

**Faith Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
Tuesday, April 18, 2023 – 6:30 pm
Minutes**

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

Vision: To be a dynamic, energized worshiping 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
Pat Butler	President	X	
Bill Goergen	Vice President	X	
Dave Horstmann	Treasurer	X	
Jessica Hartmann	Secretary	X	
Rob Dansare	Building & Maintenance		X
Karin Rood	Worship & Music	X	
Jesse Bergstrom	Stewardship	X	
Chuck Bies	Social Outreach	X	
Travis Dreier	IT & Communications		X
Sarah Wilson	Faith Formation	X	
Pastor Katie Escalante	Associate Pastor	X	
Pastor Adam White	Senior Pastor	X	

- The meeting was called to order by Patrick Butler at 6:31 p.m.
- **Opening Devotions** – Karin Rood
- **Ministry Stories** – Council
- **Reading of Faith’s Mission & Vision Statement** – Karin Rood
- **Get to Know the Staff** – Shane Marcus, Family and Youth Minister
 - He’s a “church geek”... has been active in public ministry since the 8th grade.
 - He believes his entry into Faith was spirit lead – the right place at the right time for him and for the congregation.
 - Has appreciated the feedback he has received and is working to incorporate adjustments into the youth programing.
 - Challenges:
 - Learning to scale programs and activities up to larger groups of kids.
 - Not having enough volunteers.
 - Facing un-budgeted challenges for “impromptu” youth events (lock in) & for attending kids’ events in the community
 - One area he’s leaning into is forming teams – being willing to ask for help.
- **Get to Know the Ministries** – **Chuck Bies – Social Outreach**
 - He will be creating a master calendar of outreach events (which will also help with budgeting next year).
 - Food shelf:

- The church has done an amazing job over the last few years in giving both food and financial donations.
- Many government benefits/aid cuts are increasing the demand at the food shelf.
- The Walk On Waconia fundraiser is May 20 – being run by the food shelf this year. Faith is a sponsor and will be on the event shirt. Hosting a water station – will need volunteers. Goal is to raise about \$50,000 at that event. Comms team will be putting out info on how to sign up for the walk. Faith may organize a team.
- Pack the Pews – Chuck will get a copy of the receipt so that we know how many were donated.
- Common Hope:
 - There will be an article in the June Waconia City lifestyle magazine about the last trip. There will be another trip next year as well.
- Cristo Obrero:
 - The group had been looking at getting a farm and having that be a focal point for the ministry – that fell through. Continuing to work with the mobile home parks in Chaska.
 - Susan Bies is taking the lead on this ministry.
 - Will be collecting backpacks this summer.
 - They will be starting their outdoor gatherings again this summer.
 - Continuing to grow the ministry – just had a first communion class.
 - Tutoring will also continue through the school year and there will also be a summer program.
- Families Moving Forward:
 - Ross Hanson is leading this ministry for Faith.
 - FMF is continuing to host families at hotels and Faith provides meals on a rotation with other congregations.
 - There's been a change in Beacon's focus. Faith members participated in a rally at the capital for affordable housing that was hosted by Beacon. Beacon is going to separate from FMF to focus more on advocacy. Chuck is the current contact with Beacon.
 - Faith has supplies for hosting families that we may not need anymore.
- Love Inc.:
 - The program provides food, shelter, medical care, clothing, furniture through various ministry partners.
 - Love Inc is the hotline that connects these various ministries – a referral service.
 - Faith's specific ministry role has been the easter basket donations.
 - This is another leadership opportunity for our congregation – if someone were passionate about starting up a longer term ministry, there are opportunities to expand the services of Love Inc.
- Faith is still supporting Public Safety Ministry, Redeemer (Pastor Adam is leading), Campus ministry and SW Valley Alliance.
- It would be helpful if there was an outreach committee and have the long-term ministry leaders working together and supporting each other.

- **Pastors' Reports**

- Pastor Adam
 - Counting funerals and holy week, we've had two weeks with over 1,000 people in services.
 - A huge part of our vitality in the next decade will be in chaplaincy – serving the dying. We will need to think about this, plan for and bring some structure to this effort.

- Worked on getting the phone system fixed.
 - Looked at Realm and its possibilities.
 - Volunteerism is picking up – Easter was better than Christmas. Will try to wean off Sign Up Genius as a way to schedule volunteers. Need to get our volunteer lists in one spot – Realm could be the answer.
 - Excited to go to Synod Assembly
 - Pastor Katie
 - Was working on problems with tech problems on Realm.
 - Council will be asked to make calls to help finalize the online giving transition to Realm.
 - Was on the 9th grade retreat.
 - There will be a program staff retreat in May (Pastors, Shane, Shannon).
 - Holy week was good – good energy, lot of people.
 - Goal is to have worship assistants on Realm by Christmas.
 - 14 couples attended the relationship retreat.
 - There will be a women’s retreat in October.
 - In addition to chaplaincy, need more lay care as well – visitation, etc.
 - Patrick raised a question – Do we offer grief support? Faith technically had a grief share group in the past, but it is not active now. With more people aging/dying in our congregation, this will be more of a need. What about other groups – caregivers, parents, etc.?
- **Secretary Report – March 2023 Council Minutes**
 - There was discussion about removing a portion of the drafted minutes that reflected discussion held in executive session. Dave made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Bill seconded. Motion carried.
 - **Treasurer’s Report/Budget Discussion**
 - Dave provided a recap of the March financials distributed to the council in a handout.
 - April is a 5 Sunday month
 - Without the Employee retention credit, we are very close to the budget YTD (revenue is down but so is expenses)
 - Bruce P. completed the audit and has a list of 21 findings. Once it’s been reviewed, the findings will be presented to the council.
 - Pastor Adam wants to have a discussion about how to communicate financial status to the congregation more regularly.
 - Motion to approve March financial report as written. Jesse made the motion, Sarah seconded. Motion carried.
 - **Key Topic Discussions**
 - **Constitution Update - Bill**
 - Bill continues to go back and forth with the Synod regarding edits.
 - There are small issues like formatting and larger content questions.
 - Waiting for some clarification from Pastor Peterson, but progress is still being made.
 - We should have a finalized draft for approval at the May congregational meeting, assuming that we can get the draft in time to provide proper advance notice to the Congregation. We will put it on the May agenda but may have to push it to November if we’re not ready.
 - **Council Recruitment - Patrick**
 - Have had several meetings with the nominating committee.
 - Have a list of 15 names of people to reach out to determine interest in serving.

- Pastor Adam suggested holding the election at each worship service.
 - **Summer Wednesday Worship**
 - Plans are coming together.
 - Grill, awnings, and sound system are ordered.
- **New Business**
 - **Date for Congregation Meeting – May 21st**
 - Election (end of first service)
 - Business (between services)
 - Election (beginning of second service)
 - Mike will take care of sending out the agenda – and that message should include that you have to be in person to vote.
 - **Background Check/Youth Protection Training**
 - There's a document on the shared drive for council to read before the next meeting.
 - This is an unbudgeted but necessary expense.
 - **Minutes on the Website**
 - Start sending approved versions of minutes to the communications team to post on the website.
 - **Spring Cleanup – May 13**
- **Closing Prayer – Karin Rood**

Meeting adjourned – 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted - Jessica Hartmann, Secretary