

**Present:** Dick Geiselhart, Pastor Kari, Greg Tvrdik, Pastor Greg, Jen Sundby, Del Mari Runck, Lucas Kusters, Darla Harstad

Not present: Bruce Belseth and Neal Larson

Vision Team Meeting: met 6pm-7:30pm at FLC Room 1A

## Opening Devotions:

- Devotions: Dick Geiselhart
- Sign Up for Devotions was passed around
- Direction on Devotions going forward – Pr. Kari
  - Think of a story or experience how God worked in your life
  - Read a verse, excerpt or story and reflect
  - No worries on something big or grand
  - Sharing brings us closer together
  - It is where “faith and life meet”

## Reports:

Chairperson Dick Geiselhart opened asking for corrections/additions to the secretary’s report of April 12, 2021. No changes.

Motion to accept: Darla

Seconded: Lucas

Treasurer’s Report presented by Del Mari

Discussion: In a better place now than a year ago. Well under budget in expenses.

Motion to accept: Jen

Seconded: Darla

## Visioning:

Chapter 2 - **Imagining A New Church by Jeffrey Kjellberg** – discussion

Kjellberg mentions Richard Rohr, who “talks about how the early mystics believed that knowing God only happens through loving God, not through acquisition of knowledge or authority.”

On page 15, Kjellberg writes: “the world, at its best, is a place where ...wonder and exploration occurs and its encouraged. But for both wonder and exploration to thrive, we need to create the kind of space that allows for it.”

How does this relate to our own experience:

- When leading a Bible study, someone says “I don’t know enough, I don’t want to make a mistake”. Many probably feel that way and wrestle with it.
- “faith of a child”, don’t know the details but have the love of God.
- Having the knowledge and how will they apply it
- How does life and faith come together
- Speaks volumes of LOVE
- Need to be in the present  
“In Christ’s love, everyone is someone”

How can First Lutheran be place that encourages and allows for wonder and exploration to occur/be developed?

- Concept we can work towards
- At FLC a person feels they can be ‘outside’ what people want and still be accepted
- In education, pushing kids to explore so we should do that at church also.
- Young daughter loves to come to FLC church....she can just “be”
- First communion is a milestone and celebration at FLC.
- Allowing staff/congregation to make decisions...not having to follow all the same rules
- Last Sunday’s sermon of other churches’ rules hits home to this question.
- Not to say we are right or wrong
- Our foundation (ELCA) guides us but we still have growth & flexibility
- There’s comfort in having things black & white for many, but here we are growing our relationship with God, to wonder and not always know the answers (and not being judged for that)
- In the Bible, how do you interpret a verse you read? How does it speak to YOU?
- Jesus was always inclusive, there was no exclusion. There is not any ‘right’ way.
- What does that say to you when at a Bible study? There has been a long tradition of ordained pastors leading however having lay people lead brings out great discussion. Not just one way information.

Chapter 3 will be discussed next month along with *“How we are a large church. And how we function differently as a large church compared to a small church.”*

### **Restructuring of the Vision Team**

- ❖ Pr. Greg and Kari have been meeting with Vision Team representatives the past few weeks. There have been lots of questions....
  - Which is a good first step
  - Emphasis we do not have to be pressured to achieve immediately
  - We want to create, explore, and brainstorm
  - Do not have to go at it fast.

- Not have to accomplish 10 things but focus on one goal/item
- Everything begins with our mission statement “Where faith and life meet”. There are signs at FLC it is happening through the people. It has been quoted at tonight’s meeting and last Sunday by Haley Kalina.
- By the end of June, VT members will have a potential list of names for each board.
  - ✓ Not always going with the same people
  - ✓ Greg T can give list of new members
  - ✓ Pr. Greg & Kari can assist/discuss/meet over a cup of coffee (if needed) to help brainstorm with names
  - ✓ Then meet once again with staff connecting members with respective boards
  - ✓ We want to be relational as it brings so much to the table
  - ✓ Staff and board members working together helps to understand direction, each other, and the jobs which brings a common understanding.
  - ✓ End of July – board committees in place
  - ✓ End of August – meet and do strategic planning which will bring us to fall.

#### Updates:

- **The Call Process:** Pr. Greg and Kari have formulated a congregational letter which will go out this week via email and mail to update the congregation on the current status.
- **Capital Campaign:**
  - As of Friday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> \$925,000 has been pledged
  - Video was made (many positive comments)
  - Good momentum so far
  - May 23<sup>rd</sup> service, the VT will assist with the outdoor service at FLC’s north side. There will be additional parking available. If it rains, it will be inside.
- **Lake Ida Cemetery:**
  - On November 24, 1877 land was donated and platted for FLC’s cemetery on Lake Ida Way NW (near the intersection of County Road 61 and Lake Ida Way NW).
  - FLC’s Marv Trana is the caretaker. FLC does have a cemetery board governing it.
  - Neighboring land owner Keith Wilson recently brought up that some people are buried on his land and suggested an equal land swap.
  - The title company needs someone from FLC to sign the re-platting.
  - Del Mari made the following motion: *“The Vision Team grants permission to Gregory Tvrdik, Director of Church Administration of First Lutheran Church, to sign deed documents for Lake Ida Cemetery.”* The motion was second by Dick.

#### Next Vision Team Meeting:

Monday, June 14th at 6pm at FLC (in person) in FLC Room 1A  
Meet with masks + social distancing

**Devotions for JUNE 14th Meeting:**

Lucas Kusters

Submitted by:

Joanne Kensinger, Secretary

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