

Zion Lutheran Church
1000 Washington Avenue
Cloquet, MN. 55720
Church Council minutes November 14, 2017

Present: Pastor Loren Anderson-Bauer, President Dorine Houck, Rhonda Johnson, Cari Terrio-Johnson, Jody Ackers, Bjorn Anderson, Jason Southerton, Jeff Wefelmeyer, Ruth Jorgenson
Absent: Sheryl Monette

Pastor Loren opened with a devotional from a book of Keltic prayers.

Motion by Rhonda, seconded by Jason to approve the agenda with the addition of a council gathering during the holidays, motion carried.

Jodi moved to approve the minutes from October 10th, seconded by Kari, motion carried.

Financial summary report was presented by Kari, October saw an increase in giving. Having five Sundays helped along with the proceeds from the meatball dinner. The budget will be ready to be presented at the annual meeting. Stewardship and finance will be meeting December 5th. Mike Mills will be asked to attend the council meeting on the 12th of December to discuss the proposed 2018 budget needs.

Pastor Loren's report was distributed. The table talks have been going well and useful. He will be having a few more group table talks as well as a few one on one sessions. Several nominations have been received for the transition team. Pastor would like a few more nominations so will ask for more by December 1st dead-line. Visitation of home-bound is a priority. Pastor will seek out additional parishioners that are home-bound. Rhonda and Jeff are interested in the visitation. Rhonda will work with Pastor Loren on a "team" of trained visitors. Zion has three traveling communion kits.

Call process update – 7-10 individuals are needed for the transition team. The team should be a representation of the congregation; young, old, married, single, family, retired, etc. The nominations for the team dead line is the 1st of December. Three council members; Rhonda, Jodi and Jason will review the nominations and make a suggested "team" to present to council on the 12th for approval.

Committee Reports:

Called to Care - The Cloquet Community Garden which is located on the North-East side of Zion's church property has been put to rest for the winter. The first year of active gardening was successful. United Way is an active participant on the garden board as well as church members and non-members. Called to Care served dinner for Snaze, this past month. A suggestion was made to look into replacing the electric oven/stove with gas. This will be deferred to property regarding the gas line. Visitation falls under the umbrella of Called To

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Care ministry. Rhonda is willing to spear head this branch. Ruth and Jodi met with Pastor Loren to set in motion Christmas donations for the local shelters, missions and rehabilitation facilities. Jody will put the notice in the December newsletter regarding the needed items.

Christian Education - Snaze is wrapping up their fall 8 week session and will resume in February with another eight week session. Spark on Sunday continues for any children attending the Sunday morning service. Voyageurs Lutheran Camping ministry enrollment is open for the 2018 camping season.

Endowment has not met.

Hunger and Justice - After a lengthy discussion the council felt it necessary to have each committee and sub-committee have "owner-ship" and council representation. The Hunger and Justice will be considered a sub-committee of Called To Care. This sub-committee will be responsible for informing the council of their activities. They are currently raising funds for the ELCA barn-yard program.

Worship and Music – worked on the schedule for the upcoming holiday season. A Thanksgiving service is scheduled for 6:30 on Wednesday. Advent services will be at noon, no evening services are planned. December 3rd St. Nicolas will be at the service, December 10th the children's program and a musical choral, December 17th Bishop Tom will be preaching. Christmas Eve service will be at 2:00 and 4:00, with the last advent service at noon on the 24th.

A Thanksgiving dinner is being organized by the area D.A.V. and held at Zion. Dave Johnson is assisting with the D.A.V. group. The Fond-du-lac nurses group will be decorating the fellowship hall. A need to decorate the remainder of the church for Christmas was discussed. What committee or ministry should be responsible to see that the "decoration" of the church be done for the special holidays and celebrations?

Personnel – Met last week and will meet quarterly. Pastor Loren will schedule a brief meeting with the cleaning person on a weekly basis to improve communications and concerns. A motion was made by Jeff seconded by Bjorn to increase (Janice) the office administrator's hours by three hours a week, beginning immediately, motion carried. Jody will review the hours she is budgeted to work in the office. The NE ELCA synod guidelines for sick leave does not spell out if the sick leave can be used by the employee for sick family members. 2018 will be the year to review the employee manual, and up-date job descriptions as the manual is several years old.

Property – Jason is unable to attend the property meetings. Pastor Loren instructed the property committee to keep Jason "in-the-loop". Concern over the ceiling tiles that are stored in the fellowship hall was raised. Currently tiles are being installed in one of the down stairs class rooms. Finding a contractor to finish the job has been frustrating but needs to be done.

Stewardship and finance – a pledge card was sent out to all Zion members, due to be returned this Sunday. It was suggested that a “stewardship fair” be held in January. This would give the various groups and committees the opportunity to share what they do and recruit new members.

Old Business:

According to our by-laws Zion needs to have a nominating committee and an audit committee with members serving for one, two and three-year terms. A motion was made and seconded for members to the audit committee as follows: Kyle Terrio-Johnson a one-year term, Jennifer Graham a three-year term. Jeff Wefelmeyer for a one-year term on the nominating committee and Naomi Palmquist for a two- year term, motion carried.

The two vacancies; two-year term on audit committee and three-year term for the nominating committee will be sought, Bjorn and Jodi will assist with the search.

Organ’s 90th birthday – More information was needed to approve Dr. Vicki’s request for funding a 90th birthday celebration for our organ. Motion to approve the dismantling of the cloth covering the organ pipes was made by Jason, seconded by Jeff, motion carried.

New Business:

Social Hall use policy – Property will be asked to set up a task force to update the building use policy and present it to council. Jodi is willing to assist. The request for a group to use the fellowship hall for a yoga class was denied until a facility use policy is updated and a waiver form is current.

Membership email list – The emails of members is not to be shared. Any committee needing to send a notice to Zion members will need to use the church email address. Church related notices can be sent via-Facebook from the office.

Council holiday gathering – to be discussed December 12th at the next council meeting.

Council closed with the Lord’s prayer.

Ruth A. Jorgenson, Secretary

