

CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING  
FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Agenda for March 12, 2019

- A. Call to Order
- B. Opening Prayer - Judy Bailey
- C. Approve Current Agenda
- D. Approve minutes of the Congregational Council meeting of February 12, 2019
- E. Bible Study
- F. New Business
  - 1. "Systems Theory" presentation - Pastor Dan Warnes
  - 2. Motion to Purchase Worship Musical Instrumentation - Brian Niebuhr/Pastor Dan
  - 3. Council Orientation Informal/Formal - Mike McDannel/Executive Committee
- H. Old Business
  - 1. Construction update - staff
  - 2. Open Comment Period
- G. Treasurer's Report - Brian Niebuhr
- J. Staff Reports
- K. Committee Reports
- L. Closing Prayer - Judy Bailey
- M. Adjournment

*Executive Committee: April 2, 2019*

*Next Council Meeting: April 9, 2019*

*Setup and Prayers for Next Meeting: Kim Cordonier*

## Information Items

	Baptized	Confirmed
1. MEMBERSHIP as of February 1, 2019	1197	988
Members received in February:		
A. by baptism (15 years and under)	4	
B. by baptism (adult)		
C. transfer from ELCA congregation	1	1
D. other Lutheran		
E. affirmation of faith		
F. transfer from non-Lutheran congregation		
G. other and statistical adjustment		
 2. Members Removed		
Members removed in February:		
A. death	2	2
B. transfer to ELCA congregation		
C. transfer to non-Lutheran congregation		
D. other and statistical adjustment		
 MEMBERSHIP as of February 28, 2019	 1200	 987

### Average Attendance

February	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
	601	641	600	580	654	569	527	698	393	485	237

### Added:

Baptism: Jordyn Murrell, Marielle Heydt, Collin Dufault, Logan Dufault

Affirmation:

Transfer: Ronald Lee Johnson

Other:

### Removed:

Death: Corrinne Pedersen, Stan Carlson

Transfer:

Dropped Due to Inactivity:

Other:

Note: 3 Services were cancelled due to unusual Arctic front that brought blizzard conditions and heavy snow resulting in low attendance this month.

Congregational Council Meeting

First Lutheran Church

February 12, 2019

MEMBERS PRESENT: Denise Mainquist, Dave Pfister, Lisa Rauner, Scott Seebohm, Natalie Peters, Jennifer Nelson, Mike McDannel, Rebecca Pfabe, Barry Graham, Mary Rogge, Barb Johnson Frank, Kim Cordonier, Pastor Justin Eller, Brian Niebuhr, Judy Bailey, Dawn Brock

MEMBERS ABSENT: Pastor Dan Warnes

STAFF PRESENT: Sunni Richardson, Sharon Hardel, Kathleen Simley

MEETING RECORDER: Ann Carlson

- A. CALL TO ORDER: President, Barry Graham, called the meeting to order at 7:00.
- B. OPENING PRAYER: Barb led the opening prayer.
- C. APPROVE CURRENT AGENDA: It was moved and seconded to approve the current agenda. The motion passed.
- D. APPROVE MINUTES OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2019: It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes from the January meeting. The motion passed.
- E. BIBLE STUDY: The group read and discussed Luke, Chapter 6, verses 17-26.
- F. NEW BUSINESS
  1. Welcome of new Members and introduction of all members  
Everyone in attendance introduced themselves and new Members were welcomed.
  2. Election of Officers  
Officer nominations were as follows:  
President – Barry Graham  
Vice President – Mike McDannel  
Treasurer – Brian Niebuhr  
Secretary – Barb Johnson Frank  
There were no nominations from the floor.  
It was moved and seconded that nominations cease.  
All four candidates were elected into office.
  3. Council Orientation
    - a. Constitution
    - b. Standing Rules
    - c. Financial Report

President Graham showed Council Members where the Constitution and Standing Rules are located on the FLC Website. He gave a brief overview of each.

An overview of the Financial Reports was given by Brian Niebuhr.

4. Motion to Approve the Senior Pastor's Compensation

It was moved by Barry Graham, Council President, to approve a 2.5% salary increase for Lead Pastor Dan Warnes effective March 1, 2019.

It was mentioned that all staff members are within their salary ranges. Mike suggested that next year there would be a verbal conversation with Pastor Dan about staff salary. Last year, Pastor Dan forfeited a part of his salary. The 2.5% increase is calculated from last year's actual salary. The motion passed.

5. Selection of the Council Representative for the Nominating Committee

Kim Cordonier volunteered to represent Council on the Nominating Committee. Council members approved and thanked her for volunteering.

G. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Construction update – staff

- In the lower level, the sewer line is a problem. A new configuration, which will be cheaper and will work around the problem was drawn.
- The preschool needs another heating and air conditioning unit.
- They are currently working on the kitchen. Members should have the kitchen back by the end of the school year.
- The south wing is currently unusable.
- We will be able to worship in the sanctuary until Easter.
- Rolls and coffee cake will be served at Easter. There will be Easter Bingo and the smaller kids will do an egg hunt.
- The Chapel entrance will be our primary entrance for ten months.
- Worship and Music is looking at how we will convert the activity space to a worship space while the sanctuary is being remodeled.
- We are looking at reasonable disposable products to use in place of plastic.

