



ZION Lutheran Church

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REV. SCOTT LUDFORD
Senior Pastor

Council President

Zion Lutheran Church Council Meeting September 19, 2023 – 6pm at Zion

DRAFT

Call to Order: President Bob Hass at 6:00 pm.

Present: Bob Hass, Pastor Scott, Mike Eidahl, Karen Fusek, Tom Laude, Judy Laude, Curt Preston, Nancy Schultz, Michael Sleeper, Keith Milner, and Julie Effenberger.

Absent:

Devotions: Nancy

Sound Off: Mara Nelson approached the council regarding the updating of the Congregation Membership List. She is helping with making phone calls for Friendly Visitors, who just met this morning, and would like the Congregation Membership List updated. She has made calls to people who are deceased, moved out of the area or no longer members and feels a new list should be updated. She also urged any council members who are aware of any parishioners who would benefit from home visits from Friendly Visitors to please let her know.

1. **Pastor's Report:** Pastor Scott is presently working on different ministries that have started up in September. He just held an Ushers Training this last Sunday between services and happy with the sign ups after that meeting. He will hold another meeting next weekend in between services. He advised that Sign-up Genius is presently not working, but they will try reloading that program. He is hoping to be back to full staff worshipers with ushers, communion assistants, acolytes and doing collections the old way by October 1st so that he doesn't have to try and recruit helpers before each service. He is having a New Membership reception this weekend in between services.
2. **Approval of Minutes:** Mike Eidahl noted that in the August 15th council minutes under #4, Finance Committee, it should be 10 applicants were gifted money from the Endowment Fund, not 12. Also under New Business, item c) November 5th will be Stewardship Sunday, not the 15th. Motion was made by Judy and seconded by Tom to approve the minutes as printed along with those 2 corrections for the August 15, 2023, Council Meeting. *Motion carried.*
3. **Treasurer's Report**
 - a. **Accounting Fund Balance** – Mike Eidahl reviewed the Accounting Fund Balance Report, noting we ended the month of August with -\$7,417.13.
 - b. **Accounts Payable** – Mike Eidahl also reviewed the accounts payable report. A motion was made by Tom and seconded by Michael Sleeper to approve the Accounting Fund Balance Report and to approve the bills listed for payment. *Motion carried.*
4. **Finance Committee:** Mike Eidahl reported that an internal audit was conducted on August 23rd by Ron Malueg and Char Larson, members of our congregation, for the year 2022. They will produce a written report that will be available for our October council meeting to be voted upon. There was only one minor error found and a few suggestions made. It was noted that the

procedure for doing internal audits may not be exactly as the By-laws state, so this is one item that will be researched when we review the Constitution and By-laws. Mike also noted that in October he will receive a quarterly report on the Endowment Fund and the rest of our investments. Bob advised the council that according to the By-laws, lines of credit can only be approved by the congregation. Mike advised BMO Bank that our line of credit is on hold until our Annual Meeting in January so the congregation can vote on it. The subject of the policy of rental updates came up and was agreed that should be reviewed after the first of the year. Mike Eidahl noted that we have to approve the health insurance plan that is currently in force for employees of Zion. Mike Eidahl made the motion, which was seconded by Tom to continue with the same health plan coverage as the previous year for Zion employees. *Motion carried.*

