

## **MT. ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES**

March 8, 2016

**COUNCIL MEMBERS/STAFF PRESENT:** Vice President Aaron Adams, Pastor Erin Nelson, Joan Christopher, Katie Jones, Shelley Hallen, Jodi Becker, Dennis O'Connell, Jason Gigure, Olive Olson, Jim Johnson, Scott Jahns, Linda Yde and Laura Gerdts.

**EXCUSED:** President Carl Meincke, Cameron Jahns, Einar Hanson, Sonja Johnson, and Robin Arneson.

**CALL TO ORDER:** Vice President Aaron Adams called the meeting to order at 7:02pm at Mt. Zion and asked Pastor Erin to lead a prayer. Pastor lit a candle to remind us that God is present in this place. The devotion was about receiving God's blessings Pastor Erin then read Ephesians 2:4-9. . A prayer was said. Vice President Aaron then asked for an approval of the Agenda.

Shelly Hallen/Dennis O'Connell  
Moved/Second/Carried.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

**COUNCIL SECRETARY:** Katie Jones. Katie emailed the meeting minutes of February 9, 2016 and a reminder email of tonight's meeting.

**FINANCIAL SECRETARY:** Joan Christopher

Written report.

Joan reported under budget for the month \$278.42

Under budget \$2,241.24 for the year.

71% of the 3-year goal of Time to Prosper of \$384,495 has been given.

Mission Investment Fund Loan Balance is \$712,580.74 as of 2-29-2016

Scott Jahns asked for someone to explain the Stock Sale.

Between Joan, Jim and Pastor, they explained the sale of stock.

**TREASURER:** Robin Arneson

Written report.

Over budget for the month \$705.02

Over budget year to date \$395.89

Checkbook balance as of 2-29 is \$8,828.24.

There was a question on why church maintenance was so high for February.

Will ask Robin when she returns.

Shelly asked if Robin had submitted an answer to the question that was brought up at the Annual Meeting about the Non-Budgeted items.

Pastor Erin will remind Robin of this.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Pastor submitted a written report.

Highlights:

Pastor attended 25 meetings in February along with other meetings:

2 pre baptism classes, 1 premarital class, 1 hospital visit, 1 personal counseling and St. Croix Conference.

0 vacation days used in February.

3 used out of 23 for 2016

1 Sick Day in February out of 13 for 2016.

0 Sundays used out of 4

Membership Adjustments and Pastoral Acts:

Baptism 1, conducted service at CCH, officiated at Schletz/Moore wedding.

Transfers In: 0,

Transfers Out: 1 Youth

Adults 278 Youth 76

Total Baptized Membership 354

Associate Members 11

### **ANNA'S UPDATES:**

Written report. Vice President Aaron sent around the April Calendar for updates.

Also, the deadline for April Newsletter is March 15 by noon.

Approve Staff Reports  
Jim Johnson/Shelley Hallen  
M/S/C

### **BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**BOARD FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND ACTIVITY:** Shelley Hallen and Jodi Becker

Shelly emailed the minutes of the February 21st meeting.

Highlights: Submission to the newsletter asking if for a Superintendent and for adult help at Kids Club. Angie will still assist with Superintendent activities. Also should list other opportunities in the newsletter.

The Youth Grant council concerns were addressed with Carol Gustafson stating one person stays on who then trains the others so there is some continuity. Amanda Stojan agreed to be on it again. Shelly also updated that a hard copy will be sent to all age appropriate youth. For the church library, Amanda and Angie talked to Kathy Hunter about passing the torch. Angie will write a book review and perhaps add student reviews. Amanda purchased \$100 in new books targeted to engage the elementary kids. Amanda took 2 kids from Kids Club to help shop at the Christian Bookstore. Review slips were made for kids to fill out after reading a book. Slips are placed in a tin for a periodic drawing of a prize. Angie is looking at the possibility of doing a story time when Sunday school is off and/or prior to Sunday School starting. Kids Club has a roster of 20 with an average of 13 per week. The growth came from inviting friends to the Christmas party and the new yard sign that is put out on Wednesdays. Reminders about Kids Club open to all elementary students and the need for volunteers was submitted for the newsletter and bulletin. Check Facebook for pics of the kids making paper hugs to mail to loved ones. Need a conflict policy, not just for Kids Club, but Sunday School also. Perhaps Judy can help us follow school guidelines, and the council can get something official for us.

VBS will be July 11-15. The Presbyterian Church will be joining in with students and financially, but probably no volunteers.

Holly is finishing up a brochure of summer activities.

There might be a Spring Garage Sale but the date is not set. The money raised would go towards purchasing sofas for the Lower Level. Shelley will ask at the next council meeting about the Thrivent Direct Choice Dollars to see if any can be used for the sofas.

Looking at bringing Prayer Partners back into Sunday School and perhaps a parent day just to get more adults with the students. The prayer partners would be seniors in our church. Next meeting is March 20, 2016 at 11:30

**YOUTH DEACONS:** Laura Gerdts and Cameron Jahns

Laura had nothing to report.

**BOARD FOR FINANCE:** Jim Johnson and Scott Jahns

Jim reminded everyone that all Fund-raisers need to go through the Finance Board. Jim also brought up there is usually a gas card purchased and given to Phil Eng for snow plowing the parking lot. Will ask Robin when she comes back. Shelley Hallen asked if anyone had stated they wanted to do a garage sale this Spring. Jim replied that no one had asked for a date.

