

Gloria Dei Lutheran Church

August 28, 2018 Council Meeting

Present: Ernie Atkins, President
Jason Green, Vice President
Rita Foringer
Pastor Phyllis Milton
Rita Foringer
Todd Pfahl
Michael Canny, Congregational Secretary

Alison Phillips
Todd Pfahl
Dan Singer
Aaron Sutherland
Garth Wallis
Barry Zorumski

Guests: Andrea Cerone, Peggy Sipes, Rick Graves, Dawn Lomax

Ernie opened the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Old Business

Review of July Minutes: Motion made by Garth and seconded for Approval; Motion carried. Rita brought up the possibility of reviewing the minutes via E-Mail prior to the meetings. Garth stated he preferred to discuss this at a meeting, and Peggy stated that this could be a problem if somebody did not see the E-Mail. Consensus was to leave the process as it is.

Financial Reports Review: Rick stated that offerings appear to be up but cautioned against drawing any conclusion from just one month, particularly as some of the increase was due to lump sum giving. He also stated that the transition/interim period was a good time for review of expenditures, and that several potential savings had been identified so far, for example, altering the method of payment for the choir water cooler. Aaron moved for approval and seconded for approval; Motion carried.

Treasurer's Comments: Reconciliation was completed with no issues. Rick commented that increased use of Web Pay decreased costs, but he was working on a system to be sure necessary approvals are obtained and that the Treasurer is aware of the payments that are made.

Call Considerations: Resignation of Committee Member Alan Robinson was received by Ernie..

Council went into Executive Session at 7:20 P.M. and out of Executive Session at 7:25 P.M. to discuss Call Committee appointments.

Vivian Griese was appointed to fill the Call Committee vacancy.

Stewardship: Kevin Morse & Sandy Dunn will head up this Committee, with Carolyn Campbell and Tad Foringer as additional members. Bishop's assistant John Wertz will assist this committee, which will have its initial meeting on September 1. The theme will be "Ask, Thank, Tell." The synod has considerable resources it will make available to us in this effort. Giving Statements will include "thanks," and there will be increased emphasis on new ways of communication, such as through the church's electronic systems in the Atrium area. It is important that we consider this as a plan for ministry investment. Rick advised that the pilot program allowing credit payments for the school will eventually be expanded to include church offerings, but this effort is still in the development process.

Staff Changes/Reassignment of Titles: With her change in role, Pastor Milton will now be referred to as the "Interim Senior Minister of Word and Sacrament" and will also have the title of "Head of Staff." Linda Robinson will now be referred to as "Head of School." Craig Whitney is no longer the Director of Buildings and Grounds—he is now working in the kitchen as the Food Service Manager. Kenny Hurt has replaced him in that position, supplemented with contracted help. New lawn equipment has been purchased to facilitate this change. There have also been several staff changes. Debby Harrison has retired, to devote full time to her family, and there have been several school and child care related resignations and new teachers and child care employees hired.

Residential Properties: The Harris Creek house formerly occupied by Craig Whitney needs some wiring modifications and upgrades. Once that is completed, the current mansion resident will move there, and work can begin on the mansion, which needs to be prepared for a potential new or possibly pastoral occupant.

New Business

Worship and Sunday School Times: We will be continuing with the single service for the time being (at least through the end of the year) in order to avoid overloading Pastor Milton. The children's Sunday school classes will run concurrent with services; Pastor Milton and Ernie both stated that we needed to be sure that the regular teachers got a break so they could attend services as well. Junior and Senior High classes will meet on other evenings during the week, and Paula Jones will integrate her class with her Tuesday class.

Atrium Roof: There have been two service calls to fix a leak that was located right above the choir master's door. This is a difficult area to work with, but Rick feels that the second repair took care of the issue. A separate leak over one of the Atrium doors was addressed at the same time.

Shepherding Roles: Ernie encouraged everyone who was involved with groups to be sure that they periodically checked in with them and schedule times to attend meetings held by that group.

Shepherding Reports:

Worship: (Jason Green) The previous Sunday went extremely well, with excellent attendance, including some people we had not seen recently. It was definitely a memorable day for the Bangs. We need support now for Rally Day.

Christian Education & Youth: (Barry and Alison) The Boy Scouts had to cancel their usual summer trip because wildfires in the area forced the closure of the Philmont Scout Ranch. Refunds are expected for the Scouts affected. The Girl Scouts are not active in the summer but are starting back up. Both groups had a welcome area for incoming school students at Open House. Alison discussed Sunday school changes and the need for assistance.

Care and Bible Study Ministries: (Rita and Dan) Plans for Rally Day on September 9th were discussed. The theme for next year's VBS will be "Going to Mars." Dan Singer reported that the Discipleship groups have ceased to function. Ernie said that the time involved for preparation by a facilitator was significant and could easily have caused people to burn out. It was noted that other similar activities, such as the morning Bible studies and the WELCA have also had declines in participation. Pastor Milton noted that despite repeated attempts by herself and Pastor Bang, there has been virtually no interest in Adult Sunday school either. She suggested that this interim period is a good time for assessment of these efforts. Bible study was not noted as a high priority on our survey nor by a similar ELCA survey.

Community Fellowship: (Aaron and Todd) The pig picking went very well, and at this time appears to be profitable as well. Final numbers are not in yet, but this should help keep our fellowship activities in line with our church's plan.

School and Operations: (Ernie) Linda Robinson was unable to attend tonight's meeting because of the school's Open House, but although some grade numbers are slightly lower, adjustments in teacher staffing have largely compensated for the changes. The two-year-old program has a waiting list, despite having been expanded. School open house activities for students and parents are being conducted this week.

Committees and Elder Care: (Garth) We need to form an Audit Committee—this is the only Committee issue that needs to be addressed. Sunrise House recently passed inspections from both the VA and the Health Department.

Pastoral Perspectives: (Pastor Milton) Thanked everyone for the support for Pastor and Debby Bang last Sunday—it was a memorable day for everyone, especially for them.

She stated that it was very important for the Council to be very visible now—she noted that some members are involved in the choir and other activities, and it is especially important that the congregation see their Council at church events, especially services. It is also important that we be active in ELCA events, to promote our church and its activities to potential pastors as well as support the synod and the ELCA as they support us. The Bishop is coming to St..Mark in October, and it is vital that she not be the only person from Gloria Dei in attendance at this event.

Pastor will hold a meeting on September 16th for those who are interested in doing visitations. She will be implementing a system whereby she will do the initial visit, but then the visits will be handled by lay persons who will provide the pastoral care. There will be an additional Youth Sunday on September 30th.

It is important to note that her existing call will officially end on September 1, the day Pastor Bang's retirement formally takes effect—her call is “coterminous” with his. At that time, she will have a *new* call as Interim Senior Pastor. Concurrent with this, Peggy and Ann will have increased responsibilities to assist her as she assumes responsibilities that were, up to this point, shared by two people. She passed around a blueprint for her schedule, which will be published in the bulletin.

Adjournment: A motion was made by Rira and seconded for approval at 8:55 P.M. to adjourn, which carried. The meeting closed with a prayer by Pastor Milton.

Next Meeting will be on September 25, 2018 at 7:00 P.M. in the Luther Library

Michael Canny
Congregational Secretary.