5. Old Business

- a. **Updating Security System:** Keith Milner reported to the council that Martin Security Systems came to Zion and reviewed our present security system and suggested what we can do to improve and upgrade it. The total amount for installation of the package is \$23,745, with a monthly fee of \$27.95 for software, and they have technicians always available. Mike Eidahl made the motion that we proceed with taking the bid from Martin Security of \$23,745 to be voted upon at a congregational meeting of Zion members. Judy seconded the motion, *Motion carried.* Keith then updated the council on our phone system and the problems we are experiencing because of not being able to retrieve messages and our outdated system. He researched and recommended a company, 8X8, which is an internet phone system. Our monthly bill would be \$161.22/month and we are currently paying Spectrum \$160/month. The cost would be buying the phones right now (approximately \$100 each), and Keith would do the installation. The first month would be trial amount of \$37.13 and then \$161.22 each month. Mike made the motion that Zion proceeds with a new phone system by 8X8, 6 phones initially, to update our phone system using the 4 numbers we currently have and adding 2 more numbers. Nancy seconded the motion, *Motion carried.* Pastor Scott will give Keith his credit card to order the phones.
- b. **Updating Constitution and Reviewing Bylaws:** Bob suggested we establish a task force to review both the Constitution and the By-laws. Tom made the motion that Bob Hass, Pastor Scott, Mike Eidahl, Michael Sleeper and Al Wichmann form a Task Force to review and update Zion's Constitution and By-laws. Nancy seconded the motion, *Motion carried.*
- c. **Hiring Health & Wellness Coordinator Update:** Discussion was held as to combining this position along with the Family Ministry Staff so that it could possibly be full time.
- d. **Youth & Family Ministry Staff Update/ Pastor Asher:** Curt advised the council that he spoke with Pastor Asher from the Synod and they do not have a job description for this position. He shared a summary of information gathered from Pastor Asher which includes possibly a Deacon, a lay person, an intern or also combining this position along with Health and Wellness Coordinator. Pastor Scott and Bob met with Pastor Honig from Shepherd of the Bay Church in Door County last month and shared the results from that meeting regarding their hiring of that staff person.

6. New Business

- a. **Membership Application:** Pastor Scott had a list of New Members that attended the New Member Orientation and recommended they be added to our membership list. These members will be welcomed at this weekend services. Karen made the motion which was seconded by Keith to accept the following people as New Members: Jason Otto, David & Shana Wolff along with Lee, Caramia & Alexander, Brian & Kris Johnson along with Taylor & Allison, Douglas Feyen, Barbara Resop, Richard (Rick) & Lori Jacob, Harriet Villarreal and Susan Scheinert. *Motion carried.*
- b. **Stewardship Sunday:** Keith Milner advised this will be November 5 and they will be holding temple talks 3 weekends in October building up to this. They will be advocating both volunteerism and pledging. The forms will be sent in the mail and can be filled out on paper and returned to church or completed through email.

- c. **Sunday School Technology Upgrade:** Judy reported the teachers are very happy with the new equipment and they are looking forward to using it.
- d. **Painting Bell Tower:** Tom advised the council he has a guy coming this week to take a look at the bell tower and also Dearco knows someone that he can contact that does this, so he will try and get 2 bids on the project.

Committee Reports. Refer to printed reports available.

- **Church and Society**
- **Education** – Judy noted that 26 kids are signed up for Sunday School and they will be singing in church the 1st time October 15th and have 4 additional services set up for singing. The Sunday School Christmas Program will be Saturday, December 16th. Pastor noted he has 19 students currently in the confirmation classes.
- **Health Ministry** – Minutes attached.
- **Life & Growth** –
- **Property** – Minutes attached. They have been diligently working on upgrading our security system. Tom has received the contract from Sperberg for plowing snow which needs to be approved by the council. Tom made the motion which was seconded by Michael Sleeper to again hire Sperberg for our snow removal. *Motion carried.*
- **Stewardship** – Minutes attached and discussed earlier under Stewardship Sunday. The subject of contribution statements came up and Pastor Scott recommended we send all future contribution statements out by mail and everyone agreed. Also, some people would like the Focus sent by mail and not be dependent on emails as some have a hard time with internet connections.
- **Worship & Music** – Minutes attached.
- **Youth** – Curt reported under Youth & Family Ministry above, 5 d).

Motion to accept all Committee Reports as presented was made by Judy and seconded by Julie.
Motion carried.

Zion's Calendar for October was also enclosed in our packets and reviewed. Also, the ZLCW Executive Board Meeting Minutes were attached. Mike Eidahl reminded everyone that they will need people to assist loading the quilts onto a semi truck in the Zion parking lot on Friday, October 6th at 8:00 am.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Julie and seconded by Karen. *Motion carried.* Meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Closing Prayer: The Lord's Prayer by All

Respectfully submitted by:
Julie Effenberger,
Council Secretary

Draft