# FIRST LUTERAN CHURCH CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

#### Tuesday, August 13, 2024

#### Meeting in Upper Room or by Zoom

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84168009362?pwd=ZUpEQWFwaXF2bmZIVFIvVnI3Nko0dz09

- A. Opening Devotions & Prayer Pastor Erin
- B. Approve Consent Agenda
  - 1. Meeting Agenda
  - 2. Congregational Council Minutes June 11, 2024
  - 3. Parochial Report
  - 4. Staff Reports
  - 5. Committee Reports
- C. Growing Young Video Presentation and Discussion
- D. Discussion/Information Agenda
  - 1. Rate for Las Abejitas additional classroom space
  - 2. New cleaning contract
  - 3. Discipleship Coordinator position
  - 4. Congregational Committees FY2025 program requests
  - 5. October 27 Town Hall and Special Congregational Meeting
  - 6. Fall Festival Update
- E. Financial Report
- F. Open comments
- G. Closing Prayer
- H. Adjournment

# Executive Committee Meeting First Lutheran Church July 2, 2024

Present: Judy, Scott, Lee, Pastor Andrew, Emily

Opening Prayer: Lee

Topics for discussion:

#### 1. Adams Cleaning Contract

We discussed the proposal from the new cleaning company, and we voted for them to do a deep cleaning and to approve the contract.

#### 2. Roofing Legal Status

We discussed the roofing legal status update.

#### 3. Finance Committee

We discussed that this will be a work in progress with interaction between the finance committee and the executive committee on building a budget with the needs/wants and the actual pledges.

#### 4. July 14 Town Hall

- A. Vitality Initiative- They will speak at the town hall.
- B. Mortgage payment option discussion- Scott will discuss this at the town hall.
- C. Building Issues- We will have Rod, Brandon and Norm (from the building committee) update the congregation about all the building issues we will face coming up.
- October 27 Town Hall/Special Congregational Meeting/Council Size Action
   We discussed the congregation taking a vote to reduce the number of council members.
- 6. Growing Young- August Council meeting extended discussion
  We discussed watching the last third of the video at the August Council meeting and we will have a discussion on what we should do to foster/bring in younger people.

#### 7. Other

We need to make sure to go and get our signatures authorized at US Bank.

#### 8. Closing Prayer

Closed with the Lord's Prater at 8:06 p.m.

Submitted by Emily Sears, Council Secretary

#### Executive Committee Meeting First Lutheran Church August 6, 2024

Present: Judy, Lee, Pastor Andrew, Emily, Scott

Opening Prayer: Pastor Andrew

Topics for discussion:

1. Growing Young Council Discussion

We discussed watching the last section of the video at the next council meeting on 8/13 and that the council should have a discussion on what we've learned and how we will implement what we have learned.

- Las Abejitas additional classroom rental fee (\$150 per month)
   We discussed a rate for them using the additional room and thought this was a fair price.
- 3. Activity Center Floor Cleaning-- \$1,500
  The deep cleaning of the activity center floor wasn't included in the original price estimate. The cleaning company took ownership. We discussed paying half (\$750).
- 4. Endowment Board Discussion (August 14 Meeting, 7:00, Pastor Erin, Scott, Lee)
  We discussed that some of the executive committee should go to the endowment board meeting to learn more about their funds etc.
- 5. Discipleship Coordinator (Intern- 15 hours per week @ \$20.00 per hour; \$15,000 annually) We discussed the pros and cons of what this could bring and if it is feasible. We need to define what we'd like and possibly investigate if grants are available.
- Youth MinistryWe had a brief discussion on this topic.
- 7. September 15 worship services- Council members distribute Stewardship packets
  Just a reminder that council members should attend these services to help distribute the packets to the congregation.
- 8. Other Items
  None
- 9. Closing Prayer We closed with the Lord's Prayer at 8:23 p.m.

Submitted by Emily Sears, Council Secretary

# **Parochial Report**

			Вар	tized	Confirme	ed	
1. MEMBERSHIP as of	June 1, 2024		2	1099	911	l	
B. by baptism (C. transfer from D. other Luthe E. affirmation (F. transfer fro	(15 years and u (adult) m ELCA congreg ran of faith m non-Lutheral	gation n congreg	gation				
G. other and si	tatistical adjust	ment					
Members removed	:						
A. death				3	2	<u> </u>	
B. transfer to ELCA congregation							
C. transfer to other Lutheran congregation							
D. transfer to non-Lutheran congregation							
E. other and statistical adjustment							
MEMBERSHIP as of Average Attendance for			- :	 1096	909	_	
<u>2014 2015 2016</u>	<u>2017</u> <u>2018</u>	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	<u>2024</u>
346 388 365	323 325	284	online	357	324	210	196

### Added:

Baptism:

Affirmation:

Transfer:

Other:

### Removed:

Death: Cole Dalby, Barbara Howard, Jane Mickelson

Transfer:

Dropped Due to Inactivity:

Other:

Notes: Live Stream average for June 2024 is: no data available

# Parochial Report

	•				
	Baptized	Confirmed			
1. MEMBERSHIP as of July 1, 2024	1096	909			
Members received:					
A. by baptism (15 years and under)	1				
B. by baptism (adult)					
C. transfer from ELCA congregation					
D. other Lutheran					
E. affirmation of faith					
F. transfer from non-Lutheran congregatio	n				
G. other and statistical adjustment					
Members removed:					
A. death					
B. transfer to ELCA congregation	2	2			
C. transfer to other Lutheran congregation					
D. transfer to non-Lutheran congregation					
E. other and statistical adjustment					
MEMBERSHIP as of July 31, 2024	1095	907			
Average Attendance for July					
<u>2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 20</u>	<u>20</u> <u>2021</u>	2022	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	
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online

305

299

198

204

## Added:

334

Baptism: Edie Erickson

343

335

Affirmation: Transfer: Other:

325

#### Removed:

Death:

Transfer: Byron & Eunice Fischer, transfer to Bethany Lutheran, Elkhorn, NE

Dropped Due to Inactivity:

Other:

Notes: Live Stream average for July 2024 is: no data available

289

293

#### Congregational Council Meeting

#### First Lutheran Church

June 11, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT: Pastor Erin Heidelberger, Lee Rockwell, Judy Batterman, Emily Sears, Pastor Andrew Kitzing, Brandon Wiebelhaus, Kari Hoeft, Karen Statham, Scott Williamson, Jennifer Wemhoff, Jenna Troutman

MEMBERS ABSENT: Amy Harrison, Patrick Hayden-Roy, Rod Johnson, Dave Pfister, Bev White, John Bonaiuto

GUEST PRESENT: Bryan Hanson

MEETING RECORDER: Ann Carlson

#### A. OPENING PRAYER AND BIBLE STUDY:

The meeting was called to order by Council President Lee Rockwell at 7:00. Pastor Erin led the opening prayer and Bible Study.

