

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION COUNCIL

December 8, 2021

### **OPENING BUSINESS: (7-7:20)**

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Jan Kraabel (Vice President) at 7:04 pm on December 8, 2021.

Pr. Elizabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent: Kim Kapplinger, Saundy Solum

Secretary's Report for November 10, 2021 was amended and approved. MSP (Steve, Dean)

Treasurer's Report (placed on file) Highlights listed below. MSP (Judy, Dan)

- Year to date offering (envelopes & online offerings) – \$ 224,290
- Year to date income is down 6.3% from last year, however, this is due to the COVID relief we received last year.
- Year to date expenses – \$327,045 – this 2.7 % lower than last year
- Year to date Net Income – \$- 16,230
- We need another \$55,000 to break even for the year.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

#### **Pastor Elizabeth:**

1. Our Southeast Minnesota Synod Fall Theological retreat was really great. Both Kerri and I attended. I was a part of the planning team, and specifically in charge of Tuesday worship planning (with the bishop preaching and presiding!). REMINDER: the bishop will be preaching at Trinity on December 12! The retreat focused on the Sabbath, and how important Sabbath-keeping and GIVING (or sharing, as one of our pastors stated) is and was. Ironically, we assume Sabbath to be all about worship. But there is no actual mention of worship in the third commandment. It's all about rest. Taking rest and giving rest. And, if we look closely at the Deuteronomy text, we see that the third commandment on Sabbath is emphasized more than any other commandment. We are to take rest on the seventh day just as God rested. We are to give rest to others, including our animals! I remember a time when stores were not open on Sundays – so we didn't require retail workers to work on that day. Much has changed. If anyone is interested in seeing the slides from the retreat, please let me know!
2. The confirmation retreat was amazing. Many kudos to Kerri, as well as the three chaperones and Lonnie Tweeten, who drove the bus. I attended all day Saturday to lead Bible studies and be part of fellowship. I also observed the joy and fun and camaraderie these 30 young people had as they did the ropes course, did paintball, did the Ninja Warriors course, and more. It was

a great success, and I'm very excited about the growing faith of our young people and our youth program.

3. I'm taught a confirmation elective on Revelation and one on Creative Writing. Please see the December newsletter for a poem one of our students wrote for Creative Writing.
4. Thanksgiving worship was very nice – many thanks to those who sponsored the radio and Facebook broadcast, and to the worship team for decorating the church.
5. We will not be having mid-week Advent services this year. I'm recording a Facebook Live at 5 devotion every day.
6. We will have three services on Christmas Eve at 3, 5 and 8, so we can hopefully spread people out more. RSVPs are required for the 3 pm service since that one has traditionally been the most popular. That service will also be on Facebook Live and the radio – again, thanks to our sponsors. 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.
7. As most of you know, I recently received a diagnosis of malignant melanoma. I had a second surgical procedure on November 29, and I'm overjoyed to let you know that it went very well. There is no sign of residual melanoma, and no reason to believe it has spread. I will continue to get checkups every 6 months.
8. I am recommending we have a virtual-only service on January 2. This is when we traditionally have our "lessons and carols" service, and since most of that service would be pre-recorded, it seems sensible to go all-virtual. In addition, a virtual-only service will give us some space to prevent COVID infections after family get-togethers during the holidays.
9. I will take a week of vacation from January 3-11.

### **Pastor Lane:**

1. Home Visits with Holy Communion – 10 for 10 hours total
2. Visits without Holy Communion 2 for 2 hours total
3. Phone calls: 3 hours
4. Services @ Assisted Living: 1 hour
5. Services @ Nursing Home: 1 hour
6. Staff Meeting: 3 for 3 hours total
7. Office Time: 4 hours
8. Sunday/Saturday Sermon prep and service: 1 for 14 hours total
9. Hospital Visits: 2 for 2 hours total
10. Driving time: 10 hours
11. Continuing Ed: 2 hours, Trauma and Mental Health
12. 498-HOPE: 13 times for 3 hours total
13. Newsletter: 1 hour
14. Response Team

**Total Hours: 56** hours

Funeral for Bobby Oefstedahl - 12 hours

Funerals for Mabel Area - Don Garness

2 Sunday Services at Wilmington 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 are leading 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!**  
We had 25 youth and 5 chaperones go to the retreat, it was wonderful relationship building time and faith building time and kids can't wait to go again!

**Thanksgiving Pies**

- We made 85 pies this year and 25 youth helped make/ package/ and sell them! We fundraised over \$1000 for youth programming and activities! Wonderful time together!

**Highschool Youth 9th -12th grade youth**

- Sunday Night Youth Group
- Trinity Center, Faith5, Community time, and games!
- **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 December 10th 9th -12t grade youth**

- 9pm - 7am at the church!  
Worship, Games, and community time!

**Release Time K - 5 th 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!

**4th - 6th grade youth group**

- **December 15th** - 3:30pm- 5:30pm

**TEAM REPORTS:**

**Care Ministry** (Laurie)

- Packing 37 cheer bags on Saturday.
- Gave the Meals on Wheels folder to the Outreach Team.

**Communications** (Mary)

- Still in progress with contacting members. Marlene is helping with the list.

**Education** (Bethany)

- Did not meet.

**Finance** (Judy)

- Have not received the rent from Berry Patch. Barb wrote a letter to the Berry Patch. Judy, Nichole and Barb signed the letter and Barb will mail to the Berry Patch.

**Outreach** (Lara)

- Did not meet.

**Mission** (Dean)

- Talked about Impactful Gifts Catalog.

**Property** (Dan)

- Did not meet.
- Dana Kjome will be on Comprehensive Plan Committee.

**Staffing** (Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month) (Jan)

- In November Staffing completed a 3-month employee review with Kerri Jahnke (CYF Ministry) and a 6-month review with Nicole Krenzke (Bookkeeper).

**Stewardship** (Steve)

- Talked about end of the year giving. Putting together a thank you with a Christmas Card to send to members.
- Talked about next year.
- Next 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday is at the end of Jan.

**Worship** (Kim)

- No report

**CONTINUING BUSINESS: (7:20-7:40)**

1. COVID protocols
  - Pr. Elizabeth plans to bring two items to the Response Team:
    - (1) Whether or not we can have a selected amount at the choir concert.
    - (2) Can we have people singing in church, with masks and socially distances.
2. Facility Planning update
  - Made a resolution to pass on to the comprehensive team the recommendation for the addition. The goal is to have the report done in 90 days.
3. Budget
  - The finance team made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Steve second. MSP
4. Comprehensive Plan committee
  - Saundy is still working on names and will get back to us in January. The goal is to convene in January.

**NEW BUSINESS: (7:40-7:45)**

1. Nominating Committee
  - Milly Halverson will chair the committee.
  - Committee consists of Mary, Lara, Jan, Barb and Gary Wilhelmson.
  - Committee has met twice.
  - Jan asked for us to forward any names to the nominating committee.

2. Team needs

- Gift of Memorial Brochure has been created. Jan said that we now need each team to look at what specific needs or dreams they would like over and above their budgeted monies. Please communicate these specific needs or dreams to Marlene. We would like to add these to the Memorial Brochure.

3. January 2 service – virtual

- Pr. Elizabeth and Music Committee have recommended a virtual worship service on January 2. This is a pre-recorded service.

**BOOK REVIEW** – Abundance discussion (7:45-)

**LORD'S PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

**NEXT MEETING:** Wednesday, January 12, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.

**UPCOMING DATES:**

- Newsletter items due December 22
- Reports for Annual Report are due by January 7, 2022. Please have reports into Marlene by this date. Thank you

Submitted by *Michelle Jahnke*