

Our Journey Together

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



And serve each other according to the gift each person has received, as good managers of God's diverse gifts. – 1 Peter 4:10

Scriptures remind us over and over that we each have been given gifts from God – gifts that can be used in service to God's Kingdom, to the church, to one another. Each of us has a responsibility to use those gifts

to the best of our ability to honor God. We will all do that in different ways at different stages of our lives, but we never get "too old" to serve; none of us are "too young or inexperienced" to serve; no one is "unequipped" to serve."

As we move into the autumn, we have opportunities for many people to serve using the gifts they have been given by God. The most pressing opening we have is in Christian Education. We are in need of someone to step into the leadership of our Sunday School program, and we are always looking for teachers—either full time, or those who are willing to be substitutes.

Beginning in January, we will have many opportunities for folks to step up to serve, as there will be quite a few openings on our Leadership Team. The first of which is our Lay Leader. This is a person who's primary role is to be the prayer partner of both the pastor and the congregation. This person represents all of the congregation on the Leadership Team, and should work closely with the pastor to ensure that the spiritual needs of the congregation are being met, and that the pastor is in a place to meet those needs, as best as they are able. This is a four year term.

The next opening is for our church Treasurer. This person is responsible for signing all checks, and compiling our monthly financial reports using the information provided by our Office Manager. They are our second pair of eyes on all financial transactions of the church. Mike Moncur has held this position for the last several years, and the sooner we can fill this position, the more time Mike will have to train and assist the new treasurer. This position does not have term limits.

The other positions are regular seats on our leadership team. We will have openings for one person on trustees (who manage all physical assets of the church), two persons on finance, and three people on Staff-Parish Relations. All of these are 3 year terms.

I ask you all to be in prayer regarding these openings. Please pray, not only that the right people are found, but also pray for discernment on where your particular gifts may be best used in the church. It takes every single one of us, working together, to be the best version of this church that we can be.

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Aug. 17
First Day of School
Pray for all involved
with school.



Content Due

Do you have items you would like included in next month's newsletter?

If so, please have them into the church office no later than

August 21



August Ushers and Greeters

Aug 6 & 13 - Eugene & Janice Moncur
Aug 20 & 27 - Terry and Marsha Howard
 Bev Cain & Bonnie Hall

If you need to miss a week in which you are scheduled to usher, it is your responsibility to find someone to fill in for you. Please remember also, there are other ways in which you can help serve the church. We are always looking for folks to serve coffee fellowship, to be communion stewards, and lead small groups.

Financial Update from Leadership Team



Financial Update as of June 30, 2023:

2023 General Fund Income Year to Date: \$67,496.06
 2023 General Fund Expenses Year to Date: \$83,247.13
 General Fund Difference: (15,751.07)



United Women in Faith

United Women in Faith will meet:

Thurs. Aug. 10 at 7 pm regular meeting. Following that at 7:30 will be Mission U via Zoom. All will be in the sanctuary.

Wednesday, Aug. 16 10:00 - 2:00pm for the monthly work day at Trinity Lutheran



A Note from Pastor Dick Rinearson:

Dear Friends in Christ, I am pleased to let you know that my cancer is now in remission. My oncologist believes that with the anti-cancer drugs I am taking, I have "several years" ahead of me. I am truly thankful for all your prayers.

Along with the many cards and emails of encouragement I have received over the past several months, they have sustained both Linda and me through this difficult time.

We give thanks to God for all of you.
 Pastor Dick

Birthdays:

- Aug 1 Ashley Conkey
- Aug 3 Tim Hamill
- Aug 4 Nancy Ames
- Aug 5 Mason Breitling
- Aug 6 Mary Wagner
- Aug 8 Ila Norton
- Aug 09 Logan Whetsel
- Aug 13 Kayla Wagner

- Aug 17 Joe Fiala
- Aug 19 LaDonna Wharton
- Aug 23 Tania Ruhnke
- Aug 24 Bill Canham
- Aug 29 Abby Breitling
- Aug 31 Hans Otteson
- Aug 31 Janice Purrington

Anniversaries:

- Aug 3 Curtis & Janice Wilbur
- Aug 7 Gary & Barb Bates
- Aug 13 Eric & Marla Bertsch
- Aug 24 Duane & Sandie Aymar
- Aug 28 Justin & Kayla Wagner



Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life and honor.
 PROVERBS 21:21, NRSV

****Please note these minutes have not yet been approved and are subject to modification****

Leadership Team Meeting July 20, 2023

I. Call to Order Chairperson, Joe Fiala called the July 20, 2023 Leadership Team meeting to order at 5:00 pm in the Library of the church. Members present: Pastor Teresa Whetsel, Linda Blackburn, Andrea Fiala, Joe Fiala, Mike Moncur JoAnn Morford, and Karen Steptoe and JoAnn Testerman. Absent was Dwight Greenough, Eugene Moncur, Sara Gates, Chris Keeter. One visitor present was Merle Jenner.

II. Loving

a. Opening Devotional – Pastor Teresa led the group with a devotional from Upper Room Disciplines. This selection was based on Genesis 28:10-17 and stressed that blessings await us when we realize the Lord is with us where ever we go.

b. The Mission Statement of the UMC: “To make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world”. was read from the agenda by the Team.

III Learning

Sub committees returned for the business meeting

a. Consent Calendar-As there were corrections to be made to the minutes the consent calendar was removed from the agenda.

1. Secretary’s Minutes for June: JoAnn Testerman stated the correction in the minutes was in the Finance report. It should read **general fund difference of (\$3,378.78) not (\$865.56).

2. Finance Report for June: Finance committee presented the Treasurer report for approval.

3. With the correction made to the June minutes, Chairman Joe asked to move for approval. Andrea Fiala moved to approve the June Minutes with JoAnn Morford seconding the motion. Motion carried.

4. JoAnn Morford moved to approve the Treasurers Report and Linda Blackburn seconded the motion. Motion carried.

b. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Tues August 8 with sub-committees meeting at 5:00 pm with the full Leadership Team at 5:30.

IV. Leading

a. Sub-Committee Reports:

Trustees:

◆ Parsonage -repairs are underway by Mike Beaner

◆ Programmable thermostats

o Andrea said she has a quote of \$1050 for two programable thermostats. One is for the sanctuary and the other for the fellowship hall. After some discussion it was decided to pause on these until Trustees are able to get more information on how these are programed to work. There will be money in the Memorial Fund for these when a decision is made.

◆ Kitchen Counter – front edge repair – pending

◆ NW Entry – finished

Staff-Parish Relations: Karen Steptoe reported the 2023 Clergy- Church Annual Assessment is done and sent in to Conference office. She also said Pastor did a time audit for PPR.

Finance:

●Treasurer's report for June - The report was prepared by Mike Moncur and emailed out to the Leadership Team. Hard copies were handed out at the meeting also. The report showed revenues at \$8,677.52 and expenses at \$11,792.45 for a general fund difference of (\$3,114.93). YTD general fund difference of (\$15,751.07)

b. General Finance Discussion

Finance sub-committee stated treasurer's report was pretty straight forward but we are still having negative numbers. Some thoughts for discussion were to revisit the DS Bader's discussion with Leadership about partnering with the Highmore and Harrold churches. The Leadership Team's consensus was to explore this more and reach out to DS Bader for more information. Pastor Teresa was asked if she felt she had time to do this and she replied yes she did. The Finance committee brought us some discussion of the financial impact of selling the parsonage. This thought would need a great deal of discussion and research. One point brought up was the use of endowment funds when finances are low. Other points of discussion concerning finance was getting a work team/task force created to get people into church.

c. Report of July 2nd event: Pastor Teresa reported she felt it was a positive event. She estimated we served popcorn and water to around 100 people with 10 volunteers. Ace Hardware popped the corn(appox-200 bags) for us. Karen Steptoe said they charged \$50 for it and she paid that. Wilbur-Ellis (50bottles) and Agtegra (75 bottles) donated bottled water. Linda and Royce Blackburn also donated 125 bottles of water. The group decided we should consider doing this again next year. (We had popcorn and water left over so we should refigure the amount needed if we do it again). Because of the success of the July event several of the team thought we should think about doing a beverage stand at the Arts in the Park event next year.

d. Pastor's Report- Pastor Teresa said she had 4 parishioner visits and one counseling session. She stated with July 4 th family events she wasn't able to get as many visits in as she'd have liked. Pastor said she has started working on her Ordination requirements. On August 2 & 3 she will be attending a Suicide Prevention Workshop in ND. She will also take the following days Aug 4-6 to spend with a colleague in ND. She has asked Bobbi Larson to fill the pulpit.

e. Lay Leadership openings for the fall- Pastor Teresa wants the Team to be aware there will be several changes this Fall from needing a Treasurer and Christian Ed Chairman plus the rotation changes on the Leadership Team roster. There was a lot of discussion on filling these positions. The Leadership Team members in their second year are on the nominations committee. More discussion of this will be on the agenda for the August meeting.

f. Vision for the Congregation: Chairman Joe asked the Team what would be their "perfect vision." Things listed: full of people, studying and growing, SS growth, 20 people in choir, fun events, activity in the church during the week, possible after school program, playground. Joe said to keep these things in mind as a way to get the congregation involved/dreaming. Pastor Teresa suggested some of this could be used/talked about on Sept 10, Rally Sunday. Along these lines we need to have a discussion of when is the best worship time. Can it be on the agenda for August? Yes. Joe suggested the Team talk to others in church to see what the preference would be.

There was no more business brought before the group.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 6:45 p.m.

Jo Ann- JoAnn Testerman

August 2023

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1	2	3	4	5
				Pastor out of office - Suicide Prevention Seminar Aug 2-6		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
		Leadership Mtg 5pm 		UWF Mission U Sanctuary 7pm 		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
			• UWF Work Day Trinity 10-2 • Senior Boxes			
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
				 Feeding South Dakota Food Truck Noon-1		
27	28	29	30	31		

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Thy will be done

Placing ourselves completely into God's hands can be challenging. If you need help in that area, pray these words from Thomas à Kempis:

"Lord, you know what is best. May your will decide what shall be done. Give what you will, how much you will and when you will. Do what you know is best for me. Do what pleases you and brings your name most honor.

"Put me where you will, and deal with me in all things as you please. I am in your hand — turn me backwards and forwards, turn me upside down. Here I am, your servant, ready for anything, for I have no desire to live for myself but only to live perfectly and worthily for you."