Year, ten in one and 12 in the other.

A letter was sent out offering opportunities for small groups on Thursdays and Fridays through February. Also a special meeting for our senior high youth. Group members

will discuss five key questions. Council members at each meeting will serve as observers and note takers.

11. New Business

- A. Congregational Meeting- January 21, 2021: Ballot is set for GACAC, SW MN Synod Assembly and Nominating Committee.
Dr. Keith Stelter will give a short update on Health Advisory Team
- B. Cemetery Committee Recommendation- Gordon Long for 3-year term: Seven members, Pastor, council representative, Five others with 3 year rotating terms.
Barb Haack reappointed- will be voted on at annual meeting. Approve Gordon for now. M/S/C

12. Good of the Order

13. Lord's Prayer

14. Adjourn: 8:18pm

Next meeting is scheduled for February 15, 2021