2. Open Comment Period: None

H. TREASURER'S REPORT – Brian Niebuhr: For the month ending January 31, 2019, receipts are \$4,505 under budget and expenses are \$2,926 under budget for a net deficit of \$1,579

I. STAFF REPORTS: Sharon mentioned the Cross Generational Ministry Lab on March 16. She thanked everyone who attended "Love First Dance." Fifty-six people attended the meal and sixty people attended the dance.

J. COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

K. CLOSING PRAYER: Barb led the closing prayer.

L. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:45.

**MEETING DATE:** March 12, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Authorize fundraising for 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

**PROPOSED ACTION:** To authorize the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee to raise funds outside the budget for some expenses related to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of First Lutheran Church

**BACKGROUND:** First Lutheran's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary will be officially celebrated on April 24-26, 2020. The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee is planning a number of celebrations and activities during that time. While the costs of many activities will be recovered in the ticket prices and fees, some of these events require deposits and other upfront costs. For example, our caterer required a \$1000 deposit. Party supply rental firms require significant deposits many months in advance. We have no funds for this. The 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary committee would like to invite members of the congregation to offer gifts to cover these costs. Someone might offer \$150 for 150 years, for example.

**COST/SOURCE:** NONE

**SPONSOR:** Rebecca Pfabe, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee  
Judy Bailey, 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee  
Pastor Dan Warnes

**MEETING DATE:** March 12, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Purchasing a piano

**PROPOSED ACTION:** To purchase a grand piano for use in the activity center during construction for worship services, and then subsequently in the new sanctuary for use by the choir and for other worship purposes.

**BACKGROUND:** We will be worshipping in the activity center for much of 2019 and part of 2020 while the sanctuary is under construction. One challenge to using this space for worship is having musical accompaniment that is sufficient to engage worship participants in liturgical and hymn singing.

While we could get by with the existing upright piano, one of our committees that is investigating how to best use the activity center for worship has also been considering other alternatives that might lead to a more meaningful worship experience. Such alternatives might include the rental or purchase of an electronic organ. Another alternative is to purchase a larger piano that is more capable of producing enough sound to fill the room and therefore will be better able to lead singing.

Among all of the alternatives, purchasing a piano seems to be the best option because not only can it be used in the activity center while we are worshipping there, it can also be used weekly by the choir and for leading congregational singing from the front of the new sanctuary when those opportunities arise.

**COST/SOURCE:** A maximum of \$15,000 would be used from the building fund. It is possible that some memorial money may be made available for this purchase in which case the amount used from the building fund would be reduced accordingly.

The justification for using the building fund is that a piano is used as part of our worship space just like the altar, pulpit, and font. Although it wasn't budgeted in the project, the vote in January to eliminate the performance bond has left money in the budget to make such a purchase.

**SPONSOR:** The Executive Committee

**Council Report  
March 12, 2019  
Pastor Dan Warnes**

**1. Building Project.**

- a. Construction is on schedule or ahead of schedule for the project with the exception of the new nursery and restrooms adjacent the Commons.
- b. Costs are currently in line with initial projections. We've experienced some cost-savings on portions of the project. And, we've experienced some extra costs. We hope to view details of these expenses in the next couple of months as portions of the project are completed.
- c. Plans have been made for worship services in the activity center once construction on the sanctuary begins. Enhanced lighting, improved sound, new carpet and paint, appropriate seating, and other matters related specifically to worship practice are being organized. Please see the motion regarding instrumentation for the activity center and future choir space.
- d. We have approval from Holy Trinity Episcopal Church to conduct funerals and weddings in their sanctuary and Fellowship Hall during the time our sanctuary is unavailable. The fee for a funeral will be \$150. We'll invite families to cover this fee if they are able.

**2. 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.** Thanks to Rebecca Pfabe and Judy Bailey for leading the effort to celebrate our 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Several committees are at work organizing the celebrations and special events. Banners, mementos, themes, and logos are being developed. Historical records and photo collections are being updated. "Save the Date" postcards will be sent out to former staff and daughters of the congregation April.

**3. Lent.** During our Lenten journey this year we'd like to "go deeper" with our Welcoming Statement. We'd like our congregation to think it through more carefully and apply it where we live....

Many of us have forgotten the work and the conversations that eventually generated this e most important learning we gained through that process was that we welcome everyone because God welcomes everyone... God is the one who welcomes us... And, God is the one who welcomes all...

Members of our congregation have written weekly devotions to help us consider how God welcomes all of us, how God welcomes everyone in our family and those who live with us, how God welcomes those in our neighborhoods, how God welcomes everyone in our city, how God welcomes everyone in our nation, and finally, how God welcomes/embraces everyone on the cross... At Wednesday midday services and Wednesday evening services we'll use the Holden Evening Prayer Liturgy, and hear reflections on the weekly themes.

