

Trinity Lutheran Church Congregational Council
October 13, 2021

The Trinity Lutheran Church Congregational Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 7:00 pm on October 13, 2021, in the Fellowship Hall.

Members present: Pr. Elizabeth, Dan Alstad, Barbara Arnold, Kim Kapplinger, Steve Kemp, Jan Kraabel, Bethany Moen, Laurie Moen, Janna Myrah, Saundy Solum, Judy Tollefsrud, Dean Wiste, Lara Wold-Mendez, Mary Zaffke

Pastor Elizabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

The Secretary's Report for September 8, 2021, was read and approved.

The Treasurer's Report (placed on file.)

Highlights listed below:

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| • January through September offering total | \$184,570 |
| • Expenses January through September | \$233,730 |
| • Net income for September | -\$3,659 |
| • Year-to-date net income | -\$20,132 |

The treasurer urged encouraging members to give now instead of waiting until year's end and, also, stressed the importance of completing the expense voucher which should accompany the sales slip for all purchases.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth

1. My foot is healing very nicely. I'd say I'm about 85% of the way to "normal." I am so grateful to all the people who helped me do various things during this whole adventure, both personally and professionally. The staff were very flexible as I worked from home about one third of the time. Pr. Lane presided at a number of funerals and services at the nursing home, Manor, Assisted Living, and Tweeten Apartments. Lee Hoekstra walked my dog every day for several weeks! And numerous people (some of them numerous times) brought me food! Thank you, thank you, thank you!
2. Confirmation is going very well! We have 56 students from 5 churches: Trinity, Mabel First, Scheie, Wilmington, and Waterloo Ridge. We still need a couple of mentors, one for just a year and one for the full three years.
3. I'm very excited about the proposed addition to the church building. We will have four forums after worship over the next four weeks, so people have plenty of opportunities to ask questions and give feedback. All members should have received a mailing this week inviting them to one of the forums.

4. I attended the first in-person text study with my text study group in Decorah last week. I have really missed being in fellowship with other pastors to discuss the sermon texts and our perspectives on them.
5. I also attended the first in-person Root River Conference meeting at Good Earth Village last week. GEV has struggled, naturally, during the pandemic. I'm so grateful that Trinity has been able to support them as much as we can during this time. Our kids had a GREAT day up there during Confirmation Camp in June. We need our outdoor ministries!
6. Our Southeast Minnesota Synod Fall Theological retreat is coming up the first weekend in November. I am a part of the planning team, and specifically in charge of Tuesday worship planning (with the bishop preaching and presiding!). Just an FYI: the bishop will be preaching at Trinity on December 12!
7. We WILL be having worship on Thanksgiving.
8. We will not be having mid-week Advent services this year. Instead, we will be having Advent Bible studies for adults on each of the four Sundays in Advent, immediately following worship. I'm excited about that as well.
9. I leave for vacation tomorrow (Thursday) through next Friday (October 22). I'll be in Iceland! Very excited about whale watching, glaciers, the Northern Lights, and more. See you when I get back!

Pastor Lane

1. Home Visits with Holy Communion: 7 visits for 7 total hours
2. Visits without Holy Communion: 2 for 2 total hours
3. Services at Assisted Living, Tweeten Apts., and Manor (and prep): 3 for 4 total hours
4. Services at Nursing Home: 1 for 1 hour total
5. Staff Meeting: 4 for 3 total hours
6. Office Time: 4 hours
7. Sunday/Sat sermon prep and service: 1 for 11 total hours
8. Hospital Visits: 2 for 2 total hours
9. Driving time: 7 hours
10. Continuing Ed:
11. 498-HOPE: 13 times for 3-1/2 total hours
12. Newsletter: 1 hour
13. Response Team: 2 hours

Total Hours: 47-1/2 hours

Funeral for Vernon Roble: 10 hours

Funerals for Mabel Area: Debbie Stennes

Kerri Jahnke - Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry:

Sunday School Pre-k - 6th grade youth

- We will be continuing to use the Rotational Sunday School Curriculum

- First 2 weeks went well/ some SS children quarantining from exposure to COVID
- Still Looking for teachers/ guides
- Rally Sunday was a success, families came to celebrate a new year of education and faith formation

Confirmation - 7th -9th grade youth

- We have 55 youth in Confirmation this year!
- 10 Mentor Groups - Still need 2 mentors for Mabel youth
- First 2 weeks were a success
- We have adults in the congregation leading elective courses for our youth to learn and experience faith in real life!
- Confirmation Retreat to EXPEDITIONS UNLIMITED!
November 5th -7th we will venture to Baraboo, WI to spend time with God in nature and in community. At this retreat we will get to do a high ropes course and zipline, play paintball, worship around a campfire, and spend intentional time in relationship with Jesus. This retreat is for 7th -9th grade youth. WE HAVE 30 YOUTH signed up for this retreat!

