

The 145th Annual meeting of Lost Island Lutheran Church was called to order by council President, Troy Leininger at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday, January 29th, 2017. Seventeen members and 2 guests present. Devotions were led by Pastor Peter Morlock, based on Matthew 5:13-16. "You are salt of the earth..." We have been talking about what it is to be a disciple to engage in the new kingdom that has come near. This verse doesn't give us actual instructions but encourages us to be salt and light to the world. What does salt do? It gives flavor, some zest, added traction, or is used as a preservative. In what ways do we, as disciples, add zest to life, how do we let our light shine so that others may see God? Pastor can think of examples in his own life and he hopes each of can as well. There are many ways we can be salt and light and that is the challenge. His prayer each morning is to be a blessing to someone today and there are nights that he is not sure he has accomplished that. Pastor ended with prayer.

Before moving into our business, adopted seminarian Paul Abbott was called forward by Troy to give us an update. Paul has decided to take a time out, a pause of seminary, not his choice but rather God's plan. He was let go from Church of Damascus Road due to budget cuts. That was a very difficult time but during the summer a group from Spencer, Boone and Ames, who are active in Brothers in Blue, felt they needed to do more for the men getting out. At the time the Hannah Marie was for sale and the group prayed and toured the property and finally put in a bid to purchase it. The same day, another group put in a bid in before them so they did not get the house. This forced them to refocus and they heard about a program at Teen Challenge; a curriculum called the Ultimate Journey. So three men went to Des Moines to go through the program (Paul got tricked into going). Through this journey, and after 9 years of carrying guilt, Abbott finally found the way to forgiveness for the accident that killed his best friend. The guilt is gone and Christ did it. God showed Abbott where the process started and now he is free, because he knows he is free. This group is now bringing this message into the prison. They are seeing the bonds breaking. In prison, they deal with addiction but with Ultimate Journey, inmates go back to as far as they can remember to see what decisions or actions led to the addiction. Abbott says to be able to see the transformation in the inmates is incredible. Currently they are the only prison using this curriculum. Due to the nature of the program, there is high drop-out rate but CODR has a 100% success rate so far. Those who leave prison, stay out. One success story is a man who is now on the board. His testimony is on the website Thewaythetruth.life. Paul brought some brochures and outside the prison they are training after-care teams to continue with phase 2 and 3 and to create a networking system for those getting out of prison. They are currently the sponsor of the Fort Dodge Brothers in Blue and all donations are used for that program. TWTTTL receives a \$2,500 matching donation from the Southern Baptist Convention of Iowa every quarter. It is an interdenominational program and it is great to see all of the groups working together. Paul then opened it up to questions – with the first one asking about the women in prison and whether this program is available to them – Paul answered that is in the vision but right now Rockwell City, Fort Dodge and Newton are the priority. There are currently 3 trained facilitators involved with The Way, The Truth, The Life. Next question was what is the format of the curriculum? Teen Challenge is a 50-week program, Christlife in Des Moines does a 13-week program and the turbo version is 3 days – which is what Paul took. Those formats won't work in the prison, so they modified the program to an 8-week format. It involves writing letters, going through them and discovering what happened, good and bad. He is halfway through seminary but feels he is where God wants him right now. He thanked us for allowing him to attend our meeting. We sent 4 cases of Bibles with him for Church of Damascus Road.

Next guest, Kristin Reinhardt, the youth leader, gave an update on camp and the youth program. She began with camp. Just finished Winter Games, she helped with glacier golf which was fun but very cold. The leadership team is in place for the summer and she left brochures on the table in the entryway. She mentioned some on the retreats coming up and recharges. She is writing curriculum for summer day camps. At the church at the beginning of January the youth group walked through the 24 international justice mission challenge. The first day the kids were forced into labor, carrying bricks on their head, talked about slavery and the international impacts. The 2nd day a speaker came in – she works with Teens Against Human Trafficking and she talked about Iowa. It blew all of their minds about how close it is to us right here. She had stories about parents selling kids for sex or drugs, the kids were speechless after she was done. The kids made a banner, painted bricks to place around the church, and did a penny war to support that mission which was a great fundraiser. Lent is coming up and she is working on a special service/mime for Holy week and we are welcome to participate in the personal reflection/challenges that the kids are working on during Lenten services. The kids want to keep this topic top of mind, and we had a discussion about how the internet has made human trafficking and pornography so much more accessible.

