

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

TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION COUNCIL

March 9, 2022 • 7:30 pm

OPENING BUSINESS:

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 7:32 pm on March 9, 2022.

Pr. Elizabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

Members Present:

Pr. Elizabeth, Dan Alstad, Betty Dokken, Terry Holland, Michelle Jahnke, Kim Kapplinger, Joyce Landsom, Bethany Moen, Laurie Moen, Steve Nelson, Saundy Solum, Judy Tollefsrud, Dean Wiste, Mary Zaffke

Secretary's Report for February 9, 2022 was read. Dan made a motion to accept the secretary's report, seconded by Terry. Motion carried.

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

- General Fund account
 - Feb. income \$17,478.04
 - Feb. expenses \$30,743.51
 - Net loss \$-13,265.47
 - Feb. 28, 2022, balance \$16,748.87
- Special accounts
 - Feb. income \$325.00
 - Feb. expenses \$1,110.00
 - Net loss \$-785.10
 - Feb. 28, 2022, balance \$184,022.39
- Luther League account
 - Feb. income \$1,125.00
 - Feb. expenses \$28.71
 - Net loss \$-840.29
 - Feb. 28, 2022, balance \$23,159.42

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

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth:

1. Confirmation Winter quarter concluded; however, our confirmation students were here in great numbers on Ash Wednesday and will be having short check-ins with their mentor groups during Lent. We are seeing them participate in worship more and more, as acolytes, contributing to music, and most recently with the mini play on Esther, with was a Trinity U class.

2. The second half of my "Digital Ministry" class was not as compelling as the first half, which was disappointing. However, as we begin lifting more and more of our COVID guidelines, I want to keep an eye on our Facebook Live attendance. For example, on Ash Wednesday, about 120 people attended in person between the noon and 7 pm services, and about 35 attended via Facebook Live at 7 pm. Our attendance has been consistently higher online than in person up to this point.
3. And speaking of Ash Wednesday and Lent, it made my heart sing to see so many people here for the evening Ash Wednesday service. I look forward to our continued study of Psalm 23 on Wednesday evenings, along with Holden Evening Prayer. Everyone loves that service. I also look forward to our Lenten suppers, served by our youth (and hopefully raising some money for their programs) with help from council teams.
4. Kerri and I both took an hour-long online class on mental health in mid-February through the Faith Formation Network of the ELCA. It wasn't as substantive as I would have hoped. Mental health is something we all need to be aware of as we come out of the pandemic, but also because rural areas have less access and often more stressors that lead to mental health issues.
5. The Root River Assembly meeting was accomplished online in less than an hour on Feb. 20 with Saundy, Jacque Wennes, Mark Schroeder, and me attending. I was pleased to present a proposed Social Statement on Child Protection which passed unanimously, and which will be passed on for review at Synod Assembly in May. I also serve on the Nominating Team representing Root River (this is my last year), as well as the Fall Theo Planning Team and the Augsburg Corporate Board. The Fall Theo team is beginning to plan for this year's meeting.
6. I am also a member of the SG2030 committee (along with Saundy). You may have seen surveys or participated in focus groups last year to determine future opportunities and dreams for the Spring Grove area. I am, of course, keenly supportive of Spring Grove area initiatives. On this team, I also wear my "church hat" to understand how Trinity, Trinity programs and Trinity properties align with potential projects.
7. Looking forward, we are in Lent, followed by Holy Week, including 5th grade first communion! A busy time, a blessed time. I plan to take a week of vacation after Easter.
8. I hope you all will consider attending the "Councils as Leaders" event on March 20. I think it will be a nice supplement to our reading of "Abundance" last fall.
- 9. *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: 13 for 15 hours total
2. Visits without Holy Communion: 2 for 2 hours total
3. Phone calls: 2 hours
4. Services at Assisted Living: 1 for 1 hour total
5. Services at Nursing Home: 1 for 1 hour total
6. Services at Manor: 1 for 1 hour total
7. Services at Tweeten Apt: 1 for 1 hour total