**4. Monday Office Volunteers.** We currently have 7 men and women who have volunteered to staff our office on Mondays.

**5. Pastoral Acts.** I performed one funeral and three baptisms since our last meeting.

**6. Personal.** I was on Jury Duty March 4-8, 2019.

**Respectfully Submitted,  
Pastor Dan Warnes**



**First Lutheran Church Council Report**  
**March 7, 2019**  
**Rev. Justin Eller**

- 1. Youth Ministry Panel.** I participated in an online panel/discussion with other leaders throughout the Nebraska Synod with students at Midland University who are studying Youth and Family Ministry. It was an honor to share with them how much I appreciate the work of Sharon Hardel, our Director of Youth and Family Ministry, and how she and I have partnered together in many ministries.
- 2. Multi-congregation Men's Retreat.** In collaboration with pastors from three other Nebraska Synod congregations, a group of guys and I went to Camp Carol Joy Holling for a 24-hour pilot men's retreat on the theme of "Courage from the Cross." The session I led was titled, "Courage: A Communal Endeavor" and focused on guided conversations in small groups and imaginative prayer around Mark 2:1-12.
- 3. Dinner+Learning #7B: "Justification by Faith".** This month Sharon and the college mentors worked with the middle schoolers on the topic of being saved by our faith and not by anything we can do to earn it. I met with the parents and asked some questions about the future direction of our Dinner+Learning program, the current methodology, and any snags they were seeing at home when they work with their kids on the confirmation home conversations. At the end, I gave them my nickel tour through this central doctrine of the Lutheran tradition.
- 4. Hopeful Grieving.** Judy Bailey and I concluded another series of grief support classes. We had nine participants in the group. While we journeyed through grief together, I always learned from them, their stories, and their experiences. I pray that God's peace and comfort continues to be with them.
- 5. Adult Forum.** In February, I facilitated two Adult Forum sessions: one on the Nebraska Synod's Guardian Angel Program (of being juvenile immigration court watchers) and a second one on First Lutheran's *Framework for Transformational Learning: A Lifelong Learning Plan* that I have been working on for a couple of years.
- 6. Lifelong Learning Plan Task Force.** The Lifelong Learning Team did not meet in February due to a snow Sunday off, but I continued to modify the *Framework for Transformational Learning (FTL)* based on the recommendation from the Adult Forum session. We will reconvene as a task force at the end of April for final touches and a roll-out plan.
- 7. AMMPARO- Guardian Angel Task Force.** Pastor Rebecca Sheridan (Synod Staff) and I met with two attorneys in Omaha to find out about the new juvenile immigration judge's style, behavior, relationship with the minors whose cases she hears. It was very informative. When I attended court in February with Sharon, I saw much of what we had been told about the new judge and as observers, we will continue to monitor how the judge interprets recent guidelines for how fast to process cases of "Unaccompanied Alien Children" (UAC) and how different government agencies have different authority in cases.
- 8. Worship Committee - Liturgy Sub Team.** I was asked to serve with several other members of the Worship and Music Committee to help envision the transition, liturgy, chair arrangements, and other worship-related pieces for when we begin worshipping in the Activity Center.
- 9. Pastoral Matters.** I presided at two memorial services and one baptism in February.

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Pastor Justin**

**FaithTrek**

Transformation is the word of the month for March. We are transformed through prayer. Pastor Dan and Pastor Justin will be meeting with the FaithTrek kids to talk about prayer. Judy Bailey and Judy Batterman have created prayer tools for each age group that are amazing. Thanks to Pastor Dan for burning the palms on March 3. The kids loved and actually could tell me “the palms become ashes, ashes are used to mark a cross on your forehead and Pastor Dan and Pastor Justin do that on Ash Wednesday”. As you see FaithTrek kids please ask them about their learning as we want the kids to learn to be storytellers and tell others about Jesus.

**Serve**

Pastor Justin and the Lifelong Learning Plan Task Force (LLPTF) have produced an amazing tool for us to use at FLC as we plan, implement and evaluate learning opportunities for all ages. A similar document is needed to help guide our work in the area of SERVE. First step is to establish the planning team to help us further explore the disciple’s servant role and responsibilities and how that grounding of serving is reflected with/through serve projects at FLC. [Note: Moving from a donor –recipient model of service is going to be a challenge.]

**Deacon Connections**

A group of Region 4 deacons have been working to better define the role and responsibilities of the Ministers of Word and Service (deacons) in the ELCA. Conversations are on-going. Bishop Brian Maas has joined our meetings and is supportive of the Word and Service roosted call and exploring how we can better utilize the gifts Nebraska Synod deacons. The Region 4 group is planning a regional gathering to be held in TX in the fall of 2019.