#### B. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Meeting agenda
- 2. Congregational Council Minutes May 14, 2024
- 3. Parochial Report
- 4. Staff Reports
- 5. Committee Reports

Two adjustments were made to the meeting agenda.

- 1. The discussion of the building automation system (Item F. 1.), will be moved to the July meeting since Rod Johnson was not able to attend the June Council meeting.
- 2. Welcoming and Outreach Ministry, was added to the discussion agenda (Item F. 6.).

It was moved by Scott and seconded by Kari to approve the consent agenda, as modified. The motion carried.

#### C. BUILDING FACILITY BUDGET IMPACT – DISCUSSION – BRYAN HANSON:

- Bryan led a discussion on the Mortgage Transition Fund and various scenarios if we choose to make a prepayment on our mortgage. The scenarios show the estimated monthly payments, which will begin in 2025, as well as the interest savings if various prepayments are made.
- It is estimated that the Mortgage Transition Fund will have a balance of \$255,347 as of December 31, 2024. The Mortgage Transition Fund will assist us in making monthly mortgage payments out of our operating budget.
- It is estimated that our mortgage balance will be \$1,017,737 as of December 31, 2024.
- Our mortgage interest rate for five years, beginning in 2021, is 3.95%. Current mortgage rates are approximately 8.25%.

- The ELCA Mission Investment Fund holds our current mortgage. The interest rate at a local bank may be .25% lower.
- This important topic will be discussed at each Council meeting as well as at the July 14
  Town Hall.

#### D. GROWING YOUNG - VIDEO PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION:

The council watched part of a video presentation of *Growing Young*, led by Dr. Kara Powell. Council members were asked to make note of points in the video that struck them.

#### E. ACTION AGENDA:

1. Congregational Council Membership Size – Constitution Proposal It was moved by Judy and seconded by Scott to recommend to the Congregation an amendment to the FLC Constitution Chapter 12.01 (Congregational Council) to reduce membership from 15 to 12 members of the congregation. Specific language in the first sentence of 12.01 would be as follows: "The voting membership of the Congregational Council shall consist of the full-time, regularly called pastors and 12 members of this congregation."

The motion carried.

Consideration will be given to calling a special meeting possibly in conjunction with the October 27 Town Hall such that this proposal could take affect at the next election.

#### 2. Sabbatical Policy

It was moved by Emily and seconded by Jenn to approve the updated FLC sabbatical policy.

The motion carried.

#### F. DISCUSSION AGENDA:

- Building automation system Rod Johnson and Brandon Wiebelhaus
   This item will be discussed at the July Council meeting since Rod Johnson was not able to attend the June Council meeting.
- 2. June 2 worship service evaluation
  - Jeff Chu was an incredible speaker.
  - It was good to be together.
  - Lee was disappointed in the attendance as ninety-nine people attended in person.
  - The same format will be used for next year's Synod Assembly.
- 3. Congregational Committees FY2025 program requests

Pastor Erin distributed a budget request worksheet, which will go to each committee/ministry team. The initial due date for the completed form was July 11. Since more time will likely be needed, the time to complete the form will be extended.

#### 4. July 14 Town Hall

Agenda items discussed:

- Council membership moving from fifteen congregational members to twelve congregational members.
- Introduce budget request worksheet.
- Mortgage transition fund.
- Building expenses identified by Property Committee
- Financial report

#### 5. October 27 Town Hall

The October Town Hall is scheduled for October 27.

#### 6. Welcoming and Outreach Ministry

Pastor Erin said that the exterior entryway of First Lutheran is intentionally shaped to look like arms extending in an embrace of our community. She believes we have a need to develop and equip an "Open Arms" ministry team that would oversee both outreach ministry and welcoming ministry. Under the umbrella of this team would be:

- Outreach activity focused on connecting with our community (e.g., our presence at Star City Pride).
- Hospitality/Welcoming activity focused on the question, "is our church a place
  where people feel comfortable, want to be, and feel that they belong?" This
  essentially is a continuation of the work of our welcome statement. We haven't
  arrived at being a welcoming congregation, but we will always be living into and
  growing into it. Pastor Erin sees a need for us to include in this welcoming work
  an accessibility and disabilities ministry team to continue to make First
  Lutheran a place that is accessible and welcoming to people with disabilities and
  that celebrates and incorporates their gifts.

#### G. FINANCIAL REPORT:

May 2024 Financials:

YTD receipts through May 31, 2024, are \$8,467 over budget; YTD disbursements through May 31, 2024, are \$3,148 over budget; YTD surplus through May 31, 2024, is \$5,319.

Scott mentioned that we carried \$41,000 over from our last year's budget and that we are continuing to lose ground.

Property Committee expenses need to be laid out such that we can develop a plan to deal with them.

It was moved by Kari and seconded by Emily to accept the May 2024 financial report. The motion carried.

#### H. OPEN COMMENTS:

July 12 will be First Lutheran night at the Saltdogs. The tailgate will be at 5:30. There will be a fireworks display that night. Ticket sales will be June 23, 30 and July 7<sup>th</sup>. Tickets are \$15 each.

A Members Guide for Realm was distributed, and everyone was encouraged to set up their account.

- I. CLOSING PRAYER: Pastor Andrew led the closing prayer.
- J. ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 8:59.

I attended the "Empower, Empowered, Empowering" conference in Sioux Falls, SD, August 6-8. This event happened due to the collaboration of seven ELCA bishops (including our Nebraska bishop) and the ELCA Quality of Call Initiative. The Quality of Call Initiative is part of Presiding Bishop Eaton's Leadership Initiative. The initial phase of this initiative was focused on understanding and addressing inequality and variances in the quality of calls for rostered minsters who are women. In 2023, a second focus on rostered ministers who are BIPOC was launched. The final phase will focus on rostered ministers who identify as LGBTQIA+.

**Stewardship:** The stewardship team has been meeting to plan our fall stewardship season, which will be September 15-October 6. We're using synod resources to plan this year's focus around the *Cultivating Love* theme with weekly subthemes of *Cultivating Connection*, *Cultivating Community*, and *Cultivating Grace*. The team is recruiting stewardship speakers for weekend worship services, I'm writing materials for the stewardship packets that will be given to each FLC household and go on our website, and Kathleen is designing those materials. We have a guest preacher lined up for Commitment Sunday on October 6 (no Saturday service to encourage all to come on Commitment Sunday and Fall Festival).

**All-Church Retreat:** Our third all-church retreat will be held on Saturday, September 21 at Camp Carol Joy Holling—and no Husker football game is scheduled for that day! The retreat info page and registration are live on our website. While Sharon is on sabbatical, I'm the point person for the retreat.

