

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION COUNCIL

November 10, 2021

OPENING BUSINESS: (7-7:15)

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 7:01 pm on November 10, 2021.

Pr. Elizabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

Members Present:

Pr. Elizabeth, Dan Alstad, Barb Arnold, Michelle Jahnke, Kim Kapplinger, Steve Kemp, Jan Kraabel, Bethany Moen, Laurie Moen, Saundy Solum, Judy Tollefsrud, Dean Wiste, Lara Wold Mendez, Mary Zaffke

Secretary's Report for October 13, 2021 was read and approved. MSP (Jan, Mary)

Treasurer's Report (placed on file) Highlights listed below. MSP (Dean, Steve)

- Year to date offering (envelopes & online offerings) \$ 206.752
- Total expenses for October - \$ 267,387
- Year to date Net Income - \$- 18,852 \$10,000 behind from last year, but this is because of the Pandemic Money we received last year.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth:

- My vacation to Iceland was amazing! Whales, glaciers, the Blue Lagoon, Northern lights, waterfalls, geysers, and more! I would definitely go there again! I also highly recommend the Van Gogh Immersive Experience in Minneapolis, which I attended the day after I came back from vacation. It's on through January, and also truly amazing. ("Amazing" appears to be my word of the day.:-))
- I think our Reformation Day/Confirmation service was wonderful. It was an unusually small class, but their projects were amazing, and they are wonderful young people. I hope you all had a chance to congratulate them and see what they did.
- Our Southeast Minnesota Synod Fall Theological Retreat will be complete by the time you read this. 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: Bishop Hassanally will be preaching at Trinity on December 12!
- The Confirmation Retreat will also be complete by the time you read this. I attend(ed) all day Saturday to lead Bible studies and be part of fellowship.
- Fall Quarter Confirmation core classes are complete, and we now begin electives. I'm teaching one on Revelation and one on Creative Writing.
- We WILL be having worship on Thanksgiving.
- 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. You can read about them in the newsletter. They are on the praise songs found in the book of Luke.

- We will have three services on Christmas Eve at 3, 5 and 8, so we can hopefully spread people out more. I'd like to recommend RSVPs for each service. The Sunday School program will be Sunday, December 19 during worship, and the virtual choir concert will be Sunday, December 19 at 7 p.m. on KVIK and Facebook Live.

Pastor Lane:

- Home Visits with Holy Communion: 4 visits for 4 hours total
- Visits without Holy Communion: 5 visits for 6 hours total
- Phone calls: 3 hours
- Services @ Assisted Living, Tweeten Apts., Manor (and prep): 3 services for 4 hours total
- Services @ Nursing Home
- Staff Meeting: 3 @ 3 hours
- Office Time: 4 hours
- Sunday/Sat Sermon Prep and Service: 1 @ 12 hours
- Hospital Visits: 4 visits for 3 hours total
- Driving time: 10 hours
- Continuing Ed: 2 hours, Cultural Family Systems
- 498-HOPE: 16 times for 4 hours total
- Newsletter: 1 hour
- Response Team: 1 hour

Total Hours: 57 hours

Funerals for Mabel Area - Robert Housker, Jenny Garness
2 Sunday Services at Wilmington Lutheran Church
1 Confirmation Service at Scheie Lutheran Church

Kerri Jahnke (Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry):

Sunday School Pre- k - 6th grade youth

- Rotational Sunday School Curriculum
- Still looking for teachers/ guides
- Rachel Storlie and Alisha Solum will lead the Christmas program!
- Christmas Program will be on December 19th

Confirmation - 7th -9th grade youth

- We have 55 youth in Confirmation this year!
- 10 Mentor Groups
- 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!

Starting a Youth Praise Band, to play and lead worship every other 2nd Sunday of the month!

Highschool Youth 9th -12th grade youth

- Sunday Night Youth Group
- Campfire Devotions, discussion, games from 6:30 pm -8:00 pm

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!
- HS Lock-In is December 10th for 9th -12th grade youth!

Release Time K - 5th grade youth

- Pr. Len will teach and I will provide the Faith 5 activities, songs, and games
- K - 5th grades invited
- We have 104 students in Release Time!

