

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION COUNCIL

February 14, 2024 • 8 p.m.

OPENING BUSINESS:

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by President Kim Kapplinger at 8:00 p.m. on February 14, 2024.

Pr. Elizabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

Members Present:

Pr. Elizabeth, Betty Dokken, Kim Kapplinger, Heather Gray, Mary Zaffke, Steve Nelson, Jerald Oakes, Jacque Wennes (phone), Lori Wilhelmson, Jessi Strinmoen, Autumn Wiste, Lorilyn Dehning.

Absent: Sheri Allen, David Storlie

Kim welcomed our new council members to their first council meeting: Lorilyn Dehning, Autumn Wiste, Heather Gray, Barb Gulbranson (Jessi Strinmoen in Barb's place), and Sheri Allen (on her way home from Spain).

Election of Vice President. Mary Zaffke and Betty Dokken nominated Jerald Oakes for another year. He accepted the nomination and the motion passed.

Secretary's Report for January 10, 2024, was read, edited, and approved. Jacque Wennes made a motion to approve the Secretary's Minutes with corrections, seconded by Betty Dokken. Motion carried. (Corrected minutes on file)

Treasurer's Report (placed on file), Lori Wilhelmson made a motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded by Mary Zaffke. Motion carried.

Highlights:

\$6,000 donation came in to the office today (Feb 14) for General Fund

\$16,000 in General Fund from Elaine Nassen memorial

Christmas donations have not been added to the NASB windows balance - still separate account

Luther League received donation of \$5,000 from American Legion Charitable Gambling fund for the Youth Gathering trip since it is Wilmington, Black Hammer and Trinity youth involved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth (see attachment) Pastor Elizabeth reiterated not having a youth director is not sustainable.

Pastor Lane (see attachment)

TEAM REPORTS

Care Ministry (Autumn Wiste)

- Committee met. Autumn was a member for only one year so had training for bulk ordering. This will save funds by buying in large quantities. Currently serving 23 youth

for the HIP program every weekend. Team has one new member. Team would like to move HIP program to Trinity Center due to proximity of school. Will work with Gary Wilhelmson to accomplish this when supplies are at lower levels. Due to large amount of usage, Autumn may reach out in future to area churches for financial assistance if needed.

Communications (Mary Zaffke)

- Have not met.

Education (Heather Gray)

- Heather hopes the full team can meet in March.

Finance (Jacque Wennes)

- PTO being calculated manually on a spreadsheet for ESST program.
- Team discussed online giving. Jacque will do an article for the newsletter.
- Venmo is being looked at, but they have no reoccurring giving option.
- Looking at 2024 Congregation reporting changes for SEMN Synod since they are on a different fiscal year. Not on a calendar year.

Outreach (Barb Gulbranson/Jessi Strinmoen)

- Have not met, but Cheryl Fisch did not want to serve on the team. After discussion a motion was made by Betty Dokken and seconded by Jessi Strinmoen to have Gary Wilhelmson fill the open team member position. Motion passed.

Mission (David Storlie)

- Not in attendance, no report

Property (Jerald Oakes)

- Has a list of repairs to prioritize. Discussed funding. Will have more at next meeting. (list attached of proposed maintenance)

Staffing (Betty Dokken)

- Working on ideas for ways to find new Youth Director
- Attending Career Fairs in La Crescent and at WTC in La Crosse
- Still running radio ads with Decorah stations for Youth Director position
- Church staff evaluations have been revamped and will take place after Lenten Season - Team Members affected will be asked to help/participate.

Stewardship (Sheri Allen)

- Absent no report

Worship (Lori Wilhelmson)

- Lots going on with Lenten Season and Services
- another event in March in conjunction with Communications Team
- Planning Irish Stew and Cider....will try various out-of-the box thinking and events for 2024 and will see how this goes.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Elaine Nassen Memorial \$16,667 memorial was previously approved by council to be directed to the Stained Glass Windows fund. The funding is currently in the General Fund and Treasurer Steve Nelson would like to see this money stay in the General Fund and not be moved to windows - due to our lack of funds. After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made to move the memorial money from the General Fund to Special Accounts Reserve Fund to pay ourselves back. This way the money is there to borrow if we need and not have to use our Line of Credit at Merchants. Motion was made by Heather Gray and seconded by Autumn Wiste. Motion passed. According to a

Vanco report, people are more likely to pay for a specific special project instead of general day-to-day operations.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Welcome Packets for team members were distributed. Mailboxes for team leaders are in the office.
2. Rental Agreement with school for garage at Trinity Center: after discussion it was decided to have Jacque Wennes and Jerald Oakes talk with Lee Hoekstra and Gary Wilhelmson and report back at next council meeting. Current rent is \$600 month.
3. Peacemakers Quilting Guild has rented the Trinity Center for Thursday - Sunday of Syttende Mai fest. NA and AA will meet upstairs at Trinity Center that week.
4. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) will be using Trinity Center on Friday nights for their meetings. AA is meeting on Saturdays.
5. Jacque Wennes made a motion to approve the Updated Banking Authorization and Money Counter list for 2024. This was seconded by Jerald Oakes and the motion passed. The only change is removing JeanAnn Tweeten name from Youth account and adding Lane Zaffke to that account.
6. New team photos are needed for the bulletin boards. Please take a photo at your next team meeting.
7. Property Team is currently working to raise the height of the island in the kitchen of the parsonage. Estimated cost is around \$500.
8. Jessi Strinmoen gave a brief update on the youth fund raising. So far, an estimated \$18,000 has been pledged to the Youth Gathering trip. This includes a \$5,000 anonymous match of funds and a \$5,000 donation from American Legion Charitable Gambling. The trip will cost approximately \$2,000 per youth and there is an estimated goal of \$40,000 total. There are 14 youth and 5 adult leaders going.
9. Lenten Suppers are underway. Next Wednesday (February 21) is Worship & Property Teams
February 28 is Staffing & Communications Teams
March 6 is Staff
March 13 is Youth Gathering participants
March 20 is Outreach
10. A motion was made by Jerald Oakes and seconded by Mary Zaffke to extend the council meeting for another 15 minutes. Motion passed.

LORD'S PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

- A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned, followed by The Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at approx. 7:30 p.m. (after Lenten service)

UPCOMING DATES:

LENTEN SUPPERS AND LENTEN SERVICES

Submitted by *Lorilyn Dehning*

