

**LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE CROSS
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 2016**

Call to Order: President Jon Hanson called the meeting to order at 6:35pm

Council Members Present:

Jon Hanson, Brett Gurholt, Brian Johnson, Jeff Thomas, Kylie Blanchard, Art Wheeler and Kim Humann.

Council Members Absent:

None

Staff Present:

Pastor Tim Johnson, Connie Werner, Tim Newman and Marguerite Ulmer.

Guest Present:

Murray Sagsveen

Devotions:

Jon Hanson led the council in prayer before the start of the meeting.

Additions to the Agenda:

None

Jon Hanson recommended moving up the new business item of the Endowment Fund in the order of business.

Endowment Fund – Murray Sagsveen presented a proposed LCC Endowment Fund congregational announcement prepared by the interim committee that would formulate a mission fund “campaign” to be kicked off after Rally Sunday. A copy of this draft document will be attached to the minutes. The interim committee will forward the agenda/time schedule when ready and report on it at the next council meeting. The interim committee recommended the nominating committee appoint a 7 person committee to be voted on at the 2017 annual meeting. Discussion followed. Murray will also add information to this document regarding estate gifts.

Art Wheeler moved to accept the interim committee’s mission endowment proposal. Brett Gurholt seconded the motion.

Motion approved.

Approval of Minutes from July 13, 2016:

Brett Gurholt moved to approve the minutes. Brian Johnson seconded the motion.

Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Marguerite Ulmer presented the Treasurer's Report. Kylie Blanchard inquired if an invoice had been completed for Merry Go Round. Discussion followed regarding the Merry Go Round lease agreement. This item was tabled until the September council meeting. Art Wheeler will bring a draft copy to the September council meeting.

Art Wheeler moved to approved to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented. Kylie Blanchard seconded the motion

Motion approved

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Tim Johnson conveyed he is enjoying his time at LCC and staff has been easy to work with. He will be gone the first and second Sunday's in September.

Pastoral Assistant Report:

Tim's report is attached to the minutes.

Staff Reports:

None

Council Member Future Goals:

None

Committee Reports:**Christian Education – Jeff Thomas**

Christian Education committee will be meeting on Monday, August 22 at 6pm

Congregational Nurturing – Kylie Blanchard

Kylie indicated that the Helping Hands group will be doing a cookie delivery to shut-ins on September 12. The group has been delivering meals to two families once a week.

Outreach – Brett Gurholt

Nothing to report.

Congregational Operations – Art Wheeler/Brian Johnson

Art Wheeler presented the General Fund Revenue and Building Fund contributions report. The January through July amounts for the bulletin giving fund was also provided by Art.

Call Committee – Jon Hanson

The Call Committee met on Monday, August 15 and they will continue to meet monthly. The Ministry Site profile has been reviewed and is on file with the Synod.

Worship and Music – Kim Humann

Kim indicated the Worship and Music Committee had met on Tuesday, August 16 and discussed the fall schedule and other upcoming important dates. Rally Sunday and Wednesday will be held on September 11 and 14. A potluck will follow the service on September 11. Committee/Service tables will be displayed on those days as well.

3rd Graders will receive their bibles on September 18 and 21.

New Member Sunday and Wednesday will be held on October 9 and 12.

Confirmation will be held on Sunday, October 30.

The Worship and Music Committee recommended discontinuing the traditional 8:30am service. They recommended for Sunday School to be held at 9:00am and the worship service to be held at 10:00am with communion every Sunday. The Worship and Music Committee recommended making this change on Sunday, September 11 which is Rally Sunday. Discussion followed.

Art Wheeler moved to approve the Worship and Music Committee's recommendation of discontinuing the 8:30am service. Sunday School will be held at 9:00am and worship service will be held at 10:00am with communion served every Sunday. This change will be effective Sunday, September 11. Kim Humann seconded the motion.

Motion approved.

Jon Hanson will make an announcement regarding this change at worship on August 28. Kylie Blanchard will write an article for the Crossword newsletter. Several of the council members will be contacting members of the congregation who have attended the traditional service held at 8:30am to notify them of the change.