TEAM REPORTS:

Care Ministry (Laurie)

- Launched the HIP program 14 meals packed.
- Has folder to pass on to team who will take on Meals on Wheels. Pr. Elizabeth will share a verbal announcement in church on Sunday.

Communications (Mary)

- Talked about looking at doing a church directory. Put this on hold for now.
- Working with the office staff for a list of members. Looking at calling all members by the end of the year. To help update contact information and ask each member what they are thankful for regarding Trinity. Inquire with each member to see how they would be willing to serve or how they see themselves serving.

Education (Bethany)

- Has not met.

Finance (Judy)

- Budget is covered in continuing business.

Outreach (Lara)

- 30 boxes went out to young adults
- 27 cards have been sent to the nursing home. Now looking to send cards to Assisting Living and shut-ins.

Mission (Dean)

- Working on the alternative giving for Christmas.

Property (Dan)

- Tim Ladsten will do the snow plowing for the year.
- Gary has been working on the door entrance where the ramp was located.
- Looking at and working on projects at the parsonage.

Staffing (Meets the 3rd Thursday each month) (Jan)

- Reported that Pr. Lane has done a number of worship services and funerals at area churches due to pastor resignation, fewer interim pastors, and staff shortages.

- Decision to move annual staff evaluations to April to avoid scheduling conflicts that occur at the end of the year. Staff will be informed of this change.
- Discussion on the percentage of church budget designated for staff. Research suggests a benchmark of 50% although churches may be as high as 65% to 70%. Volunteer engagement impacts the need for additional staff and with more staff, members may be less likely to volunteer. A congregation is healthier when it has both qualified staff and engaged volunteers working together in ministry.

Stewardship (Steve)

- Worked with Education and Outreach on Servant Sunday (the 5th Sunday). Steve feels it did not go well due to the weather. He is hoping that the next 5th Sunday event can be held indoors.
- Committee will be meeting after Thanksgiving.

Worship (Kim)

- Meeting next Sunday.

CONTINUING BUSINESS: (7:15-7:40)

1. Response Team update
 - Meeting November 16 to meet before Thanksgiving.
2. Facilities Planning Team update
 - At a point that they are not happy with the plan.
 - Meeting next on November 30. Team needs some guidance on if they only look at the addition or look at the entire church building plus the addition.
3. Comprehensive Plan
 - Create a subcommittee, consisting of a couple from Property, Heritage, a couple from Facilities Planning, and a couple of
 - Kim made a motion to create a committee to develop a comprehensive plan to look at the improvement and update of the church properties to continue the mission of the church. Seconded by Steve. MSP
 - Saundy will reach out to different members to work on this comprehensive plan. Would like the plan to be completed by April 15, 2022.
4. Diversity Conversations update
 - Continue to have conversations.
5. Budget
 - Line 56 needs to be corrected from 2,500 to 500.

NEW BUSINESS: (7:40-7:50)

1. Nominating Committee
 - Members are Milly Halverson, Gary Wilhelmson, Mary Zaffke, Lara Wold-Mendez, Jan Kraabel, Barb Arnold, Jim Gray. Mary will pull this group together to start looking for members to fill the upcoming open leadership positions.
2. First Avenue NE
 - Will be resurfaced next year. Do we need to think about having an entrance coming off of First Ave NE?

3. Electric lines north side of church

- Estimate of \$20,000 to put the electric lines underground.

4. Motion from Finance Team, re: external audit

Finance Team made a motion to have an external audit of Trinity's books to be conducted by Mike Betz on Saturday, January 15, 2022, at the rate of approximately \$30/hour. Treasurers of various committees need to get a list of requirements from Lorilyn Dehning, that they will need to present to Mike on that date. Committee treasurers will need to meet with Mike and cannot simply drop off their materials at the church office. This is to include Beary Patch, all Endowments, and all church books. Seconded by Jan. MSP

BOOK REVIEW: Abundance discussion (7:50-8:10)

Extend one month as some not finished reading the book.

LORD'S PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

Dean made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Laurie. Meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, December 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING DATES:

- Newsletter items due Monday, November 22 (early because of Thanksgiving)
- Reports for Annual Report are due BY January 7, 2022. Please have reports into Marlene by this date. Thank you

Submitted by *Michelle Jahnke*