**BOARD FOR PROPERTY:** Dennis O'Connell and Jason Gigure

Dennis reported they had a meeting February 19 and minutes were emailed.

Dennis would like more details from Robin on how bills are paid.

Highlights from meeting: Jim Eral and Tim Dreier walked around the whole church with Dennis and Jason. Talked about upcoming annual inspections of sprinkler system and alarm system.

Dennis is setting up appointments. (Sprinkler system was completed on Wednesday 03-02.)

Next year the sprinkler system will have its 5-year inspection, Beside the usual annual inspection, at \$360.00, there will be additional cost of about \$900.00. They have to dismantle the valves and inspect the insides of the pipes. They will be sending us the cost estimate when they send out the inspection report.

Will put something in newsletter when we decide what date for Spring Clean Up.

Also will clean windows at that time.

Harley has a bid for someone to come in and clean them.

Jason did a chair inventory.

Round Back 100 (35 of them are unusable) 65 total

Square Back 24

Plastic-12

Folding Chair Padded 99

Regular 18

High Chairs-wood 8

Plastic-2

Dennis is still working with Chair representative on chairs.

Dennis is also getting someone to look at the back parking lot, to get an idea of a solution to the water problem. Also an item for capital appeal.

Jim brought up the insurance policy needs to be looked at carefully as the Parsonage may still be on it.

**BOARD FOR OUTREACH AND SOCIAL MINISTRY:** Sonja Johnson and Olive Olson

Olive stated Sonja emailed the minutes of the meeting.

Highlights:

Easter advertising. Need to look at costs and try to measure effectiveness vs other forms of advertising.

Need to update some dates on the website.

Update volunteer lead list-discussed contacting all on current list and thanking them for their service. See if they are still willing to lead ministry in 2016. Will see if Melody recently did this. Will find out from Anna the most current Time and Talent sheets and share with leads at next meeting. Need chairs for Blood Drive, Relay for Life and Second Mile Haiti.

Blood Drive is set for Friday, April 22 12:00 pm-6:00 pm and Thursday, July 28 12:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Also measure effectiveness if this ministry is something we should continue to do beyond July if low numbers of people donate and/or we can't get volunteers to work it. Could be a good way to get people in to Mt. Zion who otherwise might not check us out. Olive mentioned checking with local papers to see if there is a discounted advertising rate for upcoming Blood Drive.

Sonja will send Anna an email to schedule a time to meet with her briefly to see where we can help make her job easier and what we might be missing getting done through lack of knowledge!

Set a regular meeting calendar for 2016 with option to change if it does not seem to meet our needs. Will plan on meeting the first Monday of every month, starting in March, at 6:30 pm at Mt. Zion. Outreach Committee members and anyone else interested is discussing Outreach or Social Ministry opportunities can come and discuss needs or new ideas to make programs successful.

**BOARD FOR MUSIC AND WORSHIP:** Einar Hanson and Linda Yde

Linda stated Einar had emailed the minutes of the February 21 meeting.

Highlights: Purchased new banners for Lent, Easter and all seasons.

Nicole Gelina ordered Palms for Palm Sunday. She will also direct the Maundy Thursday tableau.

Linda was looking into robes for the Tableau.

She is borrowing some from Ezekiel Lutheran in River Falls.

There will also be a new robe courtesy of Mike Yde.

No hymns during communion will be sung during Lent, to allow greater time for meditation.

Pastor Erin is making origami butterflies out of the prayer notes for Easter Sunday.

Trumpet players are being hired to supplement the brass choir for that service.

Pastor Erin reviewed her plans for the worship schedule through the end of summer.

Summer sermons will focus on discipleship.

Carl Meincke has agreed to again organize special music.

Holy Humor Sunday will be held the Second Sunday of Easter.

A new member Sunday will be held shortly, adding at least 2 new members.

**WELCA:** Joan reported Circles are meeting. Katie mentioned a St. Croix Valley meeting coming up in April. 16 and the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin WELCA convention April 29 and 30 in Eau Claire.

Approve Board and Committee reports  
Dennis O'Connell/ Shelly Hallen  
M/S/C.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

NETworks Update

Pastor Erin had a prepared sheet with 7 questions on it. The Council answered as a group with Pastor Erin taking notes. She will also ask some youth the same questions, compile the answers and send them to the Council and to the president of NETworks.

Capital Campaign Update

Will need to decide on what business to choose for the Capital Campaign.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Shelley asked about Thrivent Choice Dollars and asked where that money goes.

Joan replied it goes to the General Fund. Pastor Erin stated that no one has asked for their Thrivent Choice Dollars to go to any specific place.

Dennis O'Connell stated he has a friend who is in charge of Meals from the Heart and maybe Mt. Zion could be involved with this organization also and not just Feed My Starving Children. Dennis will come back with more details.

**COMMENTS for the GOOD of OUR COMMUNITY:**

Pastor Erin read an email she received from someone that came to check out the church and they said how welcoming Linda Yde was by asking them to sign the Welcome Book among other things.

Katie said a thank you was sent to the church from Hudson Hot Air Affair for hosting the Up, Up and Away 5k and a check was included.

Olive Olson thank you for all the cards, emails and support she was given when her sister was so ill and upon her recent death.

Next meeting is Tuesday, April 12 at 7pm at Mt. Zion

Motion made to adjourn at 8:34pm  
Laura Gerdts/ Shelley Hallen  
M/S/C

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Jones

Council Secretary