**Additional Stuff**

- Working with two congregations on healthy communication and visioning.
- March 23 I am a presenter at the SE Nebraska Women of the ELCA spring gathering. Topic is centered on understanding that for the first time we have 5 generations active in our congregations and the gaps in thinking can be killers if we do not pay attention to the differences and see the common threads.
- Serving on the Synod Leadership Development Table as we examine needs and possible assignments for the group using the current committee structure.
- Meeting with a Spiritual Director monthly. We are having great conversations.
- Participating in the Nebraska Synod’s Drinking from the Well spirituality program aimed at helping participants develop strong and meaningful spiritual practices. We have a monthly webinar and small group gathering synced with homework assignments.

Director of Worship and Music

Masako Bacon

February, 2019

Weather is not friendly, but faithful people inspire us for dedication to learn and to serve God nonetheless.

A very large string ensemble rehearsed and was ready to play on February 24, but we are still seeking a date to offer their instrumental praise. It is so wonderful to see new people join in the short-time ensembles.

February Sunday Musicians:

2/3 (8:15 & 10:45) Jazz Team (Nicholas Bushard, Alex Hinton, Spencer & Steve Janssen, Matt Reckmeyer, Jay Sears, Chris Simley, Tom Thorpe)

2/10 (8:15) Chorister Choir

(10:45) Adult Choir, Megan Lyons

2/17 (8:15) Cherub Choir, Navy Mathes

(10:45) Adult Choir, Erin Pfister

(both) Spirit Ringers

2/24 Church cancelled worship services

Saturday Musician

Christine Carman - 2/2 & 9, Kristina Hanson - 2/16, cancelled - 2/23

Worship and Music Committee

is focusing on preparation of Activity Center worship services with Pastor Dan and Pastor Justin. The committee was divided into three focus groups and each group takes initiative to make suggestions to the Church Council, and then advance the plans to reality. The following are the groups and their reports:

Sound/Lighting (Pastor Dan Warnes, Judy Bailey, Gordon Youngquist, Boyd Bacon)

\* Lighting - Extra lights on stage area will be installed. (Consulted with Paul Scheel)

\* Sound - lapel microphones from the sanctuary will be moved. Wireless and/or corded microphone which are compatible to the current sound system (Phantom System) will be used.

-- 73 sound panels will be installed to improve acoustics in the room.

(Consulted with Tim Keckely)

Worship Space (Pastor Justin Eller, Jan Christiansen, Molly Goninan, Priscilla Hayden-Roy, Bonita Johnsen)

\* Communion - Bread and Wine will be used. 2 stations (bread, pouring cup, common cup in each side) will place right and left in front.

\* Altar - The placement of the altar will be changed during the year, but it will start in front (on stage).

\* Communion Table - Bonita built a miniature model to be voted. Ron and Bonita will built according to the design.

\* Font - Will be moved from Chapel.

\* Pulpit - Use the Activity Center lecturn.

\* Wall - Middle part of the walls will be painted in dark blue to enhance worship atmosphere.

\* Carpet - A new carpet will be installed on the stage.

- \* Chairs – Molly found 50 more steady chairs (no expense) with arms in a senior facility in Omaha. They will be moved end of March – April.
- \* Choir Risers – The choir risers to be used in the new sanctuary will be purchased and will be used in Activity Center due to significant sale (ends 3/31-2019)

Instruments (Ryan Luckey, Dick Morris, Martha Tanner, Masako Bacon)

- \* Grand Piano – will seek a grand piano that will be used in the sanctuary. The group started pursuing renting an organ but didn't find one with any reasonable cost or specification. The group will continue to seek organ possibilities with minimal cost.
- \* Hymnals – will be used for the worship services. Martha Tanner made an arrangement to borrow bookshelves from the library of Nebraska Wesleyan University during the time (no expense).

Respectfully submitted,

Soli Deo Gloria

Masako Bacon

## Sharon Hardel's Report to Council Feb. 13, 2019 – March 12, 2019

### Activities This Month:

I participated in regular staff meetings and Ash Wednesday services, met with Mandy to plan the pre-school and elementary youth group and met with the confirmation students at Dinner + Learning. I also participated in the monthly youth workers meeting at Camp Carol Joy Holling.

Middle and High School Learning have been meeting each Sunday. I finished out the month of February with the middle schoolers and met with the senior high group on March 3. Facilitators are planned for the remainder of the spring schedule.

The Senior High Youth Group worked very hard and put on a lovely dance Feb. 8. We are still busy planning for our summer accompaniment trip to Puerto Rico and have been meeting for discussions monthly. We are about \$1500 away from our fundraising goal. There will be a paint night fundraiser on April 28 and one or two more between now and June. Thanks to everyone who has helped us reach our goal.

The Middle School Youth Group met March 3 with the High Schoolers for the pot luck and then we experienced a "Journey to the Cross" which included 13 sensory stations that followed Jesus to the cross, grave and resurrection. The middle schoolers have also been working very hard at the fundraisers to help cover their trip to South Dakota. So, again, thanks to all who have helped us reach our goal.