**Possible Growing With Group** – I'm making tentative plans to lead a monthly *Growing With* Group, launching in October and finishing in May or June, based on Kara Powell's book *Growing With: Every Parent's Guide to Helping Teenagers and Young Adults Thrive in Their Faith, Family, and Future.* This would be a great opportunity for both learning and community-building to offer to our parents/grandparents/anyone who is actively parenting a teenager or young adult.

Las Abejitas Support Team update: Las Abejitas is expanding to a second location at First Plymouth and has been able to hire several new staff members to support this expansion. They are now at Step 2 in the "Step Up to Quality" program of the Nebraska Dept. of Education and DHHS. They hope to have the Upper Room classroom in use by September.

**Pastoral acts:** I officiated the wedding of Brianna Brass and Brian Anderson at First Lutheran on June 15.

**Calendar:** Continuing education reading week October 7-13 in the Black Hills, SD (one Sunday).

#### For council consideration: Discipleship Coordinator intern program

I'm thinking out of curiosity about what God might be calling us to in a new time in the church (at large, not only this congregation) and our hope and desire to have a coordinator of discipleship at FLC. Fewer and fewer people are going into church work (not just clergy). Given that reality, and considering what we're learning from *Growing Young*, I ask for council's consideration of creating a Discipleship Coordinator intern program for college-age young adults. This would give us the opportunity to forge relationships with young people (and possibly strengthen our connection with the Lutheran Center), provide a vocational development opportunity to young adults, and invest in young people as leaders in the church—which may lead to discerning a call to rostered leadership or to lay leadership in their future churches. A number of Lutheran congregations offer intern programs that we can draw on for ideas and examples. A rough budget estimate would be \$15,000-\$18,000 for a 15 hr/wk internship.

August 9,2024

June 17-21 – VBS

22-23 - Vacation

28-30 - Vacation

July 6 – funeral Jane Mickelson

15-20 - National Youth Gathering, NOLA

27 – baptism Edie Erickson

August 4 – Summer trip presentations

7 – Gifts of Hope

10-11 - Backpack Blessing

August 12-18 – Vacation 21 – Confirmation Organizational Meeting September 4 – Confirmation begins!

Looking back on the summer I can't believe it has passed us by so quickly! There are just a few highlights I'd like to make concerning the list above.

There are several vacation periods in there. The first couple were for a wedding and a funeral that I was asked to preside over. The vacation that will be during the council meeting is a trip out to New Jersey to visit in-laws. I'll be looking forward to being home.

The national youth gathering took place in New Orleans, as I'm sure you're all well aware of at this point. It was the first gathering in six years and was organized differently than most years. You all had the chance to hear what the kids did and learned during the week. It was an exhausting week, as you might imagine. What I will say, I also said last Sunday...this is the largest gathering of ELCA members that ever takes place. There is no other gathering at comes close to having the number of Lutherans together in one place to worship, sing, pray, make friends, etc. And the vast majority of those who attended were teenagers. Just meditate on that for a minute. The largest gathering that the ELCA has is a group of teenagers.

Notice the beginning of confirmation. We will again be using the Discipleship University model. August 21 will the organizational meeting where the students need to bring at least one parent/guardian with them so I know the information got back to an adult. Following that, the schedule will remain similar to last year's. The first Wednesday of the month will be students and parents, the third Wednesday will be just students. We will have a few Wednesdays of service

projects. This year's focus is on Scripture. All the details will be given at the August meeting. Classes being fully on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

One hobby that you may not know I have is refereeing football. I apparently don't take enough abuse during my day job! With the beginning of school, football season is close behind. I'll be spending every Friday night and a few Mondays on the football field this fall. Just a little insight into the fun I have when I'm not with you all.

Sorry to miss the meeting!

Pr. Andrew

#### Sharon Hardel's Report to Council June 12, 2025 – July 27, 2024

The months of June and July have been non-stop, and I am certainly looking forward to my upcoming sabbatical for a breather.

June 12 started with a VBS meeting with Karrie from Our Saviour's Lutheran to make sure we had all our ducks in a row for the upcoming week. We reviewed our registration list and made sure we had all our supplies and leaders in place. Later that day our youth held a final fundraiser for the summer trips by hosting a dine-in or take out meal at Don and Millies. We earned close to \$170 (20% of each ticket). That doesn't sound like much but that would total about \$850 and at \$20 / person means about 42 people came out to support us. It was great fun seeing and visiting the families that came.

The rest of the week and then **June 17 – 21** was devoted to Bible School except for a quick Louisville trip meeting on Sunday June 16 between worship services. VBS saw 49 kids registered and over 45 helpers (some before the week began, most during the week). Kids and teachers alike had a great experience. Erin Pfister shared with me how much she enjoyed the curriculum and that it exemplified everything she believed a Christian should be. The children put together over 75 "health kits" for the People's Mission and collected over 300 cans of food and personal care items for the Lincoln Lutheran Food Pantry. The participants enjoyed a pizza party and magic show to celebrate the end of the week. Karrie and I have set a tentative date for next year's VBS (June 16 – 20) and are looking at another ELCA World Hunger curriculum (that's what we used this year).

A quick turn around from VBS saw 10 middle schoolers and adults on the road to Louisville, KY the week of **June 23 – 28**. We worked hard in Louisville feeding the community, packaging food for global and local distribution, and cleaning and fixing up parks and gardens. We also had some time to explore the city and enjoy many ice cream treats over the week. One thing that made me laugh over the week was before serving lunch at the Franciscan Kitchen, the director prayed for prayer requests then we all joined in the Our Father which led to the Hail Mary. After the prayer, one of our youth came to me and said they didn't know the last part, I said it was ok, we weren't Catholic...their response "They're Catholic!", said in a quiet but shocked voice...I laughed and said it's ok, we're all doing God's work. It made me realize though that even the name of the place we were serving and all the Catholic items around the room were not necessarily noticed by a middle schooler.

I had a short respite after the Louisville trip to attend Kent's family reunion in Gilman IL. We also celebrated his dad's 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. It's such a blessing to be part of the Bohlmann family and it always fills my heart to spend a weekend with them...the love, joy, and faith of the 60 or so gathered is palpable and I was very emotional when we left realizing that I am probably saying goodbye for the last time to those that will most likely not be with us at the next reunion in 2028.

The week of July 1 – the week of July 8 saw many meetings to prepare for the Youth Gathering, wrapping up VBS expenses and evaluating the week, and with individual staff and lay leaders who are covering my roles while on sabbatical. One of the biggest challenges that arose was Pastor Eric Spruth-Janssen's father was put on hospice and died a few days later. Pastor Eric was to go with us to NOLA with his youth Josie. I spent most of Friday July 12 calling the airline, the Gathering office, and tour companies changing our numbers and figuring out the logistics of having Josie join our group officially since she and Pastor Eric originally registered as their own congregation.

