

September 8, 2025 Council Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 6:26 p.m. by President Maureen Even.

Present: Pastor Mohr-Kelly, Shirley Bergman, Amber Reuter, Mike Waring, Christy Phillips, Sara Borland, and Mary Adams. Absent: Cindy Gosse

Pastor led a prayer and devotion.

Mary moved to approve the agenda that was sent on 9/7. Second by Shirley. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report:

Cindy sent over the reports to council on 9/3. Sara asked if the income for the month is what we are aiming for. Mike shared that since June we are up about \$7,000 from last year. Sara and Maureen brought up the congregational meeting and the question about what we need for funding. Maureen will be attending the Portico meeting coming up. Mary asked if we have donors that are quarterly or yearly that come at the end of the year. Mike mentioned that some members have asked about direct deposit. Mary will write a short blurb about retirement giving for the bulletins and Lamp. Sara made a motion to approve the financial reports. Second by Mary. Motion carried.

Pastor asked about the \$7,500 deductible for the insurance claim. Hawkeye Alarm has been paid, but Schindler has not been paid yet. Mike shared that Schumacher has looked at our elevator. Maureen has requested an itemized bill from Schindler.

Secretary Report:

There was an update to the 8/11 meeting. Final update was sent on 8/14. Motion by Sara to approve the minutes with the corrections. Second by Mike. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Hospitality Reports:

Shirley will line up fellowship families for October.

Parish Ed/Youth:

Worship Wednesday starts on Wednesday, 9/10. Confirmation had their first class on Sunday. There are 7 active students. Beth Stanek and Cindy Neuhring encouraged confirmation students to come to the monthly youth meeting.

Shirley asked when Confirmation ceremony would be. Amber had heard that it lined up with graduation, as did Sara, which is May 17th. Maureen shared Confirmation used to line up with Reformation Sunday. Pastor will speak with the families.

Property/Technology:

Mike called Johnson Plumbing to install the heating and cooling unit for Pastor. Sara asked if we are leaving the contract with Schindler. Mike thought we would need to talk with our lawyer about breaking a contract. Shirley suggested talking to Marv Schumacher, too. Computer, router, and live stream are all

working. Maureen caulked the back door and sprayed the basement for bugs. Mike sprayed the parsonage.

Scholarship: No update.

Worship and Music:

Cassie Gorman will be playing the next two weeks. Shirley will be back the last week of September.

Call Committee:

Pastor shared a video should be developed for the MSP. Sara suggested we table it until we vote. Sara volunteered to start capturing videos. Amber mentioned having a waiver for youth parents to sign to be in the videos. Mary said the LWR personal care kits will be put together on September 9th and the Confirmation students will pack the school kits on September 28th.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor noted that attendance seemed down for the summer, but she shared we have been up every month since 2023. Pastor shared a breakdown of her week and what she does. Pastor would like to start calling on members over 85, even if they are not shut-ins. She has been making visits with members as well. Pastor and Shirley are planning Advent and Christmas. Holden Evening Prayer will be used and will be led by Sue Hoey on Thursday. The first Thursday of Advent is Thanksgiving, so there will be 3 services. Pastor suggested 7 p.m. and that Confirmation class should be there. Amber mentioned school events on Thursday. Christy mentioned that we could have services on Wednesday's at 7 p.m. Shirley will update Sue.

Mike asked what Pastor's thoughts are for cottage meetings. Pastor thinks at members homes hosting a couple of other families to discuss the vision of ALC. Shirley clarified who should attend these meetings: both active and inactive members. Mary shared there should be talking points for the meeting and a council member could be there to record the notes from the meeting. Mike shared he thinks these meetings will be great and an opportunity to hear from the inactive members. Mary reminded us that sometimes all it takes is an ask. Sara volunteered to create a structure for this. Shirley will help organize people. Pastor will share her hopes for cottage meetings.

Pastor shared Mission Moments are lined up: Connie Hamilton will share September 21. She will talk to Crystal Lysne for October.

New Business:

Snow removal bid was received from Jesse Fowlkes from JDR Snow Removal and Lawn Care. Larry Thompson shared with Maureen that he would be willing to do the parking lot for a tax credit at the end of the year as an in-kind donation. Mike shared he could do the sidewalks and the steps. Sara motioned to accept Larry's proposal and Mike's offer. Second by Christy. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Pastor suggested the "Tootsie Roll" Knights of Columbus Noisy Offering will be October 5th and October 12th. Mike motioned to approve those dates. Second by Shirley. Motion carried.

Maureen suggested that we use Pastor's Plans for Renewal and Sustainability for a guideline of discussion points for the upcoming cottage meetings.

Maureen shared at her and Sara's last meeting with Ruth and Craig that Zion would like us to vote on if we would like to continue the yoke agreement. Maureen thought our congregational meeting was very positive. She suggested we give an outline to the congregation of what we need financially to support a full-time pastor. Pastor shared if we do not yoke with Zion, we could yoke with another ELCA church or a Methodist, Presbyterian, or Episcopal church. Amber voiced concern that a yoke vote should not be made until the a financial proposal is given to the congregation of factual numbers of what we would need to support a full-time pastor. Sara suggested we bring up possible scenarios for ALC's future at the cottage meetings to find out what members think. Sara mentioned the MSP and what does that look like if we get a potential candidates. Maureen will ask the Synod. Amber suggested we start videos for ALC and share to our website and to our social media pages.

We will hold off meeting with Zion after the Annual Meeting.

Discovering Hope: Building Vitality in Rural Congregations Chapter 2: Prayer. Prayer is the key. Prayer sets the stage for evangelism.

Correspondence:

Mary & Martha Travel Women of the Church Field Trip in Clayton County was shared. Maureen will give it to Chris to share.

Giving statement for Northeast Iowa Synod from Feb. 1 to August 15 was a Benevolence of \$7,910.

Pastor asked when we send giving statements for the congregation. Sara suggested we email them out. Mike will talk to Chris.

Shirley will line up fellowship for the month. Deacon assignments for October: October 5: Mike; October 12: Mary; October 19: Maureen; October 26: Christy

Lord's Prayer was said.

Motion to end the meeting at 8:00 p.m. by Sara. Second by Christy. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amber Reuter