8. Staff Meeting: 4 for 2-1/2 hours total
9. Office Time: 2 hours
10. Sunday/Saturday sermon prep and service: 1 for 13 hours total
11. Hospital visits: 1 hour
12. Driving time: 3 hours
13. Continuing Ed
14. 498-HOPE: 12 times for 3 hours total
15. Newsletter: 2 hours

Total Hours: 58-1/2 hours

Funeral for Betty Johnson: 9 hours

3 Sunday services at Wilmington Lutheran

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

Sunday School Pre-k -- 6th grade youth

- Sunday School for 3-year olds through - 2nd grade is on Sunday mornings, 10:00 am - 10:45 am
- 3-yr 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-yr old children - 2nd grade children will meet in the Gathering Room for songs, then will go to class
- Starting Feb 16th, 3rd grade - 6th grade Sunday School youth will meet WEDNESDAY NIGHTS after school from 3:30 pm – 5 pm at the Trinity Center! Kerri will be leading a youth group style program with these kids! There will be a snack, faith formation, Bible study, 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 16th - May 25th.
- **We have had 16-18 youth attending Wednesday night Bible School (3rd through 6th grade group).**

Sunday, March 13th will be a YOUTH LED Worship service at the 9:15 am worship.

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! (Trinity U classes)
- **Confirmation Lock-In on Feb 11th for 7th -9th grade youth; 25 youth attended the Lock-In!**

Lenten Suppers start March 9th and go through April 6th, youth will be serving suppers.

High School Youth 9th -12th grade youth

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

YOUTH RETREAT!

- 24 youth and adults going to the Wilderness resort in Wisconsin Dells on March 4th -6th.

Release Time K - 5th grade youth

- Pr. Len will teach and I will provide the Faith5 activities, songs, and games
- K - 5th grades invited
- We have 104 students in Release Time!

TEAM REPORTS:

Care Ministry (Laurie)

- Jeff Ellingson will be the scheduler for Meals on Wheels.
- American Rescue Plan Act gave the Little Pantry a \$1000.

Communications (Mary)

- We do not have translate the books.
- The Communications Teams has been busy calling every member.

Education (Bethany)

- First Communion for 5th graders will on Maundy Thursday.
- Wednesday night Bible School is averaging around 16 children a night. This has increased our attendance in the upper elementary students. The students have expressed that they want to be at the church for their education times.
- Lenten Suppers started tonight.
- There are 3 weeks with openings that help is needed from the Teams to serve the Lenten Suppers. Bethany said to contact her or Kerri.

Finance (Judy)

- Need to update treasurer management services – payrolls are done electronically allowing the transaction to take place between the church and personal accounts. Account Administrator was Lorilyn Dehning need to change to Nichole Krenzke.
- Change in constitution – constitution states treasure should be assisted by others in counting the offering. ELCA Constitution does not reflect this practice. This will be looked at before the annual meeting.
- Need to update the banking authority for endowment account from Karen Gray to Steve Nelson.

Mission (Dean)

- Met briefly.

Outreach (Terry)

- Met Feb .23 – discussed the Lenten supper.
- Will be meeting March 30.
- Will look at the year's Fellowship Time and families to serve.

Property (Dan)

- Have not met.
- Still no bids for the boiler at the Trinity Center.
- Gary W and Dave Eiken met with Winona Controls to look at a different water heater.

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

- Met via ZOOM last month.
- Confidential Training for all team members was presented by Pr. Elizabeth
- Nancy Gulbranson will be emailing staff on March 21 with evaluation questions and ask staff to return by April 4.
- Will begin evaluation performance reviews after Easter.
- Divided committee members to do "Well Staff Check-in" with each staff member. Will listen to and address any concerns they may have, and will let the staff know that they are here to support the staff.
- There are 2 staffing needs.
- Logan Olson's contract for the Handbell Choir is up at end of May
- 6 month evaluation with Kerri will happen in April.

