

Trinity Lutheran Church
2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

February 5, 2023 ▪ 10:45 a.m. In-person and on Zoom

President Saundy Solum called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

Per Trinity Lutheran Church's constitution, 50 people in attendance is needed for a quorum. There were 71 people in attendance, both in person and via Zoom.

Dean Wiste was in attendance and served as the parliamentarian.

Pastor Elizabeth Hermeier opened the meeting with prayer and lead Litany that was spoken.

Scott Bingham made a motion to approve the Minutes from January 30, 2022 Annual Meeting, seconded by Mark Udstuen, motion carried.

Barb Arnold made a motion to accept the financial reports that were audited in January 2023, seconded by Dr. Jim Gray. Steve Nelson recapped the cash flow in 2022. He shared that we caught up in December so that our general fund was in the black at the end of the year. We are starting out 2023 in a good place. Motion carried.

Pr. Elizabeth feels extremely thankful and blessed for her call to Trinity Lutheran Church. She is so proud of Trinity in how we respond to the community needs. She is overjoyed at the vibrant fellowship and youth programs. She shared a few highlights that she is so thankful for from 2022:

- Last February Council made a motion that the church matched what parishioners gave to Lutheran World Relief. The church matched \$5000 to give to LWR.
- Empty Bowls is back.
- The Christmas Concert is back with the Thankful Brass.
- We went from Communion Pods to Communion at the table.
- Thank you to Saundy for her leadership these past three years that included the pandemic. Also thank you to Dean Wiste, Dan Alstad, Judy Tollefsrud, and Steve Kemp for their time and service as Team Leads and Council representatives.
- Thanks to the staff - "When you have a good staff and amazing volunteers, it's not a job, it's a love."

Lorilyn Dehning presented the 2023 Budget. This year the budget was prepared with all gifts/offering received. It does not include any special accounts that were used in the past. If needed special accounts may be used throughout the year. This allows the budget to reflect the true needs of Trinity Lutheran Church. The salary increases came from what the Synod recommended, and other area's needs. See page 30 in the 2022 Annual Report for the 2022 Missions in 2022. Also see page 52m which now reflects the budgets for each program within our congregation. For example, custodian wage is in property; child, youth, & family ministry is in education, and so on. Barb Arnold made a motion to accept the budget as presented, seconded by Terry Holland, motion carried.

Saundy Solum presented the ballot. A Team Lead for Mission is needed. Rachel Storlie nominated David Storlie for Mission in the World Team Lead, seconded by Scott Solberg. There are delegates

needed for the SE MN Synod Assembly. The following people volunteered: Saundy Solum, Terry Holland, Bev Nelson, and Steve Kemp. The Nominating Committee will consist of the council members who are done with their council terms, along with Gary Wilhelmson, Mary Zaffke, and Saundy Solum who all volunteered. A committee is needed to update the constitution with recommendations from Synod. Saundy Solum, Barb Arnold, Jacqui Wennes, and Mary Deters all volunteered for this committee. Leonard Myrah would like to amend his term from a three-year commitment to a year-by-year commitment due to his age. Jim Gray made a motion to approve the unanimous ballot presented, seconded by Judy Tollefsrud, motion carried.

Other Business – Trinity Center

- Motion from Trinity Church Council to offer both parcels (Trinity Center and the garage) to the Spring Grove Public school for \$30,000, with the contingent that Trinity is able to have Release Time in the updated/new space in perpetuity. Seconded by Rick Sundet. During the discussion, many thoughts and issues were shared regarding Release Time and Trinity Center. The following people shared: Janna Myrah, Saundy Solum, Jim Gray, Gary Wilhelmson, Rachel Udstuen, Michelle Jahnke, Scott Solberg, Andy Allen, Kim Kapplinger, Pr. Elizabeth, Jackie Parker, Laurie Moen, and Leonard Myrah.
- Leonard made a motion to have an in-depth study to see how to enhance the Release Time Program, which includes the Trinity Center, seconded by Alan Roble. Steve Kemp made a motion to call the question, seconded by Steve Nelson, motion carried. A paper ballot was distributed to vote on the motion: 47 yes, 22 no, motion carried.
- Mary Deters made a motion to have the Trinity Lutheran Church council appoint a committee to complete an in-depth study on how to enhance the Release Time Program, and to further study Trinity Center. The Council will determine when the committee results will be presented, seconded by Milly Halverson, motion carried.
- Jim Gray made a motion to table the sale of the Trinity Center, seconded by Gary Wilhelmson, motion carried.

A question was raised by Barb Arnold about changing to a 2-year confirmation course. She wondered why the Council did not vote on the change. The response was the Education Team makes the education decision and they informed Council of the change. Council had no concerns with these changes and felt the Education Team and Pastoral staff knew what was best.

Pastor Elizabeth Hermeier shared a Closing Prayer and Benediction.

Scott Solberg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Terry Holland, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by *Michelle Jahnke*