The Pre-School and Elementary children and parents met on March 3. The children met with Alexis and Mandy to look at "Transformation". They made snow dough and transformed it into sculptures, viewed and discussed a video on Selflessness and listened to the story "Spaghetti in a Hot Dog Bun" and talked about how God transformed the hearts of the 2 main characters. They learned God transforms us also. I met with the parents and we watched and discussed the Rob Bell video Open which dealt with prayer. We had a good discussion and then parents were given "Reflections on Prayer, an Illustrated Lent for Families" to use at home with their children. The parents would like to have Pastor Dan or I facilitate their time together and they like a video or starter question that does not require "homework" but leads to a good discussion.

Quake event is in Omaha March 8-10. Three youth are attending. This event is for both Middle and Sr. High youth. Kent and I will be with the youth for the weekend.

### Projects Working On:

1. Youth Group gatherings for pre-school – high school youth
2. Summer accompaniment trips (Sr. High and Middle School)
3. VBS – scheduled for June 17 – 21
4. Bible Class – a second level class for 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> graders scheduled for March 24
5. Developing a "Walking Wet" curriculum for parents of newborns and children up to 3 year olds.

In Peace,

Sharon Hardel

## Adult Forum Committee

### February 12, 2019 – Meeting Notes

Gene Brass, Jim Kisling, Brian Niebuhr, Sunni Richardson, Lyle Petersen and Connie Kisling met on February 12, 2019. Absent: Patrick Hayden-Roy and Karen Statham.

#### Outstanding items and older topics:

- a. More Nadia Bolz-Weber videos for possible backup topics – Sunni shared the fact that Nadia has a new book, *Shameless*, that was just released. Along with new books come new videos. Her video about forgiveness would be a good one to use, if not yet used.
- b. *Nebraska Vocational Rehabilitation Organizations*, suggested by Clay Ehlers. No new activity to report.
- c. *A view of the challenges of Lutheran churches big and small in the Nebraska diocese* - Lyle reported he checked with Pastor Megan Morrow, Assist to the Bishop, and is waiting to hear back from her.
- d. *World Food Prize* which emphasizes the importance of a nutritious and sustainable food supply for all people. Keegan Kaukzky, Director of Global Programs and Partnerships, is very interested but uncertain of his travel schedule, but will get back to us. Sunni will follow up.
- e. *"Gotta Be Me,"* created to promote the inclusion of adults with disabilities into our communities, creating a culture that is brimming with life, dignity, and growth - for all people. Tiffany Clifton is executive director for this Omaha program. Sunni reported she had been in contact with Tiffany about her doing the Adult Forum as well as a noon activity with people from other churches. Sunni is checking on date options.
- f. *Study on End-Time Theologies*, suggested by Pastor Megan Morrow – Connie reported this topic is being postponed for several months.
- g. *The Question of why the moving of the embassy is problematic or advantageous* – suggested by Pastor Megan Morrow. Connie reported this topic is being postponed for several months.
- h. *A Bible study focused on the "promised land" and what that does or doesn't mean for contemporary Israel* – suggested by Megan Morrow. Jim said he would make arrangements for this topic to happen.
- i. A book, *"The Rapture Exposed"* by Dr. Barbara Rossing (professor at Lutheran School of Theology in Chicago) – suggested by Pastor Megan Morrow. Connie reported this topic is being postponed for several months.
- j. *Ratio Christi* – UNL group presenting an argument for defending the Christian faith – Gene reported, after more research about the group, that we need to pass on this topic.
- k. *Architecture Students Design New Santee Sioux Nation Center in Niobrara* (College of Architecture – Griffiths) Connie reported she'd been in contact with Jason Griffiths. He is waiting for possible dates to present.
- l. *Book "An Orchestra of Minorities,"* by Chigozie Obioma, assistant professor of English at UNL. Jim reported he'd contacted Professor Obioma and had no response. We will remove this topic from our listing.

## Remaining February/March 2019 Schedule

**February 17** – *Friendship Home* – Sarah Troyer, Development Coordinator (rescheduled from November 2018).

**February 24** – *Spiritual Direction* – Gina Seebohm, certified spiritual director through the Nebraska Synod Seeking the Spirit Within program.

**March 3** – *Research Shows Fighting World Hunger Can Be Profitable* – Konstantinos Giannakas, UNL.

**March 10** – *Story Telling and Listening* – Lisa Kramme, Faith Formation Director Nebraska Synod

**March 17** – *2018 Holy Land Trip* – Pastor Megan Morrow, Assistant to the Bishop

**March 24** – *Generation: Together – Part 1* – Brian Niebuhr (includes H.S. students)

**March 31** – *Generation: Together – Part 2* – Brian Niebuhr (includes H.S. students)

## F. 2019 Calendar and Scheduling –

- a. *TEDWomen 2018*, Michelle Michl (FLC member) – Sunni reported June 2<sup>nd</sup> works.
- b. April 7<sup>th</sup> will be a Building Update in the Activity Center. No Adult Forum.