Our Gathering group of 13 left bright and early Monday morning **July 15** for New Orleans. We had no trouble with traveling or checking into our hotel early Monday morning. The hardest part on Monday was getting our donations (17 bags of Liquid IV drink mixes and 4 prayer shawls) into the Convention Center since we couldn't take anything other than small clear bags through security. I had been assured they would be flexible for donations...that was not the case. However, a gathering staff person finally came and assisted me so I could get through security and the rest of the week

went smoothly. We enjoyed amazing speakers and musicians, walked at least 7 miles every day, got to participate in an evening Gathering worship, worked hard to clean up an area that was a strip mall before Katrina in the hopes it can be a playground and community garden soon, and ate some amazing food. 2 of us unfortunately came back with Covid...many posts throughout our Synod and across the ELCA noted Covid cases in youth groups that attended, I guess it was inevitable with 16,000 plus gathered in close spaces for the week. Please pray for healing. Many groups also were stranded in NOLA due to the airline issues with the Microsoft crash. Thankfully our flights got us home as scheduled.

Here is a list of who is covering what while I'm on sabbatical:

**Monday Coffee Group:** They have each other's contact information via Realm and e-mails and will coordinate themselves.

Gather and Gab: Decided to take a break until I get back from sabbatical

**Youth Trip Presentation:** Jenna Troutman and Pastor Andrew will be heading up the trip presentation on August 4<sup>th</sup>. Jenna has the photos from both trips and is putting a video together.

**Backpack Blessing**: Laura Graulty and Pastors

Bible Milestone: Pastor Erin is doing the class and I have given her all the supplies needed

**Discipleship University**: I have sent out an initial e-mail to families with start date and have Linda Bogenreif, Lauar Graulty, and hopefully Michalla Schartz providing the meal. Pastor Andrew, Jenna and Maya Troutman will lead the course material. I have informed Kayla Munoz via text of our start date and that we are using the Upper Room this year for our gathering space.

**Sunday Learning:** Dave Schmitter and Jenna Troutman will facilitate the middle and high school class. The students will begin the year with "The Young Samaritans Experience" a peer ministry curriculum. Erin Niebuhr will lead music with the youth each Sunday for about 20 minutes.

Youth Group: Jenna Troutman and Kristi Fisher will take youth to a Synod fall kick off on September 8.

**Pop Up Fiesta:** September 15, an intergenerational event with Las Abejitas - Donice Kaspar will coordinate the team consisting so far of Rachel Genis Frank, Laura Graulty, and Kayla Munoz. This event is to celebrate the start of Hispanic Heritage Month.

I will hold the congregation in prayer over my sabbatical and ask that you do the same for me. I look forward to a time of slowing down and listening to God, relaxing, rejuvenating, exploring, learning, and serving throughout the next 7 weeks. Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Blessings,

**Sharon Hardel** 

Director of Worship and Music

June & July 2024

Baptism July 27 (Saturday) Edie Anne Erickson

#### Sunday Musicians

June 2 11:00 Nebraska Synod Live-streaming worship service

June 9 8:15 Kathy Havelcek-Cook, Sherri Cotter,

10:45 Kaitlyn Brock, Kayla Peters, Judy Peterson, Summer Family Choir

June 16 8:15 Carol Reckmeyer, Matt Reckmeyer, David Pitts, Jazz Combo (Matt Reckmeyer, Konnor Garrett,
Bennett Bacon)

10:45 Kristi Fisher, Jazz Team (Tony Anderson, Kristi & Dakota Fisher, Sophia Johnson, Jenna Troutman, Anna Wemhoff)

June 23 both Piano Quartet (Christine Carman, Brian & Erin Niebuhr, Bonita Thomsen)

8:15 Handell Quintet (Christine Carman, Brian & Erin Niebuhr, Masako Bacon), Erin Niebuhr, Aden Niebuhr, Will Niebuhr, Xander Niebuhr

10:45 Claire Ehlers, Megan Hulse

June 30 8:15 Scott Vicroy, Amanda Andersen

10:45 Tony, Nicholas, & Zachary Bushard, Men's Summer Choir

July 7 8:15 Handbell Quintet (Kristi Fisher, Ann Nitzel, Lillie Rademacher, Martha Tanner, Masako Bacon)
Claire Ehlers

10:45 String Trio (Mai Jacobo, Konnor Garrett, Bennett Bacon)

July 14 10:45 The Niebuhr Quintet (Brian, Erin, Aden, Will, & Xander), Summer Family Choir, Dawn Brock

July 21 both Jazz Combo (Carol Reckmeyer, Matt Reckmeyer, Konnor Garrett, Bennett Bacon)

July 28 both Camp Sunday Band (Kaitlyn Brock, Kristi, Dakota, & Stephen Fisher, Kayla Peters,

Jenna, Maya, & Cole Troutman)

10:45 Malcolm Pfister, Summer Bells (Dawn Brock, Kristi & Dakota Fisher, Sandy Latshaw, Kelsey Moline, Ann Nitzel, Lillie Rademacher)

#### Saturday Musicians

June 8, 22, 29, July 6, 20, 27 – Christine Carman June 15 – Masako Bacon

#### Overview

It was a very busy summer – While we miss Adult Choir during worship services, we are blessed with many people who brought and gathered their gifts that are varied. Gathering one-time commitment small ensembles and having college students back from out of town are very special.

**ELCA Nebraska Synod Live-Streaming Worship, June 2** - In am effort of experiencing a unified worship service throughout the sate, churches were encouraged to hold one service. First Lutheran counted 99 people. Some people appreciated the experience connected to worship together with closing worship service with Nebraska Synod Assembly.

**Vitality Initiative Sunday, July 14** – It was another Sunday to have one worship service for the weekend. Deacon Sunni Richardson was the preacher and the Town Hall Meeting followed the worship service. 165 people attended the worship service.

**Worship Assistants** – There are many empty roles left like other summers. Always some people 'rescue' the situation. Particularly 10:45 usher positions are hard to fill. Having numbers of people who used to serve at 10:45 am worship having moved away has been impacting this situation. We are still in need for head usher/coordinator for 10:45. Prayerfully we hope the position to be filled in near future.

