

TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION COUNCIL

February 9, 2022

OPENING BUSINESS:

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 7:03 p.m. on February 9, 2022.

Pr. Elizabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

Members Present:

Pr. Elizabeth, Dan Alstad, Nancy Gulbranson (for Betty Dokken), Terry Holland, Michelle Jahnke, Kim Kapplinger, Steve Kemp, Bethany Moen, Laurie Moen, Jana Myrah (for Dean Wiste), Steve Nelson, Saundy Solum, Judy Tollefsrud, Dean Wiste, Mary Zaffke

Welcome new members!

Steve Nelson
Terry Holland
Betty Dokken

Secretary's Report for January 12, 2022 was read. Steve Nelson asked to verify that the \$7,000 voted on last month to help pay for the boiler in the Trinity Center was in tuck pointing portion of the Special Accounts. Pr. Elizabeth confirmed. Steve K. made a motion to accept the secretary's report, seconded by Terry. Motion carried.

Treasurer's Report (placed on file) Highlights listed below.

- Special Accounts have a balance of \$184,000.
- General Fund's checking balance end of January is \$30,049.

Laurie made a motion to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jana. Motion carried.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth:

1. Confirmation winter quarter begins next week, continuing with our study of Luther's Catechism. Electives also begin in February. I'm teaching elective classes on Esther, Art Appreciation, and Women of the Bible. Remember: Trinity U classes are open to ALL members, not just Confirmation students!
2. I was extremely pleased with how the Annual Meeting went. Conducting it both in person and via Zoom is challenging, but I thought it worked very well. I'd love to see more "young" people attending, and I'd love to brainstorm ideas about how to get them involved.
3. During December and January, I had six funerals. We have three baptisms (one last Saturday) and two weddings tentatively scheduled for the year.
4. I'm very grateful to those who volunteered to serve on the Master Plan Committee, and I look forward to the results of this process. Luann Ferguson of the Mission Investment Fund of the ELCA and I had a great conversation last week. She reiterated that we are on the right path, volunteered to come down here if we think it would be helpful, and forwarded some additional

resources and information for the team. For the record, I want to reiterate that I believe the building addition will enhance the ministries of the congregation. I realize we have many other facility needs, and the good news is that we have some funds to make at least some of them happen. One thing I can tell you is that young parents are VERY interested in seeing the building project happen. As I've had conversations with some of them, I've encouraged them to get involved and make their ideas known.

5. I took a "Lent in a Box" class on January 24 from Church Anew, an organization that offers many classes and resources for churches and church leaders. Our Lenten theme this year is Psalm 23. My plan is to have two services on Ash Wednesday (March 2), one at noon and the other at 7. Our Lenten services will be approximately 30 minutes long on subsequent Wednesdays, with Holden Evening Prayer as the liturgy.
6. I also just completed a Luther Seminary online course on Theology and Ethics of Digital Ministry. (As I write this, I've only completed the first half – the second half will be next Tuesday, February 8.) An opinion article recently appeared in the NY Times entitled "Why Churches Should Drop Their Online Services." The gist of the article is that worship is an "embodied" community experience and that offering a hybrid experience makes "embodiment elective." I, too, have had conversations with members wondering if we should "shut off Facebook" at some point. And my answer is "no." We wouldn't shut off the radio ministry, would we? There have always been and always will be members who are reasonably cautious about gathering in large groups. We need to offer them the most robust worship experience possible. In addition, and I'm going to be rather blunt here, we will never, in essence, blackmail people into "coming back" to church in person by threatening to shut off their online resource. We have also extended our reach tremendously with our online presence, offering a broader experience to regular attendees and a new experience to people, including non-members, at great distances. Finally, as one pastor wrote, this is a new world. We need to reach people where they are. Or as another said, "the world has changed – get over it!" Jesus was a disrupter. Martin Luther was a disrupter. God did not cause the pandemic, but God certainly has been working with us through it to expand our reach. We need to have faith and trust that God will continue to work with us and through us as we come out of the pandemic into a new and always changing world.
7. Looking forward:
 - a. The Root River Conference Assembly (online via Zoom) is Sunday, February 20, 2-4 PM. Trinity members attending are Congregation President Saundy Solum, Jacque Wennes, Mark Schroeder, and me. The Synod Assembly is Saturday, May 7, in Mankato. Proof of vaccination or negative COVID test is required to attend in person.
 - b. Ash Wednesday is March 2 (see above).
 - c. We will be hosting the pastors of the Root River Conference for our monthly meeting here on Tuesday, March 8 from 9-noon. As we get closer to that date, I may ask for help with light refreshments (depending on the COVID situation).
8. ***To be continued: What is God calling us to do in 2022? How are we called to see Jesus and be Jesus for this community in this time? How can we share our abundance to serve God's mission and God's church? How are we called to be a blessing?***

Pastor Lane:

1. Home Visits with Holy Communion: 9 for 10 hours total
2. Visits without Holy Communion: 2 for 2 hours total
3. Phone calls: 2 hours
4. Service at Assisted Living: 1 for 1 hour total
5. Service at Nursing Home: 1 for 1 hour total
6. Service at Manor: 1 for 1 hour total
7. Service at Tweeten Apt.: 1 for 1 hour total
8. Staff meeting: 3 for 2 hours total
9. Office time: 2 hours
10. Sunday/Saturday sermon prep and service: 2 for 21 hours total
11. Hospital visits: 0 hours
12. Driving time: 3 hours
13. Continuing Ed
14. 498-HOPE: 18 times for 4-1/2 hours total
15. Newsletter: 1 hour