Confirmation Sunday - 10th grade youth

- 2021 Confirmation Sunday October 31st at 9:15 a.m.
- 4 Confirmands this year

Highschool Youth 9th -12th grade youth

- Sunday Night Youth Group
- Campfire Devotions, discussion, games from 6:30 p.m. -8:00 p.m.
- Outside at the church

ELCA Youth Gathering 2022

- Information sent out to 9th -12th grade youth
- July 24 -28, 2022
- 9th-12th grade youth invited
- HS youth are excited and inviting friends to join!

Release Time K - 5th grade youth

- The program started October 6th
- Pr. Len Liptack will teach and I will provide the Faith 5 activities, songs, and games
- K - 5th grades invited

4th - 6th grade Youth Group

- Once a month starting October 27th
- Wednesday after school 3:30 - 5:30 p.m. at the church

Team Reports:

Outreach (Lara)

- The Music in the Park event brought in enough money for 50 winter coats, 5 sets of gloves and hats, and several coloring books for Afghan refugees.
- The team is working on cheer packages for young adults ages 18-22

Mission in the World (Dean)

- The Mission Team met Friday (10/8/21) to help load the Lutheran World Relief supplies. There were 112 quilts, 279 school kits, and 92 layettes. We also loaded several boxes from Faith Lutheran of Blackhammer.
- Thanks to Jeff Ellingson who volunteered his pickup, trailer, and time to haul the supplies to Good Shepherd Church in La Crosse.

Property (Dan)

- Toured the property with Gary Wilhelmson and listed items that need attention
- Tim Ladsten submitted a bid of \$6,100 for snow removal for this winter.

Worship (Kim)

- Looking for extra organists and substitutes for Rick
- Received an estimate of \$725,000 for insurance purposes for replacement of the organ.

Communications (Mary)

- Meeting tomorrow

Staffing (Jan)

- The team has finalized staff salaries.

Care (Laurie)

- Has not met yet.

Education (Bethany)

- 30 youth have signed up for a retreat in Baraboo, WI on November 5-7.

(Judy)

- Working on the budget

Stewardship (Steve)

- The 5th Sunday in October is Servant Sunday and they plan to be outdoors and serve food.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Preliminary thoughts on *Abundance*: The book has been well received. It will be discussed in more detail in November.

Response Team update: We will continue as is for the next two weeks. No fellowship after funerals.

Facilities Planning Team Update: There will be four sessions for the congregation to evaluate the plans with a question-and-answer period. Today's project estimate is \$1.7 million. \$100,000 is

contingent. Nolie will take notes at the Sunday facilities' meetings. Dan mentioned that the flooring underneath the basement needs repair as well as the south windows. Heritage Endowment has money for this. Heritage and Property will get together and get an estimate.

Diversity Conversations Update: The first step in the process of becoming a Reconciling in Christ church, according to the Building an Inclusive Church toolkit, is to "Build a Foundation," starting with a group of passionate people who lead their faith community through a welcoming journey. The Core Team typically starts with 3-8 people, but will grow as the journey continues. Some members of the Diversity Conversations group have agreed to become part of this Core Team. They will meet monthly immediately after Diversity Conversations.

Foundational Principles:

1. A journey of becoming Welcoming and Affirming is thoughtfully envisioned and carried out, drawing on wisdom from other faith communities that have completed a journey of their own.
2. A journey of becoming Welcoming and Affirming is grounded in the culture and "personality" of the faith community.
3. A journey of becoming Welcoming and Affirming is based on relationship-building with clergy, rostered leaders, the formal lay leadership (council, boards, etc.), the informal lay leadership ("pillars of the community", etc.), and the rest of the faith community. This is known as "relationship organizing" and one of its key components is listening deeply to what God is saying and doing- within the individual and within the faith community.
4. A journey of becoming Welcoming and Affirming is a spiritual opportunity to learn more about itself and the people it is called to serve. It can also have additional outcomes in membership, stewardship, and vitality.

Budget: We need another \$75,000 to meet our current budget. (\$5,576 per Sunday to meet expenses for 2022.) The Council looked over and made correction to the proposed budget.

NEW BUSINESS

Assisted Living agreement renewal:

MSP (Steve, Judy)

To allow the Spring Grove Assisted Living facility to use Trinity Lutheran as a temporary evacuation space.

Approval of candidates for Confirmation:

MSP (Bethany, Dean)

To approve Jaxon Strinmoen, Elijah Solum, Ellie Halverson, and Maria Blaskowski for Confirmation.

Bell Choir Director:

MSP (Jan, Mary)

To approve the hiring of Logan Olson as Trinity Handbell Choir Director beginning September 22, 2021 through May 2022.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m..

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 10 at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Janna Myrah, Acting Secretary