

Trinity Lutheran Church Council

January 11, 2017

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council meeting was called to order by Steve Kemp at 7:45 p.m. on January 11, 2017, in the Gathering Room of the church basement.

Members present: Jean Ellingson, Debra Spence, Linda Donoghue, Bill Fried, Mary Zaffke, Kristi Griffin

Absent: Pastor Scaife

Guests: Stewart Storlie, Lee Hoekstra

Steve opened the meeting with a prayer from Pastor Scaife.

MSC (Bill/Kristi) to approve the December 14, 2016, secretary's report.

Howard stated that envelope and electronic offerings were down about 2.3% compared with 2015 and expenses were down, the General Fund is down about 5%. **MSC** (Linda/Mary) to approve the December financial reports.

Team Comments:

Education (Kristi): Senior recognition is typically the last Sunday in May—Kristi would like to recommend that this event be held on May 21 instead. A letter was received from Angie Halverson stating that she can no longer teach release time. They are working on developing an advisory team for the Youth Coordinator position.

Outreach (Mary): Empty Bowls event is this Sunday, work continues on the Time and Talents information.

Mission in the World (Bill): Planning to have a speaker on missions on a Sunday in February.

Support (Linda): Met with Pr. Scaife regarding the budget and the part-time position; developing a system for the new Support Team

Care Ministry (Debra): Did Christmas Cheer for nine families and 18 individuals, and 31 for Care and Share.

Worship (Jean): There are a couple of people who may be interested in updating the History Board in the Fellowship Hall. An open house at the parsonage may be offered after church during Homecoming weekend in June. Reformation Sunday in October will be a special day since it is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. Therefore Kristi suggested that confirmation be held on October 15 instead this year.

New Business:

1. Pr. Jim is recommending background checks on all people who will work in the church and gave some information on it. **MSC** (Linda/Mary) to hire First Advantage Company to perform background checks.
2. Because Angie Halverson is no longer able to teach release time, there is a need to find someone to fill that position as soon as possible. There are 121 students who are touched by this program so it is important for this program to continue.

Continuing Business:

1. Youth and Family Coordinator position and ¼ time pastor—a special meeting will be on Thursday, January 19, 2017 at 6:30 p.m.
2. Church Directory: The last chance for pictures is this Sunday, January 15. Printing of the directory will begin after that.
3. The Nominating Committee needs to know if there are any team members who are willing to stay on for another 2-year term.
4. Saturday night services: **MSC** (Jean/Linda) to cut back Saturday services from 4 to 2 per month and hold services on the first and third Saturdays.
5. Considerable discussion on finding items to cut in the budget. Those items are listed on a separate sheet. We need to lower the budget by approximately \$70,000 in order to have a balanced budget.

A call has been received from a council member at Mabel First Lutheran regarding youth programs and Saturday evening worship.

Steve expressed his thanks to the council for the difficult work on the budget tonight.

MSC (Jean/Debra) to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 p.m.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Rustad

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Trinity Church Council made the following suggestions for changes to the 2017 budget:

Put a moratorium on designated offerings—all offerings to go into the general fund.

Appeal for Thrivent Choice dollars

Line items:

Line 5: Look closer at user fee structure	
Line 8: (SE MN Synod) Consider cutting (maybe back to 8.5%)	
Line 9: (ELCA Missionary sponsorship) Consider a new figure	
Line 12: (Care Ministry) Zero out	\$ 750
Line 14: (Good Earth Village membership) Option to remove—open to discussion	
Line 16: (Day Camp) Change to \$1400	\$ 100
Line 18: (First Communion) Zero out	\$ 120
Line 19: (Adult Education) Zero out	\$ 150
Line 22: (Sunday School) Drop to \$250	\$ 850
Line 23: (Education: Other) Drop to \$100	\$ 400
Line 25: (Worship, Music, Arts) Drop to \$500	\$ 500
Line 29: (Outreach) Zero out	\$ 300
Line 31: (Office Equip.) Drop to \$1,000	\$1,000
Line 33: (Utilities) Drop \$4,200 by cutting Waste Mgmt. Dumpster	\$4,200
Line 34: (Insurance) Cannot change	
Line 35: (Building Improvements) Drop to \$5,000	\$5,000
Line 52: (Stewardship) Drop to \$400	\$ 200
Line 75: (Commuting stipend) Zero or cross out	_____
The total of these cuts is:	\$13,570

A suggestion was made to use \$5,000 of the Dvergston bequest for the Youth Coordinator.

Two additional suggestions are:

1. Line 13: make \$0 and designate \$1320 from Sunday School funds in Special Account to pay the coordinator position through May.
2. Line 21: make \$0 and use \$ from the Religion Release Time fund in Special Accounts as needed not to exceed \$1000.00.