### BACKUP Topics:

1. “*Cross: Where God Is*,” suggested by Pastor Justin. Utilizes the You Tube Video: Pathways video #5 *The Cross*, Animate Faith, Nadia Bolz Weber (8 minutes and 48 seconds).
2. PBS DVD, “*Martin Lutheran – The Idea that Changed the World*.” Patrick presenting.
3. Rob Bell DVD’s

## Ideas for Presentations/Other Topics/Comments

### **NEW Topics**

Pastor Dan said he would be willing to do Forums on the following topics:

1. *End of Life Decisions* – Pastor Dan might recruit assistance from Bryan chaplain who regularly assists people with their end of life directives forms. Connie will confirm with Pastor Dan on dates.
2. *Family Systems – Genograms* – Pastor Dan plans to utilize an instructional video to introduce the theme of family systems. With this in mind, Sunni suggested we have this topic for two weeks. Connie will check with Pastor Dan to schedule.

Kay Rockwell suggested the following topics:

1. *2019 Water Seminar Series shares water conservation, management insights from Nebraska NRDs*. Brian said he would follow up with Kay on this topic.
2. *Study aims to enhance quality of life for rural Nebraska minorities, communities*. Jim will follow up on this topic. The Committee discussed this topic further. Brian said he’d just finished reading the book *O Pioneers!*, by Willa Cather, and thought it related fairly well in this same line. Connie said she would check into *O Pioneers!*

3. *Christine Darden – the Fourth Hidden Figure getting to NASA.* Connie did some research on Christine Darden and found she resides on the east coast. She was only around to do some UNL presentations, so we are pulling this topic.
4. *Familiarity, teamwork help micro-algae treat wastewater.* Brian will follow up on this topic.
5. Documentary, *Follow the Water*, an NET production. After Committee discussion, it was decided the video would be too long and trying to cut would be difficult.

**Other topics suggested:**

- *The movie, “Lars and the Real Girl,”* was suggested by Pastor Dan. We would watch a portion of the film and discuss how welcoming the Lutheran congregation is portrayed in the movie. This would be a one-week or two-week series. The Committee decided to hold this topic for a later date.
- *Lincoln Literacy* – was suggested by Jim and he will check into this topic.
- *Lincoln Littles* – suggested by Sunni. This is a new Prosper Lincoln initiative to support early childhood education particularly for children who are missing out because of family finances. A source would be Michelle Sauz with Prosper Lincoln. Connie will check on this topic.
- *Forgive and Forget* – suggested by Sunni. She referenced a webinar she had listened to recently. Sunni will check on a resource for this topic.

Sunni mentioned that further items in regard to Nadia Bolz can be found at [nadiabolzweber.com](http://nadiabolzweber.com).

**Adjourn**

Notes submitted by Connie Kisling



## Creation Care Team Meeting

February 26, 2019

Present: Rebecca Pfabe and Sunni Richardson

Due to the construction, hosting the usual Creation Care learning hour event during just will not work mechanically. The Creation Care Team has instead opted to participate in the Lincoln Earth Day Celebration on April 27, from 10 AM to 3 PM.

### Assignments and questions based on previous planning -

I'll put names next to things we'd like you to do, but if you don't want to what we've assigned you to do, just let me know!

We are going to have a table at the Earth Day Celebration on April 27th from 10am to 3pm  
We would like to have 1 hour shifts with one CC member present during each shift.

CINDY: Write something for the April Voice Advertising Earth Day, but also soliciting volunteers. We'd like them to be over 12 years old and with a parent, or just adults. We would like 4 people per 1 hour shift.

CINDY: Do you know if tables are provided? What size? We think something bigger than a card table would be necessary. We can provide one too.

STEVE: Do you have an awning tent we can use over the table??\

WINDSOCKS: Sunni thinks maybe using crepe paper streamers instead. There is crepe paper at church

SIGN: There is a FLC banner but it has the old logo. We need to find. And are we okay with old logo or do we want a new sign?

BUBBLES: Either use a homemade recipe and straws and string to make big bubbles. A thought, do we want to do this? Should we just stick to our main project? If we want to stick with this, STEVE, could you do it? *Decision made to add bubble recipe to the handout but not have a bubble station.*

PINWHEELS: Pencil (SUNNI has a bunch), thumb tacks, and a piece of paper with information about FLC on it and what we do for Creation Care. REBECCA will head this up but would love input on what to put on the paper.

HANDOUT on what people can do to care for the earth: JENNIFER, will you do this? We thought a 1/4 of a piece of paper with ideas, can you make it "flashy"?!

NEXT MEETING: MARCH 26th 7pm

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## ENDOWMENT BOARD MINUTES

February 4, 2019

**Purpose:** *The purpose of the First Lutheran Church Endowment Board is to grow the portfolio such that the annual distributions do not expend any of the principal of the fund and the portfolio meets a socially responsible investment strategy. It shall be the policy of the Board to distribute up to 6% of the preceding three year average balance, while never expending the donated principal of the fund.*

**Location:** First Lutheran Church

**Members Present:** The meeting was led by Nick Cordonier. Jon Peppmuller, Randy Hinton, Pastor Dan and Peggy King were present. Al Williams was absent.

The meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Dan and devotions by Peggy King.

### Review of Member Terms:

Peggy King	3 <sup>rd</sup> year/1 <sup>st</sup> term	Jon Peppmuller	2 <sup>nd</sup> year/2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Nick Cordonier	2 <sup>nd</sup> year/1 <sup>st</sup> term	Al Williams	1 <sup>st</sup> year/2 <sup>nd</sup> term
Randy Hinton	1 <sup>st</sup> year/1 <sup>st</sup> term		

**Minutes:** Moved by Jon second by Randy to approve minutes of October 29, 2018 meeting as printed. Motion carried.

### Schedule for 2019 Board meetings:

The following dates for meetings were approved:

February 4, 2019	August 5, 2019	
May 6, 2019	November 4, 2019	All at 7:00 p.m.

### Financial Report:

- Jon explained the history and transition to ELCA Fund A. Also, ELCA Fund A will distribute 4% each quarter of the year.
- All funds (including Mission Investment Funds) were liquidated, reconciled and moved to the ELCA Fund A during 2018.
- Balance of ELCA Fund A at 12/31/2018                      \$357,476.20
- The Fund A 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter distribution                                              \$1,090.82
- The Fund A 4<sup>th</sup> quarter distribution                                              3,413.28
- Total distributions for 2018 from ELCA Fund A                                              \$4,504.10
- Quarterly distributions from Fund A are deposited to the account at U.S. Bank
- The Wells Fargo account will be closed
- All donations to the Endowment Fund during 2018 have been listed in the financial records. A list was provided by Jon and will be included in minute book and digital record. Total of donations to the Endowment fund for 2018 year were \$13,650.
- Motion to approve financial report made by Randy and second by Nick. Motion carried.

**Old Business:**

- Total donations to the Endowment fund in 2018 were \$13,650. These remain in the principal of the fund.
- Distributions from growth of the Endowment fund in 2018 totaled \$13,400. These have been listed in previous minutes.
- An internal review of financial transactions in 2017 and 2018 will be done by Bryan Hanson.
- All funds held at Wells Fargo were liquidated and deposited in the US Bank checking account.
- These funds were then sent to the ELCA Fund A.

**New Business:**

- Election of officers: The following officers were elected by voice vote –
- Nick Cordonier, Chair; Jon Peppmuller, Financial Treasurer; Peggy King, Recording Secretary  
Moved by Nick and second by Randy that above officers shall serve for the coming year.  
Motion carried. A copy of this election of officers shall be delivered to U.S. Bank as requested.
- Jon will confirm that the signature card for U.S. Bank has correct signatures for treasurer and secretary and that checks have been ordered for the account.
- Nick will contact Cindy in the office to reserve space for the future scheduled meetings.
- Nick will write a short note for the Voice announcing Randy Hinton as new member of the Endowment Board.

Other assignments and ideas were discussed –

- Al offered to continue working on Endowment fundraising materials and Voice inserts – including Memorial Day, All Saints Day and Veterans Day.
- Al also offered to attend the event this spring for High School Seniors to explain the scholarships offered by the Endowment Board.
- Nick offered to work on digitalizing Endowment Board records – Jon has all financial records in a digital file already.
- Nick also suggested making a standard notebook for new members as they join the board.
- Randy will work on special projects and possible ways the Endowment Board can participate in the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebration.

Next quarterly meeting: Monday, May 6, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Pastor Dan closed the meeting with prayer

Respectfully submitted,  
Peggy King

Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Congregation Council  
March 5, 2019 7:00 p.m.

Attending: Barry Graham, Mike McDannel, Brian Niebuhr, Pastor Justin Eller, Pastor Dan Warnes, Barb Johnson Frank

Pastor Justin offered the opening prayer.

Discussion:

-Mike encouraged the group to consider offering brief "deep dives" at Council meetings, highlighting topics of interest to church leaders. Pastor Dan noted that at the March 12<sup>th</sup> Council meeting he planned to present information about Systems Theory and how to be a healthy elected leader here. Council members will be asked about other topics that would make good "deep dives."

-Mike suggested a bit longer Council Orientation session, to include more opportunities for Council members to get to know one another.

-The group began to address the topic of updating the Constitution, including considering changes to the election process suggested by Mike. This could take place a couple of years from now, at a less busy time.

-Pastor Dan proposed presenting a motion to purchase a piano that can support worship in the temporary site (Activity Center) as well as in the new sanctuary. Brian will work on writing the motion for funding up to \$15,000.

-Ways of marking the transition from the current sanctuary to the new worship space are being discussed.

-Pastor Justin asked to talk briefly about Accompaniment 201, a training session to be offered on March 31, 2019.

-There is no contract from Dimensions at this time, but the organization has been involved in planning the preschool facility at First Lutheran. The contract will be similar to Dimensions' contract with First Plymouth Church.