Total Hours: 51- 1/2 hours

Funeral for Rod Jacobs: 9 hours

Funerals for Mabel Area: Ordel Blagsvedt

3 Sunday Services at Wilmington Lutheran Church

Kerri Jahnke (Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry):

Sunday School Pre- k - 6th grade youth

- Starting Sunday Feb 13, Trinity's Sunday School children programming will be changing! Trinity's Education Team met and we have decided to start a new Sunday School plan!
 - Sunday School will start at 10 am for 3-year olds through - 2nd graders on Sunday mornings, 10:00am - 10:45am
 - 3-year olds - kindergarten children will have the same curriculum and teachers as before.
 - 1st and 2nd grade children will meet together with Kerri or a teacher to do a Bible story and activities.
 - All 3-year old children - 2nd grade children will meet in the Gathering Room for songs, then will go to class.
- Starting Feb 16, 3rd grade - 6th grade Sunday School youth will meet WEDNESDAY NIGHTS after school from 3:30pm - 5pm at the CHURCH!
 - Kerri will be leading a youth group style program with these kids!
 - There will be a snack, faith formation, games, and tons of fun!
 - 3rd - 6th grade will not have Sunday School programming on Sunday mornings. Wednesdays after school will be their weekly meeting time.
 - This program will run weekly Feb 16 - May 25.
 - We will have an adult or older student meet the Wednesday Sunday School group after school and walk them to the church from school on Wednesday nights, as we want the kids to feel safe!

- Sunday FEB 13 will be a YOUTH LED Worship service at the 9:15 am worship.
 - 3-year olds - 6th grade youth will sing two Sunday School songs.

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 Lock-In Feb 11, 7th -9th grade youth**
 - 25 youth signed up

High School Youth Group 9th -12th grade youth

- Sunday Night Youth Group
 - Trinity Center, Faith5, community time, and games!

ELCA Youth Gathering 2022

- Gathering has been cancelled
- Looking into another option for high school youth

Release Time K - 5th 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!

3rd- 6th grade youth group every Wednesday starting Feb 16, 3:30pm- 5:00pm

TEAM REPORTS:

Care Ministry (Laurie)

- Did not meet.
- Mission Endowment gave \$2,000 to Care Ministry.

Communications (Mary)

- Did not meet.
- Mary is working with Mary Deters to find someone who can help translate the older minutes that were written in Norwegian.

Education (Bethany)

- Have met twice.
- There are quite a few changes to Sunday School. Kerri's report shares all the details.
- Talking about adult education. Looking for ideas.

Finance (Judy)

- No report

Outreach (Terry)

- Did not meet yet.

Mission (Jana)

- Did not meet.
- Alternative Giving gave \$7,228 to Lutheran Good Gifts, Alternative Giving International, Lutheran Partners in Global Ministry, and local food shelf.

Property (Dan)

- Did not meet.

Staffing (Meets the 3rd Thursday each month) (Nancy)

- Received a good report from Jan Kraabel.
- Intend to meet next week Thursday.

Stewardship (Steve K.)

- Meeting tomorrow.

Worship (Kim)

- Meeting this coming Sunday

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. COVID protocols
 - Dan made a motion that we allow the congregation to sing again, and reduce mask requirements on March 1, seconded by Steve K. Motion carried.
2. Master Plan Committee update
 - Steve K reported that the committee said they looked at the whole basement at their first meeting. The committee will look at all the windows at their next meeting on Sunday.
3. Trinity Center boiler update
 - Still waiting on bids.
4. Root River Conference Assembly, February 20 – online only.
 - Trinity volunteered to host the Conference Assembly last month, however due to the uptick in COVID numbers, the Conference Assembly will be held online.
5. Audit update
 - Mike Betz plans to look at the audit after April 15.
 - Mike may recommend some procedures.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council orientation
 - a. Mailboxes are found in the office. Please check them often.
 - b. Team Guidelines
 - Saundy handed out packets to each team lead, along with the team guidelines. Saundy asked all team leads to go through their team guidelines to ensure that everything is there and let Saundy know by March if the guidelines are good to go, or if they need changes/additions.
 - c. Elect Vice-President
 - Steve Kemp volunteered. Saundy asked for a vote. The vote was unanimous.
2. Spring Grove Area Chamber of Commerce membership
 - Trinity has been asked to be a part the Spring Grove Area Chamber of Commerce. The membership fee is \$100 a year. Pr. Elizabeth shared that it is important that we continue to support our community in this manner. Pr. Elizabeth will be Trinity's representative. Steve K. made a motion for Trinity to be a member of Spring Grove Area Chamber of Commerce, seconded by Mary. Motion carried.
3. July meeting: Synod visit with Rev. Emily Carson
 - Assistant to the Bishop Emily Carson plans to attend our church council meeting on July 13, to thank us for our benevolence gifts.

4. Music in the Park food opportunity June 8.
 - Education Team is planning on serving the food for Music in the Park.
5. Red's card distribution
 - Red's Gift Cards (Good Samaritan items) are available, as well as Kwik Trip Gift Cards. Pr. Elizabeth and Saundy asked that we let them know if we know of someone in need of these gift cards. Please ask your team members also.
6. Banking Authority
 - Saundy presented a form that lists the names for the banking authority. Dan made a motion to accept the form, seconded by Laurie. Motion carried.
7. 2023 Annual Meeting will be held February 5, 2023. New Team Leads will attend Council meetings right away as they are installed at the Annual Meeting.
8. Book Study – Saundy shared that she would like to resume book study at our council meetings. She asked for us to share any ideas with her.

LORD'S PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

- Terry shared a conversation of The Lord's Prayer
- Steve K made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kim. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 9, 2022, at 7:30 p.m.

UPCOMING DATES:

- Newsletter items due February 18

Submitted by *Michelle Jahnke*