

# MT. ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES

February 19, 2017

## **Council members/staff:**

President Aaron Adams, Vice President Paula Saunders, Pastor Erin Nelson, Scott Jahns, Jodi Becker, Melissa Hines, Henry Okerlund, Ellie Johnson, David Miller, Lynell Nemitz, Jim Gelina, Erin Prawalsky and Jason Gigure.

Guests: Robin Arneson, Joan Christopher, Katie Jones, Floyd Foslien and Jim Eral

Excused: Linda Yde, and Olive Olson.

**Call To Order:** President Aaron Adams called the meeting to order at 12:34 PM at Mt. Zion. Pastor Erin Nelson presented a 411 on ELCA and Lutheranism. As this is the 500th year of the Reformation, each month, Pastor will explain an aspect of our Lutheran Heritage. Pastor led the group in prayer and lit a candle to remind us that God is present in this place. Pastor Erin read Psalms 77. President Aaron stated a Housekeeping rule of stating your full name to assist the Secretary.

**Approval of Agenda:** Add under Old Business: Electronic Giving. Add under New Business: Publications. President Aaron asked for approval of the Agenda as corrected.

Scott Jahns /Jim Gelina

Moved/Second/Carried (M/S/C)

**APPOINTMENTS:** President Aaron asked for a motion to appoint Joan Christopher as Financial Secretary, Robin Arneson as Treasurer, and Katie Jones as Council Secretary for a one year term.

**Motion:** Scott Jahns made a motion to approve the appointment of the 3 positions for a One Year Term.

**Second:** Jodi Becker seconds the motion.

No additional Discussion

Verbal vote requested by President Aaron Adams.

**Motion Carried.**

## **STAFF REPORTS**

**Council Secretary:** Katie Jones

Minutes were e-mailed. Katie explained a reminder email will be sent on the Sunday before the normal second Tuesday of the month meeting.

**Financial Secretary:** Joan Christopher - Written report

Joan reported the following:

-Giving was over budget for the Month: \$298.00

-Giving is over Budget for the Year: \$298.00

-Mission Investment Fund Loan Balance is \$677,850.74 as of 02/01/2017

-\$38,402.07 has been received for the 2017 campaign and \$9,700 for 2018.

**Treasurer:** Robin Arneson - Written report

Robin reported the following:

-Expenses were over budget for the month \$892.02

-Expenses are under budget year to date \$892.02

-Checkbook balance as of 01/31/2017 is (\$2,482.96)

**Pastor:** Pastor Erin Nelson - Written Report

Membership Adjustments and Pastoral Acts: Transfers In: 0 Transfers Out: 0 Baptism 5 Deaths 0

Adults 276 Youth 88 Total Baptized Membership 364 Associate Members: 10

**Church Secretary:** Anna Peterson

President Aaron sent around the March calendar for updates. The deadline for the newsletter is usually the Thursday after the meeting. If you have anything, please turn it in tomorrow as the deadline was last week.

**Approve Staff Reports:**

David Miller/Erin Prawalsky

M/S/C

## **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Christian Education and Activity:** Jodi Becker & Melissa Hines- Emailed report(See page 9)

- Angie Adams will continue as Superintendent.
- Vacation Bible School will be July 9-14 Angie and Aaron Adams will chair VBS. Pastor has contacted Luther Point Bible Camp about the dates. Have not heard from the other churches if they will be a part of VBS or not this year.

**Youth Deacon:** Henry Okerlund & Ellie Johnson

Nothing to Report

**Finance:** Scott Jahns & Jim Gelina

-No Report

**Property:** Jason Gigure & David Miller - No Report

-David stated more people are needed to sign up for snow shoveling. Pastor said it is on a clipboard in the Information Center and she has announced it during the announcements during worship.

**Outreach and Social Media:** Olive Olson & Lynell Nemitz- No Report

Next Meeting In March

**Music and Worship:** Linda Yde & Erin Prawalsky - No Report

-Pastor added that everything is planned through August.

