

Church Council Monthly Meeting First Lutheran Church	Board Members Present: Nate Anderson, Jon Bjoin, Jer Carpenter, Carrie Chesebro, Tom Dorscheid, Tammy Eckley, Barb Evert, Alexis Frank, Kathy Meier, Pr. Michael Mueller, Elisa Ried, Kurt Saterbak, Arwen Twitchett, Jarod Wasson, Christina Zink
Regular monthly council Meeting at FLC parsonage	<i>GUESTS:</i> Jim Meier and Kevin McMullen
Meeting date:8/18/2026 (6:30 pm)	

Church Council Meeting

- Pr. Michael said the opening prayer referencing Psalm 78 and President JW called the meeting to order.

Agenda Adoption

- CC8.18MMS01 Adopt Agenda **NA/KM** motion carries unanimously

Approval of Minutes

- CC8.18MMS02 Approve Minutes from prior months regular council meeting on July 21st
KM/CZ motion carries unanimously
- CC8.18MMS03 Approve Minutes from last weeks special council meeting on August 11th
NA/JB motion carries unanimously with friendly amendment by JC for secretary to add the date

Consent Agenda/Team Reports

- CC8.18MMS04 Approve Team Reports - **JC/LF** motion carries unanimously

Financial Reports

- \$ 7,828,033.98 assets
- \$ 19,953.04 liabilities
- Profit and Loss Operating - the church year July to July has started out strong but August has slowed
- Fair parking lot operations raised \$18,416 just shy of our 20,000 expectation. This was a slight decrease from last year but still a good result considering all the rain on Friday & Saturday.
- Memorial and Gifts - \$ 490,000 approximate balance
- The financial team continues to explore alternate sources of funds for the disaster recovery effort
- CC8.18MMS05 Accept Financial Report **JC/CZ** motion carries unanimously

Ministry Report / Update Items- Pr. Michael

- Amy Hartsough has announced that she is leaving FLC and has taken a position with Good Shepherd in Madison effective September 14th
- Closure of Childs First Care Center effective July 24th. They hope to re-establish in the future.
- FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency application process started August 7th and must be completed within 60 days.
- The community & congregational surveys have closed with 144 congregational responses and 129 community responses. Focus groups are scheduled for the rest of this week. Retreat scheduled for August 29th.
- VBS Vacation Bible School was a huge success once again with nearly 100 kids each day. The temporary site at Criag HighSchool worked wonderfully. There was no apparent fall-out attributed to the site or the sewer back disaster at the church building. There was an expansive team of volunteers and impressive group of youth counselors.

- Practicing The Way: Starts October 1st with a one-hour morning session at 9am on Thursdays and an evening session with potluck 6pm - 7:30
- Book Study: *See No Stranger* by Valarie Kaur from 3pm - 4:30 on the third Sundays of Sept - Nov
- Worship in the Park was held August 9th with 55 in attendance. The rain waited until after the service.
- *At First Glance* podcast resumes
- One Church, One Table replaces FirstFest and will be held on September 27th - one service at 10am outside near the parsonage followed by a potluck meal
- **Fall Worship Services:** starting October 4th with services at 8am & 10am at Good Shepherd with Sunday School at 9:15
- Pastor Michael is on vacation from September 2nd - 9th

Synod and Church wide Updates

- Collaboration in Janesville: the second gathering of Janesville ELCA leaders took place August 4th at Faith Lutheran including Jaron Wasson, Tim Drinkwater, Amy Hartsough, Eric Engen, Renee Engen and Pastor Michael. The ELCA collaboration explored opportunities for adult discipleship, youth & childrens education, music and community service.
- Synod Fall Theological Conference October 13th & 14th

Unfinished Business

- Disaster Recovery Update
 - Kevin McMullen discussed how the water intrusion event was likely the result of a storm sewer back-up
 - The term flood is defined as “*the rising & overflow of a BODY OF WATER onto normally dry land*” since our disastrous condition was water coming from the sewer back-up and NOT from the Rock River or any other body of water, FLC did not suffer a flood but instead it is legally termed a storm sewer back-up.
 - CC8.18MMS06 **DISASTER RECOVERY TEAM** will be the new name of the flood recovery team going forward since we did not have a flood at FLC **NA/KM motion carries unanimously**
 - CC8.18MMS07 **DISASTER RECOVERY TEAM** will continue their efforts working closely with Angus Young - **NA/BE motion carries unanimously**
 - CC8.18MMS08 FLC will employ Angus Young Architectural & Engineering to assist in the FEMA application process at a cost of \$60,000 **NA/KM motion carries unanimously**
 - FLC has raised \$176,000 in disaster recovery contributions
 - CC8.18MMS09 FLC will loan the spotlights from the gym to SpotLight on Kids free of charge with a contract therefore protecting the lights from moisture damage. **JC/KM motion carries unanimously**
 - We should soon receive our first official estimate of the damage from the sewer back-up in the amount of \$4.8 million dollars
 - FEMA expects FLC to pursue all reasonable efforts to recover for the damage
 - Batterman engineering is attempting to establish possible options to mitigate the possibility of a storm sewer back-up event from happening in the future this might include berms and retention basins and multiple other options

For the Good of the Church

- Kevin McMullen and Jim Meier for the information & work assisting in the Disaster Recovery process
- Arwen Twitchett for all her work throughout this Disaster Recovery process
- All the volunteers & youth counselors for the wonderful work at VBS
- The Disaster Recovery Task Force Team - Pastor Michael, Jude Tropp, Arwen Twitchett, Nate Anderson, John Westphal, Kevin McMullen, Kristi Reuter, Tim Drinkwater
- Church Council for being there during this time of turmoil
- Pastor Michael for weathering the stress & burden of the Disaster Recovery efforts
- FLC congregation for being in “this place” The Spirit is Alive !
- First Presbyterian and Good Shepherd for their kind thoughts & generosity

Time for Reflection and Closing Prayer

- Closing prayer

Action Items

- Arwen will construct a contract and coordinate with the treasurer at SpotLight On Kids regarding the spotlights
- Team Leaders should continue to work on the growth & development of their teams which may have been lacking since the disaster and because of the typical summer distractions
- Pastor Michael will talk to Lee at First Presbyterian to arrange a tour of their facility and to invite them to One Church, One Table
- Pastor Michael to talk to Renee about continuing with the exploration for the Fellowship Program site visit being funded by the foundation

Adjourn Meeting

- CC8.18MMS10 Adjourn Meeting @ 9:05 **LF/KM motion carries**

Next meeting: September 15, 2026 @ 6:30pm

Respectfully Submitted, Temporary Secretary - Jer Carpenter