

**\*\* SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL AT IT'S NEXT MEETING \*\***

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION COUNCIL**

October 11, 2023 • 7:30 p.m.

**OPENING BUSINESS:**

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by President, Kim Kapplinger at 7:32 p.m. on October 11, 2023.

Pr. Elizabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Members Present:**

Pr. Elizabeth, Betty Dokken, Terry Holland, Michelle Jahnke, Kim Kapplinger, Bethany Moen, Laurie Moen, Leonard (Lenny) Myrah, Jerald Oakes, David Storlie, Jacque Wennes, Lori Wilhelmson, Mary Zaffke

Secretary's Minutes for September 14, 2023 were read. Jacque made a motion to approve the secretary minutes, seconded by Mary. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report (placed on file) Highlights listed below. Betty made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Betty. Motion carried.

September 1, 2023	balance	\$32,883.62
	47 credits	\$35,217.76
	36 debits	\$26,906.33
September 30, 2023	ending balance	\$41,195.05
	6 outstanding checks	\$4,402.52
September 30, 2023	balance	\$36,792.53

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Pastor Elizabeth (see attachment)  
Pastor Lane (see attachment)

**TEAM REPORTS:**

**Care Ministry (Laurie)**

- Little Free Pantry is being used very well.
- There have been more concerns with mischief. This is happening due to the Little Free Pantry being accessible 24 hours. Looking into having select hours.

**Communications (Mary)**

- Intergenerational campfire and wiener roast was a great time. Planning to have this intergenerational time again. Looking at having this once a month on a Sunday afternoon/evening.
- Art As Prayer is on pause.

**Education (Bethany)**

- Still looking for a Wednesday Bible School leader.
- Looking for someone to lead the Children's Christmas Program.

- Duties again were divided among team members.

#### **Finance (Jacque)**

- YTD Income: \$217,233.45; YTD Expenses: \$252,856.78; Balance: -\$35,623.33
- Borrowed from ourselves: \$25,000; borrowed from Merchants: \$17,000 @ 8%
- We have not received any additional payment from ERC funding.
- Finance Team set Annual Meeting for February 4, 2024 following worship.
- Audit date on all church accounts will be January 21, 2024 following worship.
- Finance Team voted in favor of disposing of financial support information more than 7 years old, keeping all Annual Reports found.

#### **Outreach (Terry)**

- Funds from Music in the Park turned into office.

#### **Mission (David)**

- Thankful Gifts catalog that Jana Myrah led in the past will be continued by the Mission in the World Team.
- Working on team picture.

#### **Property (Jerald)**

- Waiting on Krause Construction to start steeple roof project.

#### **Staffing (Betty)**

- Going over wages for staffing for 2024.
- Have had two people interested and interviewed for the Director of CYF position, but neither followed up with applications. Have extended the search out to 9 colleges until Dec. 31, 2023.

#### **Stewardship (Lenny)**

- Working on the 130<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Dedication of Trinity Church Dec. 7, 1893. Would like the celebration on December 10, 2023 with Norwegian treats. Communications and Worship Teams will help with preparation for the celebration.

#### **Worship (Lori)**

- Will continue the intergenerational gatherings once a month.

Meeting extended by 30 minutes - Mary made a motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes, seconded by Laurie. Motion carried

#### **Book Conversation**

##### **ELCA article - Living Lutheran: Beating Burnout Article**

A very caring and concerning conversation developed due to what this article contained and what Pr. Elizabeth shared in her report: "I continue to be VERY concerned about my bandwidth and ability to keep up with the planning, organization, and communications involved with our education programs, and especially with activities on Wednesdays. I am already 'losing' 2-3 days a week to education activities and some things are slipping through the cracks. And I am very tired." Michelle made a motion to call a Special Congregation Council Meeting to discuss further how the Council can support the staff of Trinity, seconded by Bethany. Kim surveyed the council to figure out a date to have the Special Congregation Council Meeting. Consensus was to have this meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 7:30 pm. Motion carried.

Meeting extended by 15 minutes - Jacque made a motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes, seconded by Terry. Motion carried

#### **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

1. Master Planning Committee update
  - Jacque passed around pictures of the proposed addition (4,000 square feet).
  - The Master Planning Committee has one more session with the architects.
2. Trinity Center update
  - Heather Gray shared that the Trinity Center/Release Time Committee met and prepared what was asked of them, and she presented a written report to the council. The council thanked Heather and the committee for their time and work.
  - Heather shared that 121 students signed up for Release Time. There are no volunteers helping with Release Time - it is just Pr. Len and Pr. Elizabeth.
  - Gary would like to add a gravel parking lot that would allow for 10-12 parking spots. Estimated cost would be \$1,000 to install a sidewalk. Discussion followed with concerns that a building permit may be needed. Jerald will check with the city on process to follow. Trinity Center property shares an easement with Terry Sagdalen. Jerald will also talk with Terry to see how he feels about the possibility of increased traffic and report back to the council.
3. Sabbatical update
  - Found a pastor to do the sabbatical work - Lane Zaffke.
  - Pr. Lane said he would do this for  $\frac{3}{4}$  the salary.

Meeting extended by 15 minutes - Jacque made a motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes, seconded by Terry. Motion carried

4. Steeple fundraiser
  - We do not have all the money for the steeple roof -- \$10k short. Communications Team and Marlene will send out a letter to help promote a fundraiser to raise the \$10K.
5. Winter snow removal
  - Bid from Tyler Ladsten - \$6,000 for the winter
  - Bid from Tim Ladsten - likes to get paid per snow event - nor more than \$6,000.
  - Property Team will make the decision on who will do the snow removal
6. Graveyard
  - Pr. Elizabeth has contacted 3 different companies to find the graves in the north graveyard. Bid from Archaeo-Physics for \$13K. Grants are available to help with cost.
7. Bank Authorization
  - Jacque made a motion to update the Banking Authority to add Elaine Kjome as weekly counter, take Lorilyn Dehning off as Bookkeeper, and to add Jean Ann Tweeten as signer of checks for Luther League account along with Steve Nelson, seconded by Mary. Motion carried.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Youth Gathering - Pastor Lane
  - Have Pr. Lane keep track of hours while working.

- Jacque made a motion to pay Pr. Lane \$30.00 an hour for his work organizing our youth to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans July 16-20, 2024, seconded by Laurie. Motion carried.
- Betty will write up a contract.

Meeting extended by 15 minutes - Jacque made a motion to extend the meeting by 15 minutes, seconded by Mary. Motion carried

2. Annual Meeting Date

- Sunday, February 4, 2024.

3. Event Fundraising -

- Laurie made a motion to approve 2 fundraisers: Bag-A-Buck Special Offering for Little Free Pantry and Christmas Cheer to designate Thanksgiving Offering to Christmas Cheer Bags, seconded by Bethany, motion carried.

**LORD'S PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT**

- Betty made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mary seconded. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m., followed by The Lord's Prayer.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 7:30 p.m.

**UPCOMING DATES:**

- Empty Bowls: Sunday, October 22
- Confirmation/Reformation Sunday Service: Sunday, October 29
- All Saints Sunday: Sunday, November 5 and Bag-a-Buck Special Offering

Submitted by *Michelle Jahnke*