

TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION COUNCIL

February 10, 2021

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 7:03 pm on February 10, 2021 via Zoom conference call.

Members Present:

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

Pr. Elizabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary's Report for January 13, 2021 was approved. MSP (Dean, Laurie)

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

- January offering (envelopes & online offerings) 26,920.00 (7000.00 was from one donar)
- Expenses for Jan 42600.00
- Bank balance at the end of January -4000.00

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth:

1. One member of staff tested positive and several were in quarantine after exposure during the first week of February. As a result, we had to close the office during that week. Spring Grove is considered something of a hot spot right now. In addition, we've had several members in the hospital with COVID in the last weeks. After meeting on February 2, the Response Team made the prudent decision to continue virtual-only activities through the second Sunday in March. We will meet again in early March to assess the situation.
2. I believe the Annual Meeting was a great success! I am so grateful to all those (see newsletter) who made it happen! I hope we never have to do it this way again! It was incredibly stressful in the planning, especially since I was in quarantine! Is that enough exclamation marks?
3. On Ash Wednesday, we will have a drive-through communion and imposition of ashes at 6 p.m., followed by worship on Facebook Live at 7. The first three Wednesdays in Lent will be virtual only on Facebook Live featuring Holden Evening Prayer. The Worship Team meets (met) Sunday to plan the services. I continue to be grateful to how this community of faith is responding faithfully to God's call for us during this time.
4. I will do a "Facebook Live at 5" set of meditations for Lent like Advent. One way or the other I believe we will be together, in person, for Easter!
5. The Facilities Planning Team met in January to discuss revisions to Plan B from the architect. We then met with the architect and builder and the revised plan is now in their hands. We hope to see something close to final in the next few weeks. This project, which seemed extremely far

away when we began, is getting closer, both because we have a plan and because we have nearly \$700,000 in actual donations toward the project. I suspect we will need to bring this to the congregation sometime later in the year.

6. The winter semester of Confirmation (via Zoom) was completed last week. Our spring semester begins April 14.
7. I've had two funerals thus far in 2021.
8. In addition to the Synod Nominating Committee, I am serving on the Synod Fall Theological Planning committee. We meet approximately monthly. I also have (had) a monthly Root River conference pastors meeting via Zoom Tuesday.
9. I'm taking a really awesome continuing education course through the Synod's Continuous Growth Pathways program on "Grief and Loss." The first session was last week (2 hours), with 2 more sessions, all via Zoom, of course, in the next month.
10. My bathroom and master bedroom remodel is done and it's AWESOME! I am also extremely grateful that my mom is getting her first COVID vaccination later this week.
11. Sending letter out regarding Lent, Holy Week and Easter
12. Coming up: The Music Task Force begins meeting this week. We are still looking for a few members on the Diversity Task Force. The Root River Conference Assembly is this Sunday, February 14, at 2 p.m. I will attend, along with Congregation President Saundy Solum, Willy Leafblad and Rachel Udstuen.

Pastor Lane:

1. Home Visits with Holy Communion – 0
 2. Visits W/out Holy Communion – hours
 3. Homebound connection - Phone calls, delivering 23 Communion Pods - 11 hours
 4. Services @ Assisted Living and Manor (and Prep) 1 at Assisted Living 1 hour
 5. Services @ Nursing Home 0
 6. Staff Meeting – 3 @ 2 hours
 7. Office Time – 1 hours
 8. Sunday/Sat Sermon Prep and Service – 2 @ 19 hours
 9. Hospital Visits
 10. Meetings 0
 11. 498 HOPE - 4 hours
 12. Newsletter – 2 hours
 13. Response Team - 1 meeting 1 hour
- Total Hours – 41 hours

Bekah Leafblad - Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry:

Sunday School

- Sunday School will not meet in person for the month of February and at least the first two weeks of March.
- I have sent out February At-Home Sunday School packets with activities and supplies to learn about Jesus loving children and the four friends that lowered their friend through a roof to be healed by Jesus. Teaching love and friendship!

Confirmation/Trinity U

- Our second 5-week session of Confirmation began on January 6. We met on Zoom every Wednesday night at 6:00 through February 3. We are on a hiatus until April 14. Students are invited to attend Lenten services during our break.
- For each of our 5 meetings in January/February, we had different speakers share about their vocation! Those speakers included Scott Bingham, Rachel Udstuen, Scott Solberg, Bishop Regina Hassanally, and Professor Todd Green from Luther College.

Release Time

- Release Time is still on a break.

3:16s and MSGN

- Our high school youth group continues to meet on Wednesday nights at 8:00 on Zoom.
- Middle School Game Nights continue to meet every other Friday night at 7:30 on Zoom.

Stock Sales

- The youth will have our annual Stock Sales fundraiser in the month of February. They will make calls on Sundays, February 14, 21, and 27 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. Make sure you answer your phone!! :)

Houseboat Trip 2021

- The Education Team opened the trip up to 8th graders. Some have shown interest – only one has officially signed up.
- We currently have five youth signed up out of a potential 10 spots.
- The houseboat trip is currently July 19-25. The Education Team has decided to shorten it to July 19-22 in hopes of piquing more interest!

TEAM REPORTS:

Saundy welcomed the new team council members and thanked them for answering the call to serve as leaders of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Care Ministry (Laurie)

- They have not met yet.
- Kathy Overland covering packing HIP (health initiative partnership) lunches.
- Chris Bjerke managing little pantry this month.