Respectfully submitted, Masako Bacon soli deo gloria

#### **COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY**

#### June & July 2024

### by Kathleen Simley, Communications Director

#### SPECIAL AND COLLABORATIVE PROJECTS

June and July were dedicated to preparing myself for the upcoming busy period starting in August. I made time for weekend getaways, vacations and a four-day continuing education retreat. You can find information about my continuing education time in a later section of my report. Many special projects are now underway and will continue through the end of the year. Here's a snapshot of my activities from the last two months:

- Collaborated with the Stewardship Committee to strategize for the upcoming 2024-25 campaign, focusing on developing promotional materials and tools.
- Met with the Gifts of Hope "Dream Team" to plan the 2024 market slated for December 7 and 8; ongoing discussions will shape their communication and promotional needs.
- Attended meetings with the Fall Festival Planning Team in preparation for the event on Sunday, October 6, from Noon-3:00 PM, where I will craft promotional and communication materials.
- Addressed the archiving of historical documents with Judy Batterman and Mandy West to align with ELCA Standards; we need fire-proof storage (room or cabinets) to meet compliance which will require a congregation investment; more information is to come.
- Continuously promoted Realm, our new member management software, among small groups and ministries; a congregation-wide promotion will kick off in early September, featuring support sessions and profile photo opportunities on Saturday evenings and Sunday mornings. The month will culminate in an informational session during the Adult Forum hour on September 29, led by me and other Realm-trained members.

#### MY WEEKLY TASKS

- First Glance Insert
- First Things First E-Newsletter
- FaithTrek E-Newsletter
- Sunday Worship Livestream
- TV Slides
- Facebook, Instagram and News posts (daily)
- Publish Sermon Online
- Publish Adult Forum Session Online
- Readers for Sunday Worship

## MY MONTHLY TASKS

- Digital Sign
- Website Updates
- First Friday Jazz Concert
- First Look E-Newsletter

#### QUARTERLY REPORT: INSIGHTS AND THOUGHTS

I am including a quarterly report of our communication reach during the second quarter (April-June). You will see that we either maintained or had a drop in our reach when compared to the previous quarter. This is really no surprise and was expected. We had a very busy and engaging first quarter with extra worship

# COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY June & July 2024

#### QUARTERLY REPORT: INSIGHTS AND THOUGHTS (cont)

services and events during Lent, Holy Week and Easter. We also boosted our Facebook page last quarter which led to reaching over 800 more people than usual. So while this quarter's reach might appear modest compared to the previous quarter, it aligns more closely with our historical performance across quarters.

I would like to highlight a missing element in my quarterly report - the absence of analytical data regarding our Facebook livestream viewership. A few months back, Facebook altered their reporting structure and data I used to gather is no longer available. As of now, I am unable to retrieve valuable insights on our viewership trends.

Here are a few interesting facts about our social media followers:

- Facebook followers are 71.2% women and 28.8% men; majority of followers fall in the 65+ age group
- Instagram followers are 73.5% women and 26.5% men; majority of followers fall in the 45-54 age group
- 99.5% of Facebook followers live in the United States; the remaining live in Liberia, Bangladesh, Guatemala, Pakiston, Nigeria, Bolivia, Canada, Phillipines and Tanzania
- 89% of Instagram followers live in the United States; the remaining live in Nigeria, Brazil, Morocco and India

#### **CONTINUING EDUCATION TIME**

I had the privilege of dedicating continuing education time away from my usual home office, opting for an AirBnB stay in Omaha from July 10-14. This time was specifically allocated to delve into projects demanding both time and creativity. Among these projects were the creation of customized "thank you" cards for volunteers, revamping and enhancing the website and introducing a new publication called 'First Stories'. The opportunity to escape typical distractions and focus on these projects was so valuable. Although the website is a work in progress, it will soon be finalized. As for the newsletter, all I can reveal is, "Get ready for a surprise!" when it launches in the upcoming week!

I also read the book, "Leading Faithful Innovation: Following God into a Hopeful Future." The book delved into the three core practices of faithful innovation: Listen, Act and Share. I will talk more about these three practices in future reports. For now, I want to share what "faithful innovation" means and its importance to First Lutheran's future.

"Faithful innovation" is the process of learning new ways to embody Christian identity and purpose in a changing cultural context. It is about rediscovering how to be the church in the twenty-first century and reconnecting with God, one another and our neighbors.

Faithful innovation is a Spirit-led process. The Holy Spirit is the primary leader of the church and the role of human leaders is to help the community listen to and be led by God. It is not up to human leaders to

# COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY June & July 2024

#### **CONTINUING EDUCATION TIME (cont)**

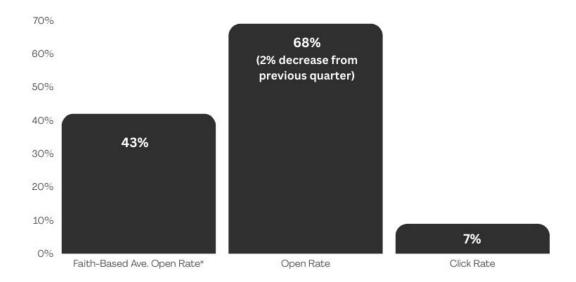
bring an exciting vision, sell it to the congregation and try to compel people into enacting it to reach a destination the leader has predetermined. The journey of faithful innovation is about listening to God and one another and being present in the spaces of our wider community where life takes place - outside the walls of our building. It's about changing the questions we ask from "church questions" to "God questions". Church questions ask "How can we get more people to attend our worship services?" God questions ask, "What might God be up to in the lives of our neighbors?"

First Lutheran's future lies beyond the walls of our building and committee meetings. It unfolds on journeys into our neighborhoods where people are dealing with real-life challenges, questions, needs and hurts. Yet, they are spiritually-curious individuals. The journey of faithful innovation takes us into the lives of these individuals, where we will experience the presence of the Holy Spirit guiding us towards the future of the church.

It's a time of great hope and promise for First Lutheran. Our participation in the Vitality Initiative is an excellent example of a faithful innovation journey. However, there are other ways we as church and leaders can be faithful innovators. I will delve into some of these ways in future reports.

For now, I challenge each of you to ponder how you can be more spirit-led as a leader of First Lutheran - stepping outside the Council meeting room and into the First Lutheran community and neighborhood - listening and asking questions of others who are seeking and needing what we might not yet be offering. It is then that you will be Spirit-led and begin to experience the faithful innovation journey.

# FIRST THINGS FIRST WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER OPEN RATE

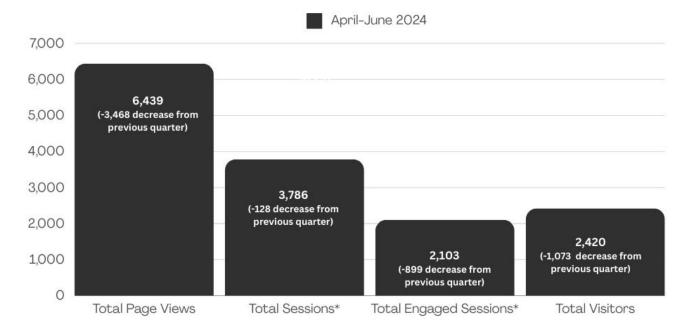


Remarkably, while our open rate dropped 2% this quarter compared to the last we still maintain a very high open rate for First Things First, when compared to the naiional average open rate for faith-based emails! Our number of subscribers dropped by only one during the quarter, for a total of 538, and it was one that I deleted due to a bad email address. The click rate for an email measures the contacts who received the email and then clicked on any link in the email. This is an important number. It shows us how interested or engaged our contacts are. We maintain a very high click rate compared to the national average of 2.28%.