Stewardship (Joyce)

- Looked over the memorial gift policy
- Handed out the book "Abundance" to team members to read.
- No special activity in May due to Memorial Day weekend.
- Talked about food when Emily Carson comes in July.

Worship (Kim)

- Getting ready for Holy Week and will plan to finalize in early April.
- Ushers were set up before COVID, so the list is being looked at, reviewed and revised. Talked to Kerri about having youth and their families help.
- Fee for Facebook to families for funeral. Committee feels they families no longer need to be charged \$10 for this service.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. COVID protocols
 - Mask are optional.
 - Ropes are still up – do we remove the ropes? It was discussed and decided to leave ropes up on elevator side and take the ropes down on the south side. Pr. Elizabeth will announce this update in church and will have information posted in the bulletin.
 - Fellowship is not happening. Will plan to have fellowship again after Easter
 - People have been calling to reserve the Trinity Center and the basement. It was discussed and decided to allowing people to start use TC and basement after April 1, 2022.
 - Saundy asked the council, "Do we let the school have the choir concert here in the Spring?" It was discussed and decided to allow the school choir to use the church for their spring concert. Saundy will contact Bethany to let her know that the choir is welcome to use Trinity Church
2. Master Planning committee update

- Meeting this coming Sunday.
 - Want the master plan by April to report at our April council meeting.
3. Trinity Center Boiler Update
 - No bids yet.
 - Cannot be worked on until after weather warms up.
 4. Root River Conference Assembly February 20 update
 - Meeting was held via ZOOM.
 - There are few non-rostered positions open.
 - Social statement was written on child protection and was passed by the RR Conference. The Social Statement has been sent to the Synod to see if they will take to the Synod Assembly.
 5. Team Guidelines – either email or bring changes to your team guidelines
 - Finance and Worship have sent their team guidelines to Saundy.
 - Mary will email Saundy regarding communications
 - Property asked that there be a running log of projects done with any of the church property.
 6. Audit
 - Will be after April 18.
 7. Banking Authority
 - All Endowment Accounts need to be updated. Dean made a motion to update all Endowment Accounts, seconded by Mary, motion carried.
 - Need to work on the Thrivent accounts and other accounts as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Council as Leaders – SEMN Synod
 - Council as Leaders meets next Sunday via ZOOM or can go in person to Owattona. Council members can still register up until next Sunday.
2. Lutheran Disaster Response: Ukraine offering match
 - Pr. Elizabeth shared that the church received a generous donation to go to helping Ukraine. This Sunday we will be having a special offering for Ukraine. Pr. Elizabeth shared a few organizations to consider donating to: Lutheran Immigration Services (helping women, children, elderly), Lutheran Disaster Response, and Charity Navigator gave other trustworthy organizations.
 - Dean made motion to give half of the offering to Lutheran Immigration Services and half of the offering to Lutheran Disaster Response, seconded Bethany, motion carried. Terry Made a motion to match Sunday's special offering along with the anonymous donation, seconded by Mary, motion carried.
3. Other
 - Future Church Council meetings. April and May, we will plan to meet at 7pm. We will look at summer (June, July August) meetings next month.
 - Saundy asked for another book that we want to read. There was some discussion. Saundy asked all to bring back ideas next month.
 -
 - Saundy said we need to talk about the Trinity Center.

- Kim made a motion that the \$10 Facebook fee for livestreaming funerals be removed, seconded by Dan. Motion carried.
- Rick Sundet asked council to approve \$240 to replace LED lights in the kitchen. Council approved.
- Pr. Elizabeth shared that we are officially members of the Chamber of Commerce.

LORD'S PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

- Dean made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mary. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, April 13, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

UPCOMING DATES:

- Newsletter items due April 22
- July meeting: Synod visit with Rev. Emily Carson

