

Trinity Lutheran Church Council

December 13, 2017

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council meeting was called to order by Mary Deters at 7:45 pm on December 13, 2017 in the Gathering Room at Trinity Lutheran.

Members Present: Pastor Jim, Mary Deters, Debra Spence, Steve Nelson, Barb Arnold, Jean Ellingson, Steve Kemp, Jacque Wennes (by Face Time), and Mary Zaffke.

Also Present: Milly Halverson (Transition Team), Lorilyn Dehning (Finance), Lee Hoekstra (Property), and resident bat.

Pastor Jim opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report for November 8, 2017 was approved.

Treasurer's Report – placed on file.

- Envelope giving is down 4.1%; expenses are up 4.7%.
- The Stewardship and Finance Teams asked Trinity members to consider giving \$200 more to enter 2018 debt-free.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Jim

- The loose offering from the Thanksgiving worship service on Sunday, November 19th consisted of cash, coin and checks designated "Thanksgiving offering". All other checks were considered regular offering and directed to the General Fund.

Pastor Lane

- November Report to the Council included 33 ½ hours of ministry:
 - 3 hours - Staff
 - 8 hours - home visits with Communion
 - 7 hours - hospital visits
 - 2 hours - Decorah Nursing home visit
 - 3 1/2 hours Communion services (Manor, Tweeten Apts, and Assisted Living)
 - 10 hours - Saturday and Sunday Services with Preparation

Bekah (see attachment)

- In her report, Bekah shared faith activities, fundraisers, and gatherings that the youth and families of our congregation are engaged in.

TEAM REPORTS:

Care Ministry (Debra)

- The Team will be packing Care & Share boxes on Saturday, December 16th to give to 11 families and 14 individuals. In addition to food items and Christmas cards, each child will receive a fleece throw.
- HIP is currently packing for 6 children.
- Working with the Property Team to decide a location for the Little Free Pantry.

Education (Jacque)

- Work continues on the Safe Church Policy, with plans to present to the Council in January or February 2018.
- The youth and their parents have agreed to host and serve the Syttende Mai Meatball Dinner on May 20, 2018 during the Syttende Mai weekend celebration, with help from congregation members, as a fundraiser for their trip to the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston in June 2018.
- Special thanks to WELCA for their \$4500 gift to Trinity youth, given towards the trip to Houston in June 2018.
- Mark Schroeder has led three adult education sessions on Islam and is planning some follow up sessions in January.

Mission in the World (Steve N)

- Alternative Giving Fair is in progress and offers a variety of gifts that will make a difference in the lives of those in need.

Outreach (Mary Z)

- Reverse advent calendars were distributed. Each day suggests a way to celebrate Advent with acts of kindness, hospitality, and generosity. On Epiphany Sunday, January 7th, our gifts will be brought as an offering. The Outreach Team will distribute them to the food shelf, housing, shelter, etc.
- An Empty Bowl event is being planned for January 14th.

Support (Steve K)

Property (see attachment)

- Update on repairs done to the 1st Parsonage.
- New carpet has been ordered for the steps leading into the Fellowship Hall.
- Tuck pointing the Church
- Creating a space for Handbell Choir

Stewardship

- A letter was sent to our church families, to thank them for their faithfulness and generosity, and to ask them to prayerfully consider helping Trinity start the new year debt-free.

Communications

- Karen Fried is using her gifts on "special" projects; Marlene shares her gifts on daily/weekly communications.

Staffing (Pr Jim)

- Looking into the possibility of an online time clock system for church office staff and custodian. It would provide Stewart with easy access for payroll.
- Reviewed Pastor Lane's funeral and wedding stipend. He currently receives a stipend from church budget as well as from the family. Pastor Jim will talk to Pastor Lane about reducing the funeral expectation from 7 to 5 annually; and the wedding expectation from 2 to 1 annually.
- Parental/Family Care policy is being prepared. (Note: Call Committee members, Bev Nelson and Jess Strinmoen, will address this with candidates, if questions arise before the final policy is approved).

Worship (Jean)

- 2018 volunteer lists are being completed. All current ushers were contacted by letter.
- Approved a request from the Luren Singers to have their concert at Trinity on Dec. 9, 2018. Jim Gray serves as the contact person.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Call Committee Update (Mary Z)

- Work continues

Sabbatical Leave update

- The Call Committee and Staffing Teams have provided feedback and will continue to work together with the Council.

Endowment Reports (see attachment)

- Endowment reports, as of 9/30/2017, for each of the three endowments were provided to the Council.
- Approximately \$23,000 from the Heritage Endowment will be used towards the tuck pointing of the church.