Art Wheeler inquired about window cleaning and whether or not it had been done. Discussion was held on who the individual(s) were that had volunteered to do it. Connie Werner indicated she will do some research on who it was and report back to the council.

Art Wheeler inquired if the council had adopted the gift policy. Brian Johnson indicated he will bring a draft policy to the September meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Tree Trimming – Jon Hanson indicated this will be done by members of the congregation.

Web Site Update – This will be tabled until the September meeting.

New Business:

Art Wheeler inquired if the September council meeting could be moved up one week. By general consensus, the council agreed to hold the next meeting on September 6 at 6:30pm.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm

Members of Lutheran Church of the Cross now have an additional option for financially supporting the mission of LCC.

In 1997, the congregation approved the establishment of a Mission Endowment Fund to financially support four important initiatives. Income from the fund would be allocated to:

- The community and synod for grants to ELCA seminaries, colleges, or students attending those schools; social service agencies; institutions and agencies to which LCC relates; and to special programs designed for persons in the congregation who are in spiritual or economic need, or both (20%).
- Missions of the ELCA, including grants for new congregational development in North America; professional leadership; educational ministries, global mission, ecumenism; evangelism; social ministries; and capital financing (20%).
- Capital improvements, debt reduction, or a building program of LCC (20%).
- Programs to enhance the mission outreach of LCC (40%).

The Mission Endowment Fund is to be managed by a seven-member committee. Unfortunately, over the past two decades, committee members were not appointed and interest in the Mission Endowment Fund waned. The Mission Endowment Fund now has only \$3,800.

But now, there is an opportunity to breathe life into the Mission Endowment Fund. A law enacted in 2011 greatly expands a donor's options. An individual may receive a state tax credit for a contribution of \$5,000 or more (lump sum or aggregate in one year) to a qualified North Dakota endowment, such as the LCC Mission Endowment Fund. A person may also direct their IRA/retirement account distribution to a qualified endowment, such as the LCC Mission Endowment Fund.

The following table is an example of a tax credit if the donor is in the 28% tax bracket:

Tax Credit in 28% Tax Bracket			
Gift Amount	\$5,000	\$25,000	\$50,000
Federal Tax Deduction	\$1,400	\$7,000	\$14,000
ND State Income Tax Credit	\$2,000	\$10,000	\$20,000
Net Cost of Gift	\$1,600	\$8,000	\$16,000

Earlier this year, the congregation council appointed Ken Will, Jon Spilde, Brian Johnson, and Murray Sagsveen to be interim committee members during 2016. The congregation will elect the seven-member Mission Endowment Fund Committee at the annual meeting in 2017.

Members who have questions about the committee may contact Ken, Jon, Brian, or Murray. However, members should consult their tax advisor or attorney for specific tax or legal information.

Pastoral Assistant Report – August

A few dates for all of you. September 11th and 14th will be Rally Day. September 18th and 21st the 3rd Graders will receive their bibles. October 9th and 12th will be New Member Days and October 30th will be confirmation.

Wondering if the committees for the Volunteer fair have been notified and if they can come both Sunday and Wednesday? If not, we need to make sure that happens.

Janis contacted me to see when he should come and preach to coincide with the pancake breakfast. I said I would check with all of you and get back to him tomorrow.

On Saturday Pastor Johnson and I will be officiating Brianna and Joseph's wedding. Should be a good time!

This year LYO (Western North Dakota Synods Annual Youth Gathering) is at the Ramada in Bismarck Thursday October 20th – Saturday October 22nd

The WND Bags (area youth directors) will be gathering at University of Mary for discussion about upcoming events and we plan to do the prayer labyrinth.

Crop walk is October 9th with registration at 12:30 and the walk beginning at 1:00. The Crop Walk is also in need of volunteers/recruiters if you know of anyone who would like to help with this event in the coming years please let me know.

I converted our system for Sunday streams. We are now able to take any service present or past and put them on a jump drive. This is a hand feature for weddings, funerals, baptisms or any other special service that members would like to preserve and there is no additional cost.

My August vacation did not work out so I will be leaving September 15-20 for Colorado.

Next month I will have info about my continuing education event.

Keep Pedaling,

Tim