Tim Nielsen made a motion to accept the secretary's report as written, 2nd by Steve Pitt. Motion carried.

Auditor's report – Steve Pitt reported that the books were in order.

Treasurer's report – Tim Nielsen reported that we had a good year, no major expenses, purchased handheld mics with memorial money. We were over budget on insurance, mostly workman's comp which always goes up more than what we pay in payroll. Mission budget for 2016 was \$7,800 and we brought in \$6,700. The council took the additional funds out of the general fund to cover the mission budget. We need to do a better job as a council to get our 2 mission Sundays scheduled. Troy mentioned that we were over by \$12,000 in the general and if some offerings are directed to missions all year long we would have easily met our mission budget. He added that don't think you can only give to the mission budget on Mission Sunday. Alan Oppedal asked what is the purpose of having two separate budgets? Others asked is it necessary? Others mentioned that we used to be required to have a mission budget with a mission statement. Troy answered that it is a way for us to see what we tie ourselves to and what do we do outside of the church that is a mission. If we need a little for a mission project we can take it out of the general fund and it was noted that 13% of our budget is missions. The last two years we have been \$12,000 ahead of our spending. Last year we spent that on the basement project. Linda Pitt made a motion to approve the treasurer's report as reported. 2nd by Pat Henningsen. Motion carried.

Troy asked that you read the President's report on page 5

Pastor highlighted his report from pages 6-8. Confirmation classes are going very well, 2 confirmed at Lost Island, 13 at Bethany. All students are in their first year, which is the Bible year. This year's class is 4 girls and 11 boys and is a different animal from last year's class. One student from Lost Island is in the current class. They are required to come to midweek services and 16 sermon notes are required for the year. Confirmation camp plans are in the works. The Palo Alto County Ministerial Association is committed to training an After Care Team and hopefully will be ready to have a meeting in the spring to gauge the community's interest. Continuing Education - Pastor will be going to the Rural Ministry Conference in Dubuque in March. It is a good conference and he can touch base with Luther and others.

He asked for questions. Tom Mason mentioned from last year's minutes that Pastor was going to train lay leaders and Tom asked how that is going. Pastor reported that he has 4 trained at Bethany to begin worship and that has been working great when needed. He has been able to call from the parking lot here if he is going to be late and they will start service. It has greatly reduced his stress and given them permission to take control of the service. Troy also reported that he and Karyn Leininger have been asked to do the same at Lost Island if needed. Alan asked to verify that the church services are permanent at this time. Joint council has determined to leave worship times alone. Pastor mentioned that there was a message on the answering machine about getting an emergency defibrillator for the church. Would this be something we would like? After discussion, Kyle Norris said he would donate one.

Basement project final report: Kyle Norris will complete the final punch list in March and will watch the crack under the window and repair it if needed. Troy tried to stain the new woodwork but it needs a light sanding as the stain did not take so he will get that done this spring as well.

Stained Glass Repair, Troy read the process of restoration as laid out by Kountry Glass in Albert City then went through the estimate of the top four windows for repair. (see attached) Estimates range from \$2,600 to \$6,000. Discussion focused on the need to repair before they are beyond repair. We will start with the most expensive and then one of the lesser priced ones until they are all repaired. Alan suggested that perhaps we could add a line item in the budget until the windows are repaired. There is \$230 already donated for the repair of the broken altar window. Tim Nielsen suggested that we send out an adopt a window letter to those outside the church including those families with a long history here. Sally Nyborg suggested "Fix your Pane" for our fundraiser. Pat Henningsen suggested that we include the altar window that we have already received money for. Need 50% down to begin the process. Kyle made a motion to create a budget item of \$7,500 per year for window repair and we repair windows as we have money in the account, adding donations as they come in. 2nd by Alan Oppedal. Tom Mason asked that we explore grants or ask Thrivent to help with the process. Motion carried. Karyn Leininger will craft a letter to be sent out to members and families.