NEW BUSINESS:

First Reading of the 2018 Budget (Lorilyn)

- Began our budget review with a focus on income and mission expenses.
- Each Team was asked to look over the budget and let Lorilyn know of any changes.
- Prepared and presented a budget that was balanced and possible.

2nd Parsonage

MSC (Jean E, Steve K) to hold a special congregational meeting on Sunday, January 7th to get permission to place the 2nd parsonage up for sale.

Tuck-Pointing

- Tuck pointing was last done in 1992.
- The bid given in June 2016 was for \$35,897. Karr will not do the chimney because of its poor condition.
- Lee Hoekstra (Property) contacted Winona Controls and was informed that it might be more cost effective to replace the boiler with a new energy-efficient one that needs no chimney. A new boiler would also provide for savings in the future.
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MSC (Steve K, Steve N) to direct the Property Team to update the bid from Karr Tuckpointing LLC , and proceed with arranging for the tuck pointing of the church asap, with funds available from the Heritage Endowment (approx. \$23,000) and the remainder from the Olerud Bequest.

Handbell Choir

MSC (Steve K, Debra S) to direct the Property Team to provide for the removal of 3 pews from the southeast side of the sanctuary, to allow space for the Handbell Choir and to provide for secure storage space for the bells.

1st Reading of the Transition Team Survey (Milly)

- Transition Team Survey was discussed regarding the size of the Council.
- 71 surveys were received.

Annual Meeting

MSC (Mary Z, Jean E) to set the annual meeting for the 1st Sunday in February (February 4, 2018) with all team reports due by January 2, 2018.

Pastor Jim closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 10 at 7:45 pm.

In HIS Service,

Karen Bingham

Youth and Family Coordinator Report – December 13, 2017

Bekah Leafblad

Rotational Sunday School

- We recently finished our 3rd rotation learning about Advent and Christmas.
- This past Sunday was our first dress rehearsal for the Christmas program! Children tried on their costumes and we sang through all of our songs in order. The program should be fairly short and delightful!
- The Sunday School Christmas Program will be Sunday, December 17 at 11:00 AM and is entitled “B is for Bethlehem.” I am directing the program with Brenda Gullickson.

Release Time

- Release Time is still going wonderfully.
- Trinity (out of the Education Team budget) will need to employ a paraprofessional once per month for a Kindergarten student. Last Wednesday, December 6, we had our first Kindergarten release time with the paraprofessional. It went very well and the two boys behaved very well with their paraprofessional with them. The school will pay the paraprofessional and will then bill Trinity (Education Team) at the end of the school year.
- Numbers – 21 Kindergarteners, 10 1st Graders, 12 2nd Graders, 11 3rd Graders

Confirmation

- So far in confirmation, we have been talking about the reformation. We have been discussing our lives of faith through the Beatitudes. We had our last confirmation class this past Wednesday, December 6.
- On Wednesday, December 13, the confirmation class will go to Tweeten Care Center to give gifts to residents and sing Christmas carols. This will count as our second service-learning opportunity for the youth this year (after Trick-or-Canning in October).

ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston, TX

- The Gathering is held June 27 – July 1, 2018. We will be gone from June 24 to July 2.
- As a reminder, we have 43 total going on our bus from Spring Grove: 27 youth and 6 adults from Trinity and 7 youth and 3 adults from Blackhammer.
- We had our first meeting as an entire group on November 19 at 1:00 PM. Almost all of the youth were present. We went over details of the trip and also discussed that we will be hosting the Syttende Mai meatball dinner as a fundraiser for our trip!

Fundraisers

- Trinity members met the \$2,500 match so our grand total fundraised from the 144 envelope challenge is \$9,721. Each youth going on the trip will get \$250 in their “accounts” from this fundraiser, totaling \$6,750. The remainder will go in the overall pot for the trip.
- Thanksgiving pie making was a huge success! Over 20 youth going on the Houston trip made 55 pies. We made \$740 on pies, which was all profit thanks to a Thrivent Grant card!

Day Camp and VBS 2018

- Day Camp and VBS 2018 will be from June 18-21. Education Team decided June would be better for families. We will get Sugar Creek Camp counselors like we have done in the past.

Youth Group

- Babel in the Belfry is very well attended. We usually have more than 6 students every week in the upper room after the worship service.
- I will be having a Christmas party at our new home for 7th-12th graders to celebrate Christmas together! Should be very fun with music, cooking-making, and fun games (even a white elephant gift exchange)!

Transition Team Survey

No change	21
Enlarge the council	<u>50</u>
Total Surveys received	71

Finance on the council	15
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Property on the council	6
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Stewardship on council	7
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Staffing on council	6
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At Large increase	2
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General Increase 8-10 increase	28
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Some of the surveys wanted an increase and didn't state which teams they wanted to be included.

10 total teams at present	5 on council + Support Team Leader 5 on support
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