**WELCA:** Joan Christopher

Joan reported the Circles are meeting.

**Approve Board and Committee Reports:**

Jim Gelina/Paula Saunders

M/S/C

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **Custodian Update:**

Pastor Erin reported that the custodian will now be an employee instead of a Contract Employee. The custodian was given a 1% pay raise which all the other employees also received. There will be an increase from 5 hours to 6 hours. Also, 40 flex hours for the year were added to be used at Pastor Erin's discretion. Pastor will also be the primary contact for the custodian. Pastor also wrote up a new agreement with the custodian about what should happen once a week, twice a week, once a month and even less. The last update was 2014.

### **Electronic Giving:**

Update was given regarding the offering cards. Joan mentioned there are 20 members who give electronically. There was an agreement that electronic giving should be promoted and encouraged. Pastor Erin talked about having an I-pad station for an Electronic giving option.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Audit Committee**

President Aaron called upon Floyd Foslein. Floyd explained the work of the Audit Committee. How they go over all the checkbooks, income and expenses for Mt. Zion. Floyd also asked for anyone that has a checkbook or any holding account to give the bookwork to any of the three on the Audit Committee by the end of the month. President Aaron asked for a motion to appoint Jim Eral to the Audit Committee.

**Motion:** Scott Jahns made the motion to appoint Jim Eral to the audit committee for a 3 year term.

**Second:** David Miller seconds the motion.

Discussion: Jim Eral would join Floyd Foslein(3rd Year) and Daryl Jones(2nd Year).

Verbal vote requested by President Aaron Adams.

**Motion Carried.**

### **Contingency Fund/2016 Budget Shortfall:**

Part of the Capital Appeal is to Budget \$5,000 in an Operational Contingency Fund. Due to the shortfall in the budget in 2016, there may be a need for these funds in the checkbook account. Scott Jahns expressed concern about approving any transfer until a plan is in place. Joan stated with some of the electronic giving that came in, the checkbook is technically not short. Scott request that Finance would come up with a policy for March meeting if the transfer could wait? Pastor said it would okay.

### **NETworks - Review for 2018 Commitment:**

President Aaron wanted everyone to know this is a major decision that will need to be voted on this year. Pastor stated 5-7 youth regularly attend NETworks from Mt. Zion. The council may bring this to the congregation for a vote as it was a congregational decision to become a member of NETworks. Robin is a member of the NETworks board and Judy Meincke is the Secretary. Pastor Erin usually attends the meetings. President Aaron will ask for copies of the minutes to share at the next meeting.

### **Stewardship Drive:**

Pastor Erin is asking the council to think of members of the church that would like to be involved with the 2017 stewardship drive. She would like 3 or 4 members to be on the Stewardship Drive appointed by May for the Fall drive.

### **Property Maintenance Discussion:**

- Jason brought up that the Lower Level carpet needs to be cleaned. It was brought up to clean it after VBS. Renting a carpet cleaner and have either the custodian do it or a member do it.
- Jason also stated there were problems with the electricity having surges. Baldwin Telecom came out and they discovered Xcel has surges which causes problems with the computers. They suggested battery backup. Jason said that is about \$250. Scott Jahns asked Jason to contact Xcel to see why there are surges and if they can fix it. Will still obtain the battery backup.
- Facility Use Fee was discussed at length. Pastor reminded everyone the remodel was also done to be able to offer a space for non-profits for free as community outreach. Pastor is drafting new facility use guidelines and fees which be presented at a future meeting.

### **Blessing Box:**

Habitat Mission trip people will construct this. It is like a Little Free Library but will be used to have some snacks and personal hygiene items in it. Pastor stated that during the summer, she has about 4 transients a week stopping by asking for help. Pastor said it would be placed up by the building in the Southeast corner. There was some concern regarding placing this box on the premise including; Security, vandalism, and overuse by youth passing in the area. Pastor said if it does not work it, it could be removed. Box would only be stocked during the summer months by volunteer donations. This was passed by the Worship and Music Board along with the Executive Committee in the past. Due to some concerns of the council, President Aaron brought it up for a vote. He requested a motion to approve the installation of the Blessing box.