Budget discussion: Tim Nielsen wanted to let everyone know that we had a donation of \$2,000 to send anyone to camp. Tim went through the changes to the budget: increased Bethany \$1,000/month, increased insurance, Synod Assembly members, The Mission Budget stayed the same just reorganized it due to the fact that we haven't heard from our Companion Synod in over 2 years, added Haiti missions, removed the adopt a seminarian. We will add \$7,500 for window repair. Total budget is \$57,425, a \$1,700 increase over last year. Cash reserve: \$171,122.23. \$95,000 in extremely secure funds. Tom Mason asked for a clarification on Yakobi Parish. Karyn Leininger explained Karyn that she has been trying to open a line of communication for over 2 years. The last communication with Yakobi Parish was that they wanted to have the money sent directly to their account and the council felt it was better send it through the synod. It is not supposed to be solely a money relationship, we are to be praying for them, which we continue to do, so that part of the relationship is still intact, however we are not currently sending them any money. That frees up the Nut Money for missions account, which the committee is still discussing distribution of those funds. We are still involved in Tanzania with the Girls School, well projects and health initiatives through the synod. Motion to approve the budget with the addition of \$7,500 for window repair by Tim Nielsen, 2nd by Craig Thu. Motion carried.

Constitution Update – Karyn Leininger went through the revised constitution and the changes made by the council. Chapters 7 – 14 are where most changes were made. Karyn will send the revised

constitution to the synod for approval. Once the synod has approved it, we will have our second vote. If approved at that meeting, then it can be ratified at next year's annual meeting. Motion to approve the revised constitution by Kyle Norris, 2nd by Pat Henningsen. Motion carried.

Updates: Worship Committee – Pat Henningsen and Tim Nielsen are our representatives on the committee. Please let them know if you have any suggestions. Usual services during Lent

Mission Committee Karyn Leininger, Linda Pitt & Connie Swan have been discussing where to distribute the funds, we talked briefly about \$500 to WTL Ministries and using the rest locally. We are open to suggestions. Troy asked Karen Thu about Anna Sorenson's trip to Haiti and she said they would be replanting gardens that were destroyed in the hurricane. So perhaps seed would be a good donation to that group. Thank you to everyone for buying nuts.

Ladies Aid – Karyn Leininger pointed out the beginnings of the school kits and health kit collections that need to be complete by the first Saturday in May. Alaire Nielsen went through the financial report. We are open to suggestions as well. Coffee money is divided between the circles and last month went to help purchase bibles for CoDR. The Thrivent funds have been a great help.

Lakeside Report: Alan Oppedal reported that things are progressing very well. Jamie Dodd, new administrator, has a good financial sense and Debbie Hughes is the new Director of Nursing. She does a great job of managing staff and schedules to make efficient use of resources. The division of duties is split very well. Lakeside recently received a \$15,000 bequest from the Brownly family. Lakeside has the only Alzheimer's unit in the area and the board is looking to do some modifications in order to expand the unit. The Assisted Living Unit is at full capacity with a waiting list and it is hoped to expand by a couple more units. The board feels that the facility is becoming more attractive to prospective clients and hope to get closer to 100% capacity. Currently at 80% right now. 100% capacity will greatly help the financial stability of the facility. Changes to state policy caused them to dip into reserve funds to bridge the gap. There are some long range maintenance issues that will require some outside funding, like replacing carpet and the roof. The congregation thanked Alan for his willingness to serve on this board.

Karyn Leininger read a report sent to her by Pastor Paul Stone of Church of the Damascus Road via email: Things are still going well. Rockwell City is preparing for an early March Brothers in Blue. The Brothers in Blue in Fort Dodge in December went well: 17 Baptisms and 4 affirmations of baptism. Bible studies, worship services, and Story Tellers are all going well at both prisons. At Rockwell City, over 20 dads read to their kids for 5 months in a row. Karyn Leininger added that they have added dvd recordings to this outreach so kids can see their dad as well as hear him. Pastor Stone noted that he misses Paul Abbott but wishes him well in his new venture with The Way, The Truth, and The Life ministries. Pastor Peter reported that Pastor Stone was up to talk to the Ministerial Association about After Care teams and he is very passionate about that program.

Tim Nielsen reported that if we make purchases through Amazon smile the church will get .5% through designated funds.

Motion to adjourn by Alaire Nielsen, 2nd by Linda Pitt. Motion carried. Meeting ended with the praying of the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted, Karyn Leininger, Secretary