



ZION Lutheran Church

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REV. SCOTT LUDFORD
Senior Pastor

BOB HASS
Council President

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting October 18, 2022 – 6pm at Zion

Call to Order: President Bob Hass at 5:58 pm.

Present: Bob Hass, Mike Eidahl, Ginny Vraney, Judy Laude, Nancy Schultz, Michael Sleeper, Steven Laude, Keith Milner, Pastor Scott and Julie Effenberger.

Absent: None

Devotions: Michael Sleeper

Sound Off: Lorin Preston approached the council in regards to getting some much-needed assistance for Pastor Scott. Ideally, it would be great to have an Associate Pastor but with the shortage of pastors throughout our synod and beyond, that's not being realistic. Whether it be full time or part time he suggests we look into hiring a person to assist with youth and family ministry. He also noted that several universities are now offering Youth and Family Ministry as a major, which would be a perfect scenario for Zion to hire a recent graduate. The council was in agreement that this is an urgent issue that we need to look into. It was suggested that a Task Force be started to look into the idea of hiring a person to help with Zion's youth and family ministry. That issue will be discussed at November's council meeting.

1. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Scott thanked the council for celebrating his 35th Anniversary of his Ordination this past weekend, acknowledging he was truly humbled and very appreciative. He also invited the council to his house for the December 20 council meeting and to celebrate Christmas.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Motion was made by Mike Eidahl and seconded by Judy to approve the minutes as printed for the September 20, 2022, Council Meeting. *Motion carried.*
3. **Treasurer's Report**
 - a. **Accounting Fund Balance** – Mike pointed out that expenses did again exceed contributions with the General Fund dropping to -\$16,350.10. Fortunately, with Christmas and Thanksgiving right around the corner, giving does seem to pick up near the end of the year. Michael Sleeper made the motion which was seconded by Steve to approve the Accounting Fund Balance Report. *Motion carried.*
 - b. **Accounts Payable** – Mike then reviewed the bills to be paid. It was noted that since Debbie in the office and Pastor Scott and Debra Ludford have all gone onto Medicare, there will be a monthly decrease in the payment to Portico Benefit Services. A motion was made by Julie and seconded by Ginny to approve the bills listed for payment. *Motion carried.*

4. **Finance Committee:** Michael Sleeper, who serves on the Finance Committee, addressed the issue of Zion's property insurance after it was tabled last month for more information. Michael has spoken with Jeff LaBelle of American Church Group and provided the council with some answers to the questions being asked. Steve was still uneasy with the property valuation to replace what we currently have in case of a disaster/catastrophe. A discussion was held and being our current policy expires by November 14, a decision has to be made. The new insurance coverage valuation would be higher than what we are currently carrying. Steve made the motion to approve the proposal from American Church Group but to get more insight from the company concerning square footage, replacement coverage and destruction costs. Judy seconded the motion, *Motion carried.*

5. Old Business

- a. **Schedule Future Security Training:** Bob has spoken with Brandy Hoffman in regards to scheduling additional training at the church, especially in the sanctuary, whether it be active shooter or weather-related scenarios so we can be better prepared. Pastor Scott then mentioned that he had heard the officers talk about a presentation on scam prevention when they were at Zion in August and he would like to see Zion offer this, possibly an afternoon and then evening session. Bob will talk to Brandy tomorrow night and Ginny said she will also look into it.
- b. **Spending Limits w/Council Action** – The council was provided with a copy of the minutes from April 16, 2019 council meeting in which it was voted upon and approved that any purchase over \$500 needs to be approved by the council. This had come to question in the past and now it clearly shows we have a policy in place with a limit of \$500.

6. New Business

- a. **Membership Release/Removal:** The council was provided with a request from Susan Draper to be transferred to First United Lutheran Church in Sheboygan, Wisconsin and a request from Nancy Amundson to remove her name from our membership list as she is now living in Florida. A motion was made by Julie and seconded by Michael Sleeper to approve both requests for transfer/removal. *Motion carried.*
- b. **Resignations: Parish Nurse, Secretary:** Jennifer Greiert, Zion's Parish Nurse, has submitted her letter of retirement effective January 31, 2023. Christina Wegner, Zion's Secretarial Assistant, has submitted her resignation as of January 6, 2023. A motion to accept both Jennifer Greiert's retirement and Christina Wegner's resignation was made by Judy and seconded by Michael Sleeper. *Motion carried.* Pastor Scott noted he has had a member volunteer to visit shut ins after Jennifer retires and hopefully we can have a member volunteer to help in the office.
- c. **2023 Budgeting:** Mike Eidahl and Debbie are working on a budget worksheet to get out to the council and committees, hopefully before the next council meeting.

Committee Reports. Refer to printed reports available.

- **Church and Society**
- **Education** – Judy advised the council that more kids are coming every Sunday and they will be singing October 30 at the 10:30 service and again in November. They have started working on the Christmas program and then Ginny Vraney will do the safety talk at their teacher's meeting on October 26, and Vicki Heling will come on November 16 for the child protection talk.

- **Health Ministry** – Minutes attached. Ginny advised they will again be doing a Homme Home donation box for Christmas.
- **Life & Growth**
- **Property** – Steve advised the council that the garage service door is in and the west entrance doors have been installed. There are now issues on the west entrance with the glass and marks inside the glass which was done when they were originally put together. Steve will be contacting Dearco to rectify that situation. Steve and his dad plan next spring to do all new soffit panels underneath and wrap the posts on the west entrance. There are also 2 furnace grates that will be coming soon to install in the west entrance.
- **Stewardship** – Julie mentioned that it was brought to her attention that maybe we should send an actual mailing out to all parishioners, asking for volunteers for ushers, readers, communion assistants, etc., as people are not signing up right now on the Sign-up Genius. We could also incorporate in that letter for any volunteers to assist with the loss of Jennifer Greiert and Christina Wegner coming up in January.
- **Worship & Music** – Minutes attached
- **Youth**

Motion to accept all Committee Reports as presented was made by Michael Sleeper and seconded by Steve. ***Motion carried.***

Zion's Calendar for November, along with the ZLCW Executive Board Meeting minutes from September 14, 2022, were also enclosed in the council's packets. Pastor Scott noted he will be recording a congregational message ahead of time for the Thanksgiving Eve Service. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Julie and seconded by Ginny. ***Motion carried.*** Meeting adjourned at 8:07 pm.

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer by All

Respectfully submitted by:

*Julie Effenberger,
Council Secretary*