

## TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION COUNCIL

March 10, 2021

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 7:32 pm on March 10, 2021 via Zoom conference call.

### Members Present:

Pr. Elizabeth, Dan Alstad, Barb Arnold, 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 February 10, 2021 was edited and approved. MSP (Jan, Dean)

Treasurer's Report (placed on file) Highlights listed below. MSP (Steve, Dan)

- February offering (envelopes & online offerings) \$15,754.00
- Total income for February - \$31,434.00
- Total expenses for February - \$22,170.00
- Checking account balance at the end of February - \$11,487.00
- Year to date Net Income - \$-384.05
- \$9,070.75 money back from the government grant
- Council Budget Primer was sent to all council members to help understand financial reports and the budgetary roles of the council members.

### STAFF REPORTS:

#### Pastor Elizabeth:

1. Our Ash Wednesday drive-through communion and imposition of ashes drew around 60 people.
2. The Root River Conference Assembly met Sunday, February 14, at 2 p.m. Thanks to Congregation President Saundy Solum, Willy Leafblad and Rachel Udstuen for their participation. The Synod Assembly will be virtual only on Saturday, May 8.
3. Planning for the Fall Theological conference is underway. I serve on the committee. We are hoping it will be in person at Stoney Creek in Onalaska Nov. 7-9.
4. Jacque Wennes agreed to put her name up for the Synod's Committee on Consultation. I also recruited a member from Preston to serve on Synod Council. Though nominations are technically close, we are still looking for a young adult (aged 18-29) to serve on council for a two-year term. If you know someone you think has the gifts to serve, please let me know.
5. As we will discuss, we will begin in-person worship on Wednesday, March 17 (Lent 4), with COVID protocols in place. As of right now, we will not require RSVPs for Wednesday or Saturday worship, but we will for Sunday worship, and especially for our two Easter services. Read all about it in the newsletter, which is going out tomorrow.
6. The Worship team will meet (as of this writing) on Sunday to discuss worship and music after we begin in-person. We need to be incredibly careful about the length of service.

7. Looking forward, we will have first communion classes the next three Sundays, and the fifth graders will receive their first communion at a special Maundy Thursday service on April 1 at 5:30 p.m. so that we can safely have all their family members attend.
8. My CGP class on grief continues. I'm also taking a Church Anew class in March called "One Year Changed: Faith in Pandemic."
9. I plan to take a week off after Easter, returning in time for our April council meeting!

**Pastor Lane:**

1. Home Visits with Holy Communion – 0
  2. Visits W/out Holy Communion – hours
  3. Homebound connection - Phone calls, delivering Communion Pods - 12 hours
  4. Services @ Assisted Living and Manor (and Prep) 1 at Assisted Living 1 hour
  5. Services @ Nursing Home 0
  6. Staff Meeting – 4 @ 2 hours
  7. Office Time – 2 hours
  8. Sunday/Sat Sermon Prep and Service – 2 @ 19 hours
  9. Lenten Services - Ash Wednesday helped
  10. Hospital Visits
  11. Meetings 0
  12. 498 HOPE - 4 hours
  13. Newsletter – 2 hours
  14. Response Team - 1 meeting 1 hour
- Total Hours – 43 hours

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

**Sunday School**

- Sunday School will begin meeting in person after Easter on April 11. We will meet every Sunday through May 9. I am sending out a new form for parents to register their kids to attend these five Sundays. I am looking for volunteers to help teach!
- I sent out March At-Home Sunday School packets with activities and supplies to learn about Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday.

**Confirmation/Trinity U**

- We are on a break from confirmation during Lent and will begin again on April 14!

**Release Time**

- I have reached out to Pastor Len to figure out when we will begin offering Release Time again.

**3:16s and MSGN**

- Our high school youth group continues to meet on Wednesday nights at 8:00 on Zoom. I hope to begin in person after Lent!
- Middle School Game Nights continue to meet every other Friday night at 7:30 on Zoom. I hope to begin in person game nights after Lent!