When consolidating all emails sent during this period, encompassing FaithTrek Weekly Blast (for parents of 3-year-olds to 5th grade), First Look (for middle and high school parents) and death notices we upheld an outstanding 69% overall open rate.

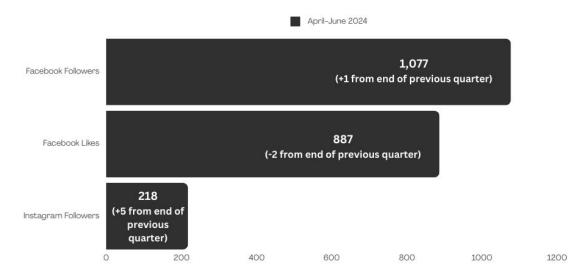
\*According to a report published June 2024 by Constant Contact

# **WEBSITE TRAFFIC**



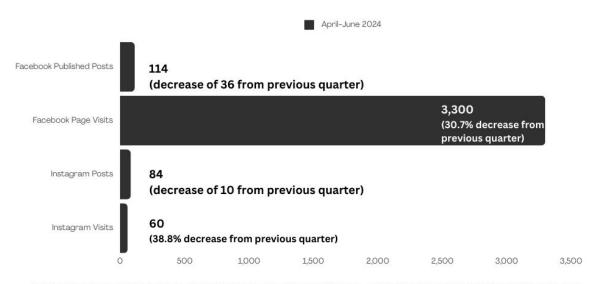
<sup>\*</sup>A session is tracked as a session whenever a user first lands on our site. An engaged session is a session that lasts longer than 10 seconds or has at least 2 pageviews or screenviews. It comes as no surprise that all the measured metrics decreased from the previous quarter. The Lenten season, Holy Week and Easter falling in the last quarter, combined with my initiative to boost our Facebook page and drive traffic to our website, resulted in unusually high metric data last quarter, making this quarter's numbers appear lower in comparison. Notably, the top three pages for viewership continue to be the same as last quarter - Home Page, Calendar and About Us.

## SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWING



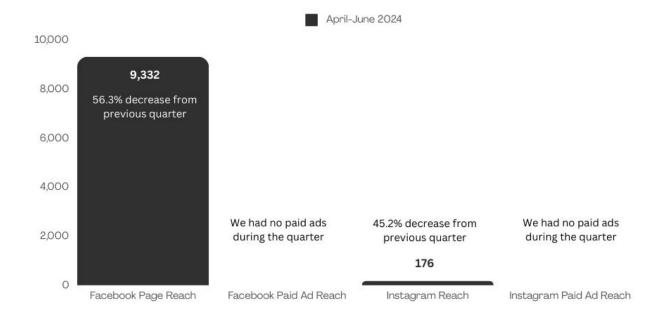
Boosting our Facebook page last quarter led to a gain of 125 new followers and 119 page likes, making this quarter's growth seem quite insignificant. However, the silver lining is that we are maintaining a steady follower and page like count without additional promotion.

## SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



- Facebook post with highest reach Rev WallyTaylor, Rev Gordon Simmons and Beth Ann Lectenberger touring Greece and Turkey together on May 13
- Facebook post with highest reactions Pastor Aaron Erdley's visit on May 1
- Facebook post with most comments Rev WallyTaylor, Rev Gordon Simmons and Beth Ann Lectenberger touring Greece and Turkey together on May 13 and Pastor Aaron Erdley's visit on May 1
- · Instagram post with highest reach Pastor Aaron Erdley's visit on May 1
- Instagram post with highest reactions Pastor Aaron Erdley's visit on May 1  $\,$
- · Instagram post with most comments Pastor Aaron Erdley's visit on May 1

# SOCIAL MEDIA REACH



Boosting our Facebook page last quarter led to reaching over 800 more people than usual. Additionally, we hosted extra worship services during Lent, Holy Week, and Easter. While this quarter's reach might appear modest compared to the previous quarter, it aligns more closely with our historical performance across quarters.

#### **Columbarium Committee Meeting**

The Columbarium Committee met on Monday, April 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. at FLC Present were Rev. Bill Shaner, Kay Rockwell, Tom Tiedgen, Jan Modica, Dale Ripa and Jeff Culbertson. Absent: Pastor Erin Heidelberger.

Opening Prayer by Chair Tom Tiedgen

Minutes of the October 16, 2023 meeting were approved as distributed.

Update on Niches Purchased since 9-30-23

Sold 2 niches, both were paid in full. (not included in financial statrment)

Cindy Schuster ----- (niche #77) Dennis Schuster---- (niche #93)

152 total niches: 108 sold & 44 are not sold

49 inured 59 reserved 44 unsold 152 total

#### Financial report

March 10, 2024: \$46,106.09

Committee received the Financial report.

NOTE: The Payment for the two nitches sold to Schusters are not included because the check has not been deposited.

Book of Remembrance Update -- Book of Remembrance is up to date.

Recognition of Veteranas on Memorial Day

It was moved and seconded to purchase flags to place along the sidewalk in the Memorial Garden honoring each Veteran. Motion carried.

Board Members Whose Terms Are Up

Kay Rockwell and Jan Modica's 3 year terms are up in May.

It was moved and seconded to reappoint Kay Rockwell and Jan Modica for another 3-year term. Motion carried.

Memorial Day Monday, May 27th Columbarium will be open 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Memorial Service at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel

#### **MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE of 2024**

Invocation

Scripture Readings - Revelation 7:9-17 – Kay

John 14:1-7 -- Kay

Meditation – Pastor Andrew Kitzing\*

Special Music – Liana Sandin\*\*

Ringing of bell as names are read for those inurned in the Columbarium Prayers

### **Columbarium Committee Meeting**

Refreshments of cookies, punch & coffee following will be taken care of by Pastor Bill & Jane. Committee members will contribute cookies.

Closing Prayer - The Lord's Prayer Meeting adjourned at 6:50

The next meeting will be Monday October 21, 20234 at 6:00 p.m.