**Motion:** Ellie Johnson made the motion to install the blessing box on the Southeast corner of the Church.

**Second:** Melissa Hines seconds the motion.

No additional Discussion. Verbal vote requested by President Aaron Adams.

There was one "No" vote and one Abstention. **Motion Carried.**

### **Youth Grants:**

President Aaron called upon Jodi for the list of the youth for the scholarships. The 5 youth are Kelsie Hines, Lydia Saathoff, Alex Arneson, Michaela Arneson and Parker Jahns. President Aaron asked for a motion to approve the 5 youth and the awarding of \$400 scholarships each.

**Motion:** Jim Gelina made the motion to approve the selected youth to receive the Youth Grants.

**Second:** Jodi Becker seconds the motion.

No additional Discussion Verbal vote requested by President Aaron Adams. **Motion Carried.**

### **Publication of Monthly Council Minutes:**

They are posted in the Information Center. President Aaron apologized for date on the December Minutes. Announcement will be placed in the church bulletin that the new minutes are posted.

### **COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF OUR COMMUNITY**

President Aaron thanked everyone for being on the council. Scott Jahns would like thank you notes to be sent to the outgoing council. President Aaron read a thank you note from Hudson Hot Air Affair for use of the facility for the 5k.

### **ADJOURN**

**Next Meeting** is Tuesday, March 14, 2017 at 7:00 PM

Motion made to adjourn at 2:26 PM Ellie Johnson/Henry Okerlund M/S/C

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Jones Council Secretary

## **EDUCATION BOARD MINUTES:**

Meeting Minutes January 15, 2017 at 11:30AM

Present: Shelley, Amanda, Jodi, Gail, Laura, Pastor Erin

**Sunday School** – Angie will continue as Superintendent for 2017 unless someone else wants to. Shelley suggested we send a mailer to all Sunday School parents asking for someone to join with Angie this year so they can learn. Amanda suggested High School children could handle some of the roles, like craft Sundays. Shelley will contact Anna to get a mailer out.

**Kids' Club** – Still waiting to hear on the grant; they had more questions. There have been some illnesses, but staying consistently around a dozen children.

**Vacation Bible Study** – Scheduled for July 9 – 14. Luther Point has been notified.

Angie and Aaron Adams will lead

Pastor will hear from other Network churches on Monday if they are joining this summer. There could be up to 5 churches. We had some good helpers from the other churches last time. Still waiting to see if there will be a pre-school class this summer. Angie or Pastor will check with Carol and some of the older students.

Not sure when Habitat will fall, hopefully not the same week. Habitat has a meeting next Sunday.

**Grants** – The committee met earlier today. They are still waiting on some transcripts, so they haven't finalized their information yet. They will have the information done and to council for February meeting. The plan would be to disburse the grants right away when approved, but have the presentation be in the spring so more of the students could be at church.

**Other** – Change for Change should switch from Malawi Famine Relief to something else in March once the crops come up in Malawi. VBS is the best idea we have right now, but will make a final decision by March. Gail suggest we find a way to have more kids go outside the pews.

-Shelley will not be staying on the committee.

-Confirmation has been having good attendance, and the kids seem to be enjoying it.

-Game night has not been having a very large turnout. Will try just once a month starting February 12. Amanda will coordinate an "all-age" game time from 1-3, and then MS/HS students and over 50 adults can continue from 3-5.

Will adjust dates/times if that doesn't work. Laura and Pastor will talk to the older students to see if they can get more to join. Perhaps an email to "over 50" will help remind them.

Submitted by, Jodi Becker

## **PROPERTY BOARD MINUTES:**

No January Meeting

## **OUTREACH & SOCIAL MINISTRY BOARD MINUTES:**

No January Meeting

## **MUSIC & WORSHIP BOARD MINUTES:**

No January Meeting