**Stock Sales**

- We only had two youth come to sell stock on only one of the afternoons offered. They both did really well, selling \$975 dollars worth in shares!

- I am reaching out to students going on the houseboat trip to see if we should offer any more dates where they could sell stock.

### **Houseboat Trip 2021**

- We currently have eight youth signed up out of a potential 10 spots.
- The houseboat trip will be from July 19-22.
- The cost of the trip is \$375 per person. Most of that should be able to be fundraised!

### **Day Camp**

- Education Team has decided to offer Day Camp for families during the month of August. We are thinking there will be a few evenings throughout August where families can sign-up to come - likely Wednesday evenings. We are thinking a meal would be offered before activities begin.

### **Confirmation Camp**

- Good Earth Village is not offering any overnight camps this summer, so Pastor Elizabeth and I plan on having our own confirmation camp at Trinity for those 31 youth who are eligible.
- We are thinking it will be meeting a few hours in the morning each day for one week. We're hoping to incorporate aspects of camp so that these youth still feel they got a camp experience.

### **First Communion**

- Our fifth graders will receive their First Communion during a special 5:30 p.m. service on Maundy Thursday. They will have three classes beforehand to learn about communion and make their communion cups with Mrs. Eiken at school. The classes are at 10:30 a.m. on March 14, 21, and 28.

## **TEAM REPORTS:**

### **Care Ministry** (Laurie)

- Did not meet yet. Sent out an email to all members about what Care Ministry does.
- Trained in a lunch packer today.
- Place first Channel 1 food order
- It is the team's goal to meet in mid-April.

### **Communications** - no report

### **Education** (Bethany)

- Met by ZOOM last week.
- In person Sunday School will begin after Easter. Becca sent out a form to the parent to register their kids to attend Sunday School. Becca will be looking for teachers.
- Discussed VBS for the summer – not sure when will be at this time.
- Confirmation camp being held locally due to the camp not allowing overnight campers.
- Becca and Education Team will be having the Meatball Dinner during Syttende Mai, as a drive thru.

### **Finance** (Judy)

- Has a motion to present to the council - will be discussed under continuing business.

### **Outreach** (Lara)

- Met via ZOOM.

- Sock Drive is complete - 1500 socks went out to Rochester, Minneapolis, local, shelters, and local programs.
- The discussed reaching out to college kids – any college kids. Lara asked if we know of any college student to please let the Outreach Team know of name of students.

#### **Mission** (Dean)

- Did not meet.

#### **Property** (Dan)

- Did not meet.
- Has bids for ramp – will be discussed under continuing business.

#### **Staffing** (Meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month) (Jan)

- Reviewed input from seven staff members who responded to a questionnaire on church safety.
- Staff are concerned about entering and working in a building that remains open after office hours and throughout the night. Concerns will be shared with the Council.
- Gary Wilhelmson will be on leave of absence in March. Hoekstra who will cover custodial duties at church and Dana Kjome who will cover duties at Trinity Center. These will both be paid positions.

#### **Stewardship** (Steve)

- Discussed the constitution updates which include the team leader of stewardship now required to attend church council meetings. Also talked about team guidelines and procedures. We will have those ready by April.
- The Gift and memorial book is still a work in progress. Looking for someone with calligraphy skills to make entries, we are several years behind. Request for a someone to do this will be in this week's bulletin.
- Discussed whether we should ask the congregation to increase their tithing if they are able. Now would be a good time to ask because it is tax return season and the upcoming stimulus checks. Of course, we would be gently asking without mentioning the above.
- Also discussed giving with Sunday school, confirmation, and other possibilities. Will be working with Bekah to develop that.
- Planning a presentation for worship on March 21.

#### **Worship** (Kim)

- Worship Team met Sunday and organized the music up through April 7.
- Looked at the guidelines and procedures. Looks like what was before, not many changes.
- Working on ushers.

### **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

#### 1. Response Team updates

- Opening in person worship gradually. Parishioners need RSVP (Reserve Safe Viewing Pew) by calling or emailing the church. All details are included in the newsletter.
- First in person worship will be on March 17 and March 21
- The response team will meet the following Tuesday, March 23 to see how these first 2 in person worship goes.