#### **Standing Information**

NOTE to Kay: Send Word, PDF, & rtf file

#### **Contact Information for Committee Members**

Dale Bowder	dtbowder@aol.com	402-525-4346
Jan Modica	maresjan@rocketmail.com	402-499-9453
Dale Ripa	Dale.ripa@hartwiginc.com	402-990-5454
Kay Rockwell	KayB.Rock1776@gmail.com	402-540-8454
Rev. Bill Shaner	billshaner402@gmail.com	402-430-9072
Tom Tiedgen	tomtiedgen@aol.com	402-540-2182

Pastor Erin <u>Pastorerin@flclincoln.org</u> & send to Mandy

#### **Care of Memorial Garden**

Jeff and Lisa Culbertson jculbertson1@unl.edu 402-484-0207 Jeff (m) 402-429-4474

#### **Columbarium Committee Terms**

Kay Rockwell & Jan Modica	Renewed May 2024	Terms up in 2027
Dale Ripa & Dale Bowder	Renewed May 2023	Terms up in 2026
Tom Tiedgen & Bill Shaner	Renewed May 2022	Terms up in 2025

Discussion of Memorial Service – When inviting people to the Memorial Service, clarify that everyone is invited to the Memorial Service to honor those who have passed on, but only those inurned in FLC's Memorial Garden will be named and have the bell rung.

If FLC wants to recognize all who have passed, it would be up to the Council to carry through on such a service.

Kay Files\Columbarium Committee\40. April 8, 2024 .docx

#### Fellowship Committee Meeting Notes

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

**Attending:** Pat DeWald, Carlene Falos, Judy Bailey, Karen Moser, Linda Bogenreif, Gordon Wolfe, Carol Tesar, Judy Batterman

**Devotions** were given by Carlene Falos Next month's devotion: Karen Moser

Review of Events: Coffee served prior to Synod Assembly worship went well.

#### **Upcoming Events:**

**Salt Dogs Tailgate & Game** - Friday, July 12, Tailgate at 5:30, Game at 7:05 Tickets will be on sale June 23, June 30 and July 7. They will be sold starting at 9:15 till the 2nd service starts.

Judy Bailey has gotten 40 tickets and they are again behind home plate. They are \$15 a ticket and Judy will create a list of who has purchased and how many. We will give the purchaser a card at the time of purchase with the number of tickets each individual has bought. Judy will then pick up of all the tickets from the ticket window prior to tailgate and pass them out at the tailgate. She will contact the Salt Dogs by July 8th as to how many tickets we need incase more than 40 tickets are sold. Judy paid a deposit of \$150 to be reimbursed after tickets are sold.

Selling tickets June 23, Judy Bailey and Carlene Falos, June 30, Karen Moser and Linda Bogenreif, July 7, Gordon Wolfe and Judy Batterman.

We will be serving the usual except decided to serve root beer floats rather than bars and cookies. Carlene is getting the hot dogs, buns and root beer. Ann is making the potato salad. Karen Moser is making the beans and bringing the spoons, cups for floats and any additional paper products. Pat will also bring cups and spoons. Gordon Wolfe is getting the watermelon. Judy Bailey will get the chips, ketchup, mustard and relish. Judy Batterman will bring her two tents and get the ice cream and water. We will have a free will offering at the tailgate.

#### Fellowship Budget -

The Fellowship budget was discussed and also turning in bills for our expenses. Judy Batterman talked with the executive committee and was told we are to turn are bills in for the expenses we incur for fellowship events. The Fellowship Committee is being asked to help at a lot of events which incurs expenses.

The Executive Committee will be sending a Budget Request form to each committee that we will need to fill out prior to next years budget.

**Realm App** - We discussed the app and if anyone is using it. Several said they didn't remember their password and some are having trouble getting into the app. Also some did not have the directory listing any members in it while some did show members in their app.

**Third Sunday Coffee between services** will be on Sunday, June 16th. Gordon offered to get coffee started.

**Town Hall Meetings** - July 14 (only one service on Sunday at 10:45, no Saturday evening service); October 27 (only one service as well as Good Life Halfsy is that day, not sure on the Saturday night service.)

Next Meeting: Tuesday July 9, 2024 at 5:30. Devotions will be led by Karen Moser

Notes taken by Pat DeWald, submitted by Linda Carlson, Secretary

#### **Fellowship Committee Meeting Minutes**

#### Tuesday, July 9, 2024

<u>Attending</u>: Ann Allen, Judy Bailey, Judy Batterman, Linda Bogenreif, Carlene Falos, Verla Youngquist, Pat DeWald, Cindy Schuster, Karen Moser, Carol Tesar, Linda Carlson

<u>Devotions</u> were given by Karen Moser. Next month: Linda Carlson

No review of past events.

#### **Upcoming Events**:

- 1. <u>Saltdogs Tailgate Picnic & Baseball Game</u> This Friday, July 12 Tailgate at 5:30, game at 7:05. **Committee members are asked to arrive at 5:00 to set up**. All members who committed to taking food and accessories last month will do so. Judy and Bob Batterman will take two canopies, and from the church they will take two tables and a few plastic chairs. <u>64 people have bought tickets for the game</u>. Because of the increased number going from FLC, the seating may be moved to another section, rather than behind home plate. Judy Bailey will be notified if that is the case.
- 2. <u>Town Hall Meeting & Potluck</u> Next Sunday, July 14, after worship. NOTE: There will be only one service that day, at 10:45. **The committee is asked to be present for set-up at 11:00.**
- 3. Our committee's coffee hour responsibility will be between services on July 21.
- 4. The next <u>Town Hall Potluck and Meeting</u> will be on October 27. There will be only one service that day, at 10:45.

#### **Budget Discussion**:

Using the worksheet previously sent to us by Judy Batterman, committee members discussed 1) what we think we do well; 2) ideas about what new things we would like to do; 3) big dreams if money were no object, and 4) how we would manage if our budget were cut by 10%. The discussion was lengthy and spirited, reinforcing our committee's dedication to provide welcoming fellowship in our church. Judy Batterman concluded by sharing amounts that we have spent on the past year's activities. We agreed that it is important to turn in receipts for what we spend on these activities, so that Council has a realistic account of what we need, and so that individual members do not personally absorb expenses, unless they consider it a gift.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, August 13, at 5:30 p.m. Devotions will be given by Linda Carlson.

Submitted by Linda Carlson, Secretary

# First Lutheran Church Property Committee Minutes June 25, 2024

Attending: Chair Norman Kempf, Steve Doolittle, Rod Johnson, Les Carlson, Richard Draper, Steve Lenzen, Doug Lind-Olson, Brandon Wiebelhaus, Bob Batterman, Janis Strautkains

Meeting time: 7:00 PM

Opening prayer: Richard Draper

Minute taker: Les

Approved minutes of the May meeting.

#### Agenda:

- 1. Steve L said sand was delivered and hauled to the playground.
- 2. Janis reported that there is moisture leak above the ceiling in the Nursery bathroom. Janis will visit with Mandy about calling Stonebrook to inspect/fix the leak.
- 3. Janis informed that someone from White Castle will be checking on a bird hole.
- 4. Janis found paint colors that match existing painted surfaces in FLC.
- 5. Norman made 46 wood blocks for the school.
- 6. Janis asked for volunteers to help with moving equipment designated for disposal or to be sold from the FLC basement to the outside. Moving date to be determined.
- 7. Steve L has asked Pastor Erin about the status of other stored items such as the old pulpit and baptismal font.
- 8. Property committee discussed needed FLC capital improvements with the objective of presenting a "wish list" to church council of prioritized improvements and estimated accompanying costs. Priority one is fixing hardware issues with the HVAC heating system. The second priority is securing and installing software needed to operate/control the HVAC heating system. Priority three is the HVAC cooling system which will soon require major updating. The fourth priority is providing a temporary fix for the parking lot surface while a more extensive renovation of the entire parking lot will be completed at a future date. Costs for these priorities were also discussed and the entire list of improvements and costs will be presented to council as well as at the next FLC Town Hall meeting. Additional discussion followed on other needed improvements such as the sidewalk on the northside of FLC. Janis will obtain a sidewalk repair cost estimate.

Prayer: July Steve Lenzen

Note taker: Les

# First Lutheran Church Property Committee Minutes July 30, 2024

Attending: Chair Norman Kempf, Rod Johnson, Cole Troutman, Les Carlson, Richard Draper, Steve Lenzen, Brandon Wiebelhaus, Bob Batterman, Joel Nelson

Meeting time: 7:00 PM

Opening prayer: Steve Lenzen

Minute taker: Les

Approved minutes of the June meeting.

#### Agenda:

- 1. Steve L reported the Nursery room leak has been fixed.
- 2. Steve L said Janis has contacted White Castle about an estimate to fix a bird hole.
- 3. Norman stated there was no update about the excess alters.
- 4. No report on progress of the basement cleanup.
- 5. Janis is obtaining estimates for repair of the sidewalk on the north side of church.
- 6. Steve L noted he had located a controller for the HVAC in the ceiling of the music room.
- 7. Steve L and Brandon informed the PC about a HVAC problem in the sanctuary. The HVAC system sometimes operates as needed, other times not. A supply fan may not be starting when needed. Biggerstaff and Control Services have been to FLC regarding this. The exact nature of the problem is not yet known, though, a new thermostat has been ordered.
- 8. Norman said Lee Rockwell has requested a Property Committee member for the fall festival. Steve L. volunteered.
- 9. Rod and Brandon shared the 2025 Property Committee budget request form from the church council. Discussion followed on how to address the items/questions in the form. Much of this discussion centered on obtaining funding for ongoing/preventative maintenance items such as maintaining and fixing the "flat" roof components related to FLC's renovation. Rod mentioned that the priority list of needed repairs previously prepared by the PC identifies those of immediate concern though there are other projects that also need to be addressed.

Prayer: August – Rod Johnson

Note taker: Les

# Social Ministry Team 06-11-2024 Meeting

(Action items in red)

Present: Karen Lenzen, Cindy Lilleoien, Linda Bogenreif, Sandy Latshaw, Rebecca Pfabe

<u>Summer of Serving</u> - In June, July and August we are promoting local agencies through "in-gathering" events. In June we are promoting **Bridges to Hope** (incarceration after care). In July **Lutheran Family Services** and August **Cedars** (foster care.) We hope not only to collect needed items but also to further inform the congregation more about these agencies. Kathleen is providing good exposure for these events through the various FLC communications channels.

<u>Backpack Program</u> – Cindy coordinates the volunteers distributing backpacks each Friday at Pyrtle Elementary. This past school year went smoothly. FLC sponsors Pyrtle and Morley schools. Cindy also provided information on some Food Bank summer feeding programs as well as federal funding for summer meals that families will get through a special EBT card via DHHS.

Karen reported on the financial status for the backpack program and it is looking good. We received funds from noisy offering and Advent & Lent soup suppers. We plan to have the backpack program as part of Gifts of Hope in December. Cindy and Karen will continue to monitor the financial situation.

<u>CROP Walk</u> – Sandy continues being on the city-wide planning group. Our Saviour's Lutheran will be the host for three years. Church World Services oversees CROP Walk and they are cutting back "hard" materials they provide such as posters. FLC may need to provide more items ourselves. The walk format is being changed from 3 miles to 1.5/2 miles. Walkers can walk the course twice or whatever they prefer. This also helps in creating a route that eliminates or minimizes crossing major streets.

<u>Kick for Kids</u> – Donice was unable to attend this meeting. No question that Kicks for Kids will happen again this fall. Information to the congregation and contacts to our schools begin in August. Mid-September brings the displays of tags, etc. We will again be partnering

<u>Meals on Wheels</u> – Sandy is on a city-wide group looking at options for MOW after Tabitha stopped weekend deliveries due to financial issues. The group is brainstorming and researching alternate delivery methods and talking with similar programs in other locations to get ideas. At this point we have no indication that weekend meal deliveries will be reinstated. A number of FLC members deliver routed during the week – many of them for a long time!

Respectfully submitted, Karen Lenzen

Next Meeting: August 13, 2024

6:30 pm

## Social Ministry Team 07-16-2024 Meeting (Revised)

(Action items in red)

Present: Karen Lenzen, Cindy Lilleoien, Linda Bogenreif, Sandy Latshaw, Donice Kaspar

The main focus of this meeting was to address Pastor Erin's "Budget Request Worksheet" for 2025. We had a very good discussion and came up with our response. Karen will consolidate the information and provide a draft response to the team. Once our response is finalized she will submit to Pastor Erin.

<u>Backpack Program</u> – Cindy provided information on the upcoming 2024-2025 backpack program. Two main updates:

- Our per backpack cost will rise from \$7.35 to \$8.10.
- Morley will continue at 14 backpacks, but Pyrtle is dropping from 10 to 5, giving us a total of 19 backpacks.

Taking the increased cost per backpack but offsetting the savings by reducing the total number of backpacks results in a savings of \$765 for the 2024-2025 school year as compared to the 2023-2024 school year.

Kathleen is setting up the volunteer sign-up system. As the fall progresses, it will likely migrate from the current website to the Realm system. We discussed and decided with only 5 backpacks to distribute at Pyrtle (Morley does their own distribution) we would ask for one volunteer rather than two per week. Volunteers that wish to serve together can still feel free to do so.

<u>Kick for Kids</u> – Donice provided the schedule for this year's drive. We are adjusting the timeline to avoid conflict with the Fall Festival. She reported that Kicks for Kids is now available in all Title I schools in Lincoln between the work of First Lutheran and Kicks for Kids of Nebraska. Donice works closely with her sub-team of FLC volunteers to make this huge event happens every year!

Respectfully submitted, Karen Lenzen

Next Meeting: August 13, 2024 (if needed)

6:30 pm