Pastor Justin offered the closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barb Johnson Frank

## Minutes of the Fellowship Committee

February 12, 2019

**Attending:** LuAnn Snyder, Judy Bailey, Judy Batterman, Carlene Falos, Phyllis Frickel, Ann Allen, Carol Tesar, Bill Tesar, Linda Carlson

**Devotions:** Judy Bailey

**Upcoming Events:** 1. **Lenten Meals** – We estimate about 120 people for each week, lunch and supper. **Managing without a kitchen:** LuAnn reported that food service for the Prom event went well. They took used silverware home to wash. Carlene proposed that we ask people to bring soup in crockpots as there are many outlets along the walls of the Activity Center. Judy Batterman announced that she had applied for and received a \$250 grant from Thrivent, the purpose of which is catering some Lenten meals. We discussed various fast food places from which we could bring suppers: Taco Inn, Pizza Hut, Runza, GoodCents. The following meal schedule was determined:

March 13 – Soup for both lunch and supper

March 20 – Cater submarine sandwiches for both lunch and supper

March 27 – Soup for both meals

April 3 – Couples in Christ will prepare and serve. This is likely the date when the Confirmands will join us for supper. LuAnn will confirm that date with the pastor.

April 10 – Cater meals (Food to be determined after assessing the success of March 20 subs.)

Desserts needed for each meal: bars and/or cookies from at least six people. (2 dozen cookies each)

**Publicity:** Judy Batterman will place an article in The Voice and the bulletin. Bulletins will have inserts for sign-up for soups and bars/cookies. She will also place a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the Commons area. Committee members who plan to bring food should also sign-up on the kiosk sheet. LuAnn will ask the pastors to include this in their announcements before worship services.

2. **Easter Egg Hunt** – April 20 Space for hiding eggs is limited this year. The youngest children may still find eggs that will be “hidden” in the Commons area. Judy Batterman suggested that the older children could play Bingo for Eggs. She found Easter bingo cards online, and we’ll play the game in the Activity Center. Prior to games and egg hunt, we will still have a puppet show for all children. LuAnn assured us that all of last year’s performers are still in Lincoln and available. We have enough sand buckets left from last year to use as Redemption prizes. Judy Batterman will write an article for The Voice. Kathleen will provide a place for sign-ups on our website. Bulletins will have inserts for sign-ups and for parents to offer bags of candy. Deadline for sign-up: Tuesday, April 16. Committee members will fill the eggs at 3:30 on Wednesday, April 17.

3. **Easter Breakfast** – Because the kitchen renovation will not be complete, we will not serve a complete breakfast. Instead, we will serve cinnamon rolls, coffee cake, coffee, and juice in the Activity Center.

4. **Saltdogs Game** – Judy Batterman listed the dates for home games. We favor the June dates to avoid late summer heat, but must first check with Pastor Dan to see when and if we may use their camper. The home dates are: May 23-29, June 18-23, June 28-30, July 24-26, and July 30-31.

**Devotions for March:** Carlene Falos

Submitted by Linda Carlson, Secretary

**Property Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**February 26, 2019**

Meeting time: 7:00 PM

In attendance: Richard Draper, Bob Batterman, Steve Lenzen, Greg Fisher, Norm Kempf, Jan Christensen

Opening prayer: Jan

Minute taker: Jan

Approve minutes of the November Meeting.

Check for items that need to be added to agenda:

Voted to recognize the extra snow removal work that Greg F. has had to do this winter when snow on parking lot was not enough to require outside vendor to clear, but Greg had to do it with brush snow blower; such as providing gift certificate for dinner for two or such. Norm will discuss with P. Dan.

Discussion of snow being dumped inappropriately on Memory Garden by Hampton workers: Mounding up snow onto the boulder may damage it & cause cracks & separations, & onto consecrated space with bulbs & flowers which may kill plant materials. Disrespectful to the several people the garden memorializes & salt from parking lot shoved onto garden may be harmful to the garden.

Agenda:

1. Stone Brook has completed caulking of windows & ready to move forward to painting over the stains on the ceiling of the activity center. It was decided to wait with the painting until the roof is repaired.
2. Status of lawn mower/snow blower. Mower is currently in the shed; tires are flat & after attempt to fix them, still flat, so authorized Greg to replace them. Authorized Greg to have snow blower evaluated due to gear-shifting problems - whether it is fixable, & at what cost
3. More bird holes in new stucco. Roger Fagler who did the original plastering has been contacted. He said that a lift will need to be obtained for this project & he will give us a cost estimate.
4. Discussed painting in Activity Center in anticipation of using room for worship while sanctuary is under construction. Worship Committee subcommittee has analyzed paint samples & Bonita has painted one side of A.C. stage to gauge what it would look like. Prop Comm members weren't sure about painting the whole room's blocks with that paint color, but volunteered to help paint whatever will be painted in A.C. to prepare for worship in that room.

Next meeting March 26, 2019

March Prayer: Bob Batterman