2. Diversity Task Force update
  - 5 people have come forward to be on this task force.
  - Saundy would like them to read the same book we are.
3. Music Task Force update (Jan)
  - The Music Task Force met twice in February and compiled a brief overview of Trinity's rich music history and current Music Ministry. The Taskforce has considered ways to encourage members of all ages to share their musical gifts, the expansion and importance of Trinity's Music Ministry and our Praise Band worship service. A questionnaire is being developed to gather input from those currently involved in Music Ministry.
  - Taskforce members include: Pastor Elizabeth, Bill Fried, Kim Kapplinger, Jan Kraabel, Willy Leafblad, Mark Schroeder, Rachel Storlie, and Judy Tollefsrud.
4. Updated event fundraiser document
  - Added the corrections from last month's council meeting.
5. Team Guidelines & Procedures – due by May 1
  - Saundy sent out to team leads and endowments to complete Team Guidelines & Procedures to help develop a book for new members who join the teams.
  - Saundy will review all the team guidelines & procedures once all are completed.
6. Security update
  - The following questions were emailed to Trinity Staff members:
    1. What are your concerns, if any, about your safety, either entering the building, in your office space or other areas of the church since these incidences occurred?
    2. Do you have concerns for others who might be entering the building after hours?
    3. Have you changed any routines since these incidents occurred?
    4. What are your feelings about locking Trinity; a common practice in other area congregations.
    5. Are there other alternatives to locking the church that should be explored?
  - The council will meet following worship on Sunday, March 21 to do a walk through the church to look at ways to secure the offices and to keep the sanctuary, basement, and little pantry open.
  - Dan will check with the insurance company and the Fire Marshall in regarding to locking doors.
7. Finance team
  - a. Facility Planning funds
    - Motion from Finance Team - To leave \$20K in the Thrivent Limited Maturity Bond Fund, move \$250K into a Thrivent Diversified Income Plus Fund, and move \$250K into a Thrivent Moderately Aggressive Allocation Fund. Funds will be monitored and managed by the Finance Team - Jan second. - MSP
  - b. EIDL grant - \$9070.75
    - Motion from Finance Team – A motion was made to contribute \$300 per month for the next three months to outside organizations determined by the outreach team. Kim seconded - MSP
8. Congregational survey update

- Pr. Elizabeth share the results filled out by council members, and feel the council need to focus first on seeking out and using the gifts of members of all ages.
9. Ramp removal
- Dan received 2 bids - \$4,100 from On-Grade Excavating & \$4,500-\$5,000 verbal from Regie Berns.
  - Motion to allow Dan to choose the one that can take care of the ramp as soon as possible. There is enough money in the budget for property to move forward with this project. MSP (Steve, Dean)

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. New CARES Grant application
  - Pr. Elizabeth reported that she applied for \$1000 grant. She waiting to hear back.
2. Farmer's Market opportunity
  - Opportunity to have food vendors every week. Council discussed and agreed to have Lara & Bethany talk with each other to see if the youth and outreach team would be interested in providing food the Farmer's Market.
3. Agenda minutes on the web
  - Michelle will send the minutes to Marlene within a week of the council meeting for her to post on the website. The approved minutes will be sent the following month to Marlene for her to replace on the website.
4. Team Leaders
  - Jean Ellingson resigned as the Communications Team Lead.
  - Saundy talked to Mary Zafke, and Mary is willing to fill the one-year term as the Communications Team Lead. Sandy made a motion to appoint Mary Zaffke as the Communications Team Lead. MSP (Dean, Michelle)
  - Saundy reviewed the council terms, and she reported they are good as the rotation is 4 coming off one year, and then 5 coming off the following year.

Pr. Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 7:30pm via ZOOM

Upcoming dates:

- Remember to read One Coin Found by Emmy Kegler – book discussion first half hour of April council meeting prior to Continuing Business.
- Newsletter articles due TBD: March/April combined newsletter

Submitted by, *Michelle Jahnke*