Communications (Jean)

- Have not had a team meeting.

Education (Bethany)

- Becca gave update.
- Houseboat Trip has been opened to 8th graders.
- Stock sales – Barb shared that a member would like the youth to share what they do in worship, or at church, etc when asking for financial support.
- Future planning for camp & bible school

Finance (Judy)

- Discussed 500,000.00 & will discuss next month.
- Discussed Becca's new computer.

Outreach (Lara)

- Have not met yet.
- Sock drive continues through February.

Mission (Dean)

- Have not met yet.
- Would like the group to meet with Pr. Elizabeth on how to distribute the money from mission of the day and the noisy offering.

Property (Dan)

- Have not met yet.
- Gary Wilhelmson contacted Dan regarding having Larry Schulte paint on walls by the stairs up to the offices. The cost is \$300.00.
- Gary also shared that his son is willing to take down the ramp on the northside and will get a bid to Dan. The council recommended that Dan get another bid.

Staffing (Jan)

- Started Willy as temporary staff in January as bell choir director.
- Starting to explore music ministry.

Stewardship (Steve)

- Meeting next week to plan the new year.

Worship (Kim)

- Rick is going to need back-up – they are training volunteers to help Rick.
- Putting together Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services – Rachel Storlie is organizing the musicians.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Response Team updates –
 - Pr Elizabeth shared the team met on February 2, and their next meeting is March 2.
 - Their hope is to have in person worship by Easter.
2. Facility Plan update
 - Pr. Elizabeth shared that Nolie put together what we are looking for and presented to the architect. The hope is to have a plan in the next couple of weeks.
3. Event Fundraising Form
 - Saundy presented the updated event fundraising form. The new fundraising form states the council will now need to approve the fundraising event. Under special circumstances the Team Leader, Pastor, and Council President can approve to meet a more immediate need.
 - Dean asked that we specify what first fruits is and to make this know when advertising the fundraising event. Pr. Elizabeth shared that first fruits means giving 10% tithe of the funds to a specific organization. Kim amended the motion to approve the fundraising form to state that if the fundraiser event chooses to have portion of proceeds as First Fruit, then the promotion needs to state that the fundraiser will include portion of the proceeds a first fruit, with explanation of first fruit and where the funds would be going. Voted and approved. MSP (Kim, Jan)
 - The fundraiser form presented by Saundy and the amended First Fruits was voted on approved. MSP (Jean, Lara)
4. Team Guidelines & Procedures
 - Pr. Elizabeth shared Seven Habits of Highly Effective Meetings with team leads in regard to have healthy, thoughtful and productive meetings.

- Saundy will be sending out team guidelines and procedures. She would like each team and endowment committees to prepare a single page document with their team guidelines, mission, and goals. She asks that the teams have this done by the April church council meeting.
5. Treasurer update
 - This is Barb's last year as a treasurer, and a new treasurer will be elected next year.
 6. Diversity Team
 - Pr. Elizabeth shared this team came to be shortly after all the shootings and attacks on people of diversity. This team gathers, shares and talks about diversity of all things that have happened in the past year, and now especially with the recent conversations and activity in Houston County regarding the Diversity Club.
 - Saundy shared that as a council, they have looked a couple books and had discussion during council regarding diversity. Saundy said that council typically takes about a half hour at each meeting to have some discussion and study. Pr. Elizabeth recommends we look at a book called, "One Coin Found by Emmy Kegler. Emmy is a lesbian, who is married, who is a pastor. The council agreed this would be a good book to read together. Pr. Elizabeth recommended that we each reach chapters 3 & 5, and we will start the book discussion at the April council meeting. The book is available on Amazon. Pr. Elizabeth did say she would be happy to make copies of the chapters for those who did not want to order the book.
 7. Locking the whole church
 - There were a couple of break ins last fall. There are now cameras up in the kitchen. The Spring Grove Police are taking a walk through the church every night, on their night shift.
 - There was discussion regarding the staff's safety. Jan will have some conversations with staff regarding this issue and how they feel about their security level. Jan will also talk with fellow council members to get their intake on this issue and report back at next month's council meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Vice-President
 - Jan Kraabel volunteered to be the Church Council Vice-President. All voted in favor.
2. 2021 Council Meetings
 - The March church council meeting will be at 7:30pm, following the Lenten Worship Service. Saundy is unsure at this time if March's meeting will be via ZOOM or in person. She will keep all council members posted.
 - Saundy said we will look at the rest of the month's meetings at the next council meeting, once we know more on how we will continue to meet as a council, via ZOOM or in person.
3. All-teams retreat
 - Looking at having an all teams retreat, hopefully in the near future.
 - Saundy mentioned that we need to look at council terms and the need to have staggered terms.

- Jean shared that when she accepted the role as team lead of communications last year, she was told that she would not have to serve on the council. Jean stated that she does not want to serve on the council. Jean also shared that she does not think the communication team needs to be a committee as all the communications is done the secretarial staff. Saundy stated that this committees are all part of the constitution that was just voted on at the 2021 Annual Meeting. Jean states that she would like to resign as team lead of the communications team.
- Pr. Elizabeth asked that each council member fill out for parochial report and have completed by the next church council meeting. Saundy will create an electronic pole/form to fill out to make it easier for all to complete and Pr. Elizabeth to track.

Pr. Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 10, 2021 at 7:30pm

Submitted by, *Michelle Jahnke*