

**Faith Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 21, 2021 – 6:30 pm
Minutes**

Mission: To learn, serve and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Vision: To be a dynamic, energized worshipping community where all are growing in our relationship with Jesus Christ, one another and those beyond our walls.

Inclusive Grace. Contagious Love.

Council Members	Role	Present	Absent
Patrick Butler	President	X	
Bill Goergen	Vice President	X	
Mary Fahrenkamp	Treasurer		X
Jessica Hartmann	Secretary	X	
Rob Dansare	Building & Maintenance		X
Kristin Johnson	Worship & Music	X	
Jim Karstens	Stewardship	X	
Chuck Bies	Social Outreach	X	
Travis Dreier	IT & Communications	X	
Sue Monson-White	Connections	X	
Sarah Wilson	Faith Formation	X	
Dale Peterson	Sr. Pastor	X	
Katie Escalante	Associate Pastor		X

The meeting was called to order by Patrick Butler at 6:31 p.m.

- **Opening Devotions** – Travis Dreier
- **Reading of Faith’s Mission & Vision Statement** – Patrick Butler
- **Get to Know the Staff** – Brooke Struck
 - Brooke is 50% of the communications team.
 - She has been with Faith about two and a half years – mostly during Covid.
 - She has a background in marketing and design.
 - Job responsibilities
 - Service PowerPoints
 - Working with IT/Comms on livestreaming
 - Social media

- Redoing the website currently – having more of a visitor driven interface
- Help the different ministries if they needs items designed, pushed to social media, etc.
- **Get to Know the Ministries – Connections – Sue Monson-White**
 - She had been participating in small group programming and really felt and saw the value of the church and that had helped her feel at home. That’s what the Connections committee does.
 - A big part of coming to church is about community and getting to know other people.
 - Relationships/connections were even more important during Covid.
 - The committee had to really innovate due to Covid – drive through events, etc.

Standing Monthly Reports

• **Pastors’ Reports**

- Pastor Dale Peterson
 - Feels very fortunate that his injuries were not more severe following his bike accident.
 - Pastor Katie and baby Wally are doing well.
 - Thanks to Pat and others who jumped in to make sure that services were covered while the Pastors were unavailable.
 - Nobody has applied for Peggy’s job and the staff is feeling a bit overwhelmed, but they’ve been doing a great job of keeping everything covered.
 - He will not be taking his next planned trip to Italy before the end of the year.
 - Have a new pastor’s book study in October – Dusk, Night & Dawn.
 - Dr. Busse is coming on Sunday to talk about Love Without Limits.
 - Wondering if the Council has been hearing any concerns or questions from the church members. “Ghosting” happens in the church – people just stop coming and don’t tell you why. Some people have expressed that they will not return as long as we are recommending masks.
 - Chuck said that community partner organizations want to work with us and view us positively.
 - Kristin noted that the workplace is really in flux and people haven’t settled back into church either.
 - Carver county has the highest rate of transmission in Carver County and there are new variants being seeing in Carvery County.
 - Getting people back into services – now that children’s programming has started, more families should be coming back to services.
 - Confirmation kids should be encouraged to be service participants.
 - Consider getting people to volunteer for serving and then just assign them – the way we used to do it.
 - Can we have a demo in the service about how easy it is to sign up to volunteer?
- Pastor Katie Escalante – Is on maternity leave. No report.

• **Secretary Report – August 2021 Council Minutes**

- Bill made a motion to approve the August council minutes as written. Chuck seconded. Motion carried.

- **Treasurer's Report**

- YTD Net Operating Income is (13.3K)
- YTD budget comparison: Revenue unfavorable to budget (58K) and expenses are favorable to budget 63K.
- August MTD Net Operating income was (8K).
- MTD budget comparison: Revenue is unfavorable to budget 26K and expenses are favorable to budget 3K.
- Mary was absent, so Jim provided a financial overview.
- August was a negative month with an \$8,000 deficit.
- Income for the first three weeks of September is down compared to the same time last year.
- How much of giving is electronic vs. in person? Historically returning to two services bumps up in person giving.
- Patrick suggested having an electronic giving campaign to get people to sign up for electronic giving.
- Sarah made a motion to approve the treasurer's report. Kristen seconded. Motion carried.

- **New Business & Key Topic Discussions**

- **Project Updates/Wish List**

- From the properties committee – there is a request to do something with a storage shed in the back parking lot. We need more space for outdoor equipment storage and they would like to have a new 8 X 10 shed. We are running out of time to do it this year, so they may hold until next spring, but they may level and prepare the ground this fall.
- There is a proposal regarding the cross for the sanctuary. \$8,500 installed. This was an informal estimate and we need to request a formal quote.

- **Call Committee & Approval of Ministry Site Profile**

- Three candidates were passed on from the synod to the call committee. Two of those were dismissed by the call committee. The third has accepted a different call.
- The synod sent through another two candidate names. The call committee is meeting again next week to review these new candidates.
- We are looking into a short-term interim pastor.

- **Status of the Congregation Connector Position**

- No applicants yet.
- Council is asked to share the position listing on their social media feeds.
- Pastor Dale will check to see where else it has been posted and see if we can expand the posting locations.
- We do have volunteers that will come and answer phones and do some other small tasks. The time-consuming piece is the worship assistant coordination – sign ups, etc.

- **Covid Update**

- We need reminders with the youth events that we are encouraging masks and we need to have masks available here.

- **Ministry Updates**

- Chuck – Social Outreach – Working with Brooke & Christy on refreshing that part of the website. Working with Shane on his thoughts about service outreach for the 9th graders to sign up for.
- Kristin – Worship & Music – The musical groups are back and are rehearsing, but numbers of participants are down.
- Sue – Connections – Will have cookies for Dr. Busse’s visit on Sunday.
- Travis – IT & Communications – No update this month.
- Jim – Stewardship – The stewardship team has decided to have a one-year campaign vs. a three-year campaign starting at the end of October and running for three years. There would be some special events. Theme is being discussed yet. NOTE: Need to add this as a stand-alone agenda item on the October meeting.
- Sarah – Faith Formation – Rally day was held, Ignite/Spark are starting up – Faith Formation also needs volunteers.
- Rob – Building & Maintenance – Rob was not present, no update.

- **Other Business**

- None

- Closing Prayer – Travis Dreier

Meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted – Jessica Hartmann, Secretary