



First Lutheran is a vibrant Christian Community **where faith and life** meet through **worship, learning** and **servicing** in Jesus' name.

Present: Neal Larson, Pastor Kari, Joanne Bliese, Bruce Belseth, Greg Tvrdik, Pastor Greg, Jen Sundby, Dick Geiselhart, Del Mari Runck, Lucas Kusters

Vision Team Meeting

March 11, 2021

6:30 PM – via Zoom

Opening Devotions - Pastor Kari

Philippians 2 1-11

Christ modeled humility and this passage relates to how we are to serve as the Vision Team. What we do is not about individuals but for the glory of God.

Vision Team Orientation –

1. Getting to know you.

Thank you for serving and fulfilling this call for service.

We are starting from scratch.

Joanne Kensinger will be our appointed Secretary.

Joanne Bliese will be our appointed Treasurer.

Pastor Greg – Lead Pastor oversee all things Vision Team.

- Son Aaron is teaching in Shoreview. Daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law Kevin are expecting in May.
- April 15, 16 years ago I started at First Lutheran.

Dick Geiselart

- Julie and I have been a part of FLC for 10 Years since our move to Alexandria.

- Our experience has been very welcoming. Psychologist – Retired in 2020 from Sanford here in Alexandria.
- Love to Travel. Right now, we are in Golf Shores Alabama until the End of March.
- 2 Children, Son Lives in Alexandria with two boys, daughter lives in Perham.

Neal Larson

- Moved to Alexandria 2 years ago in April on Good Friday
- Easter was our First Time here at FLC.
- Worked in long-term care for 30 years, wife Kay worked in the same profession.
- Son that Lives in Fargo and daughter lives in Sioux Falls.
- Part of the Communications Team – Does website updates as a volunteer.

Joanne Bliese

- Been a member of church since 1985.
- First Lutheran was very similar to the church that I have grown up in.
- Three children remarried and has four step kids and 9 grandchildren.
- I work in banking and have been on staff at Glenwood State Bank for the past nine years.
- Did some substitute teaching when her kids were little.

Del Mari Runck

- ND Native
- Been in Alexandria 20 years been in banking for 38 years currently at Neighborhood National Bank.
- We went to summer worship at City Park and that hooked us on FLC and worshipping outdoors.
- Two children, daughter in Las Angels has one grandchild and has a Son lives in Fargo.

Bruce Belseth

- Son Bryce spends ½ year in Phoenix and ½ year in our basement.
- Two Grandchildren
- Grew up in Ashby was Teacher and wife Jodi is a physical therapist.
- Part of the Serving Board
- Went to the four Lutheran churches in Alexandria to find that FLC was the best fit.
- The word that always comes back to describe FLC is vibrant.

Jen Sundby

- Husband Scott, two children Meredith and Maggie, 2 dogs Snickers and Murphy.
- Have lived 17 years in Alexandria.
- Just finished building a house on Lake Andrew
- Grew up in Laverne, MN with a strong youth program.
- Love FLC for the strong youth program and the strong community FLC has.
- Worked for Sandford Health as a lead privacy officer.
- Worked with Good Samaritan Society approaching 20 years as the two organizations merged.
- Scott is a Family Physician in town. Scott Grew up in Detroit Lakes.
- Parents live in Alexandria and are FLC members too.
- Vice Chair – Grateful of this great group of people, if anyone needs help please don't hesitate to reach out.

Lucas Kusters

- Just attended my daughters last basketball game of the year.
- Married to Sara and have 4 kids.
- My wife and I are both educators.
- Live a very active lifestyle with four kids.
- Transplants from North and South Dakota, got married in 2000.
- We arrived in Alexandria and are still here 21 years later.
- Previous members of Calvary and switched to FLC three years ago due to the vibrant youth programs.
- Thrilled to be part of the Worship Team.
- We love going to church together as a family. It is that one hour of a week where we can just be.

Pastor Kari

- Married to Thomas, Thomas recently made as accountant change it is great to see him grow and use his gifts in a new way.
- Daughter Esme is 10 years old.
- Reid is a 8 year old spunky 2nd grader
- Moved close to Lincoln about 5 years ago.
- Been at FLC 9 years, served at Faith Lutheran in Miltna prior for 4 years.

Greg Tvrdik

- Grew up here at First Lutheran as my home church.
- Been on staff for 5 years.
- Came from a multi-unit management background being a District Manager for Caribou Coffee prior to working at FLC.

- My Grandma was a great influence on me. She was always doing in something at church and served as the Treasurer of a small congregation in rural Osakis for 27 years.
 - My Sister and parents also live in Alexandria, along with my niece and nephew.
2. Orientation – Mission Statement and how it falls within our boards, and we use the mission statement as our launch for everything that we do. The mission statement was developed a number of years ago and in the last two years we have reshaped and shortened it to make it less clunky.
- We have been in the process of redoing the framework on how we are organized as a Vision Team for the past two years.
 - Each of the boards will be made up of a staff person the Vision Team representative and two/three others.
 - We as pastors are committing by the end of April to sit down with each of the Vision Team Reps and envision of who can be a part of the board make up and solidify one goal to move forward on.
 - What does it mean to be a part of the vision Team?
 - We Approach our roles on Vision Team with Self Care it is very important to care for your spiritual lives as we care for you physical lives.
 - We will tend to our spiritual lives through prayer and attending worship in community.
 - Write the names of our fellow Vision Team members and place it in our bibles and pray our one another, our congregation and our collective mission.
 - Caring for our spiritual life involves all of those things in worship learning and serving. Practicing generosity of time, talent and financial resources.
 - Making these monthly meeting a priority – occasionally we run into conflicts but with technology we can be connected moving forward with Adaptive approaches instead of focusing on a technical problem.
3. Accountability and Focus – What we are about as the Vision Team.
- Approach – We want to think outward and upward not downward and inward.
 - Our job is to seek the spirits guidance to what the spirit is leading and guidance.
 - I ask that each one of us be proactive and prepare for our meetings.
 - Each month you will receive a email from Dick that includes the agenda and financials to prepare for our meeting.

- We ask that you being to read: Imagining a New Church by Jeffery Kjellberg. We have a copy of this book for you to pick up at the church office.
 - We will read a chapter for each meeting. It is important that we are prepared.
- You as Vision Team represent the congregation. Our calling is representing the congregation as a unified whole.
 - There are a lot of opinions and personal mindsets out there. That defects us from our true purpose and the core of our mission.
- The Vision Team speaks as one voice. We have recommended strong individuals to the congregation to serve on the Vision Team.
- Listen, discuss and talk and when we reach a decision we leave as a one unified groups and support the outcome of that decision.

4. What the Vision Team is Responsible for –

- To set the vision and set the parameters and evaluate the long-term strategic vision of First Lutheran Church
- Financial resources and that we are stewarding what is given to us effectively. We need to function as a large congregation sometimes called a corporate congregation.
- Setting parameters – Putting the fence around the playground and letting the staff and congregation play. Empower our staff and congregation to do.
 - Example - Deeply build on the engagement of our community the Vision Team would set that vision not carry it out.

5. Who is accountable to the Vision Team?

- The pastors and the Director of Church Administration (Greg T.) and the Boards of the Vision Team
- Indirectly accountable to the Vision Team
 - Staff – Ministry Teams of the boards

6. The Vision Team is accountable to the congregation and to the larger church. Our Local Conference, Northwest MN Synod and the ELCA,

The VT sets the vision and to govern, the staff manages and equips the congregation does the ministry. (Does the coach play the basketball game? No.) He/she equips and coaches. paradigm shift for each one of us will take some time to live into this mindset.

Set date and times for our Vision Team meeting.

Meetings happening on the 2nd Monday of each month at 6:00 PM

One on ones with Pastors and VT Reps by the end of April 2021.

Updates and Reports

Secretary Report from 2/11/21 meeting – No changes
Del Mari (M) Neal (S) Carried

Treasurer's Report – Joanne Bliese
Income \$89,431.38
Expenses \$92,689 doing well –
Income is down from 2020 but that is mainly because of a couple of larger gifts we received in February of 2020 that didn't align with 2021.
Bruce (M) Jen (S) Carried

Capital Campaign Update – Greg T.

The Beyond the Building Capital Campaign Team has been meeting and preparing for the spring launch of our next capital campaign. We will kick off with one-on-one visits for lead gifts in March with a couple of in-person events happening for the 50 and under and 50 and over population. The congregation wide campaign will be launched on May 2 with commitment Sunday happening on May 23 with one service outside on our church property.

Update on in-person worship / small groups meetings. – Greg T.

Small groups are meeting in the building with a limit of 10 people per groups. We have bible studies, quilters, Boy Scouts and AA groups meeting happening regularly.

Worship is going well; the reservation system is working well but we have not filled. We have around 65-70 registering/showing up for worship. About 2/3 are repeat from the week before.

Service Opportunity – Pastor Kari

With the generous end to 2020 we have set aside \$5000.00 (tithe of congregational support) for a service opportunity. That opportunity has arisen. Kim Taylor has been working Jen Jabas at the United Way and the "stuff the bus" program. They would like us to spearhead a technology item that would be included with the Stuff the Bus packages to kids. This item could be a calculator, ear buds or a similar item that would go into the 460-520 packages the United Way puts together for this program.

\$5100 from the benevolence (tithe)

\$2000 from project neighbor

\$7100 total from FLC.

Motion: To move forward with the service opportunity to partner with the United Way “Stuff the Bus” opportunity spending \$5100 from 2020 benevolence and taking \$2000 from the Project Neighbor Fund totaling \$7100 to the Stuff the Bus program.

Del Mari (M) Neal (S) Carried

Devotions Next meeting – Jen Sundby

Next Meeting – April 12, 2021 at 6:00 PM

Recorded by:

Greg Tvrdik

Director of Church Administration