

**Hope Lutheran Church Council**  
**October 11, 2021**

**“As God’s people, abounding in hope, empowered by the Holy Spirit, we invite all to share in the unfolding experience of Jesus Christ”**

**Glimpses of God:** 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration of Central Lutheran Church in Chippewa Falls last Sunday. Great message as Pastor Aaron (Sturgie) looked at the past and the future of the congregation. St. George, Utah is breathtaking – you must know there is a God. Blessing to have Elaine Olson here on Sunday with her message. God answered prayers for a Youth Director.

**Opening Devotions:** John, Chapter 20, The Resurrection Story. Mary Magdala meeting Jesus thinking he was the gardener. Once Jesus spoke her name, she recognized Jesus. Henri Newman reflects on this passage. The one who knows you the most deeply is not moving away from you. He is offering his unconditional love. You are fully known and fully loved by God.

**Call to Order:** 6:31 pm

**Roll Call:** Pastor Mary Erickson, Mark Larson, Sue Tietz, Ericka Frueh, Leanne O’Bryan, Terrie Hanke, Carol Mohr, Mary Rettke, and Allison Martinson

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Sue Tietz , 2<sup>nd</sup> by Leanne O’Bryan. Motion Approved

**Additions to the Agenda:** None

**Old Business:**

- Update on Youth and Family Ministry Director search. Grace Lenhart, Daughter of Pastor Ned from Cameron is our new Youth Director and started Tuesday, Oct. 5, 2021.
- Update on the Joan Wolf estate donation to Hope
  - Pastor Mary and Mark Larson met with Steve and Bonnie Haug who are the Trustees of the estate. They agree to put the money in the Charter Investment Account at this time. They would like the money to be directed towards ministries for the young or the elderly.
- Priorities from SWOT Analysis
  - Growing Young
    - Discuss additions key aspects to help grow young from the book “Growing Young”
    - Fueling a Warm Community
      - Welcoming, accepting, belonging. Feeling like a family.
      - First comes the relationship and then the faith formation may occur
      - Youth working with adults on projects and worshipping together
      - If a youth has 5 close relationships at church they will have a higher faith maturity
    - Prioritize Young People Everywhere
      - How do we include youth in everything?
      - Not only budget, but space, time and programming
      - Youth sense that they play a load-bearing role in the congregation
      - Support parents

- Pastor Mary has scheduled 3 Sundays to discuss “Growing Young” with the congregation during the Education time on 3 Sunday mornings. She will also deliver the message to Hope staff
- Active Outreach to the Community-Will discuss after completing Growing Young

#### **New Business:**

- 2022 Budget Planning
  - Sue Tietz will contact Rod Bagley for the budget spread sheet that he has used the last few years. Sue Tietz and Ericka Frueh will look at creating a new budget from this year’s actual expenses.

#### **Reports:**

- **Pastor’s Report:** Confirmation is up and running. Stewardship program is in the 4<sup>th</sup> week. Mark Larson will speak on increasing giving. Commitment cards will go out with the second mailing.
- **Treasurer’s Report:** Reviewed Treasurer’s report. Motion to approve by Terrie Hanke, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sue Tietz. Motion approved.
- **Board of Education:** (*Bringing the word to life for kids, getting them to open their Bibles and talk about Jesus*): Met with Grace this evening. Went through the year’s cycle for Grace’s knowledge. Said goodbye to Ann as no longer on the education committee.
- **Rachel’s Place Board:** Met tonight. Talked about items that need to be completed in the building for 2022. Approved a 3 percent tuition increase for 2022 and discussed how this will impact staff wages for 2022. Looked at the 2022 calendar for days that they will not be open.
- **Board of Outreach:** (*Continue supporting the ongoing Outreach programs and Be flexible and open to other needs of the church and our community*): Did not meet in person. Have discussed items via email. Caramel roll Sunday, Nov. 7 with profits to El Salvador Mission
- **Board of Trustees:** (*Maintain a balanced budget, Prepare and present a stewardship program, Communicate financial report to congregation on a regular basis, Increase the number of electronic givers by 50% - from 20 to 30*): Discussed that the check book balance is very low at the end of September. Voted to keep the Special Gifts Reserve at \$40,000. Approved to begin to remove the remaining money by increments of \$10,000 to meet general expenses as needed.
- **Executive Committee:** (*Being involved and supporting people in the ministries of Hope Lutheran*): None
- **Building & Grounds:** Looking at restructuring some landscape so the water moves away from the building. Looking for a new gutter service. Projects moved to 2022 need to be in the 2022 budget under Building and Grounds
- **Sleep in Heavenly Peace:** Mark and Les met to discuss a Youth Build. Market and Johnson will offer their shop for the build. Perhaps the first part of November.  
A co-build is being planned with the Chippewa Chapter outside of Schuetzky’s Bar & Grill, Chippewa Falls with a rain place of the Chippewa Chapter building. Minimal 20 bed build, but prefer 40. \$250/bed for sponsoring a build was decided upon by both the Chippewa and Eau Claire chapters.

Eau Claire Chapter has 42 beds available for delivery

**Adjournment and Lord’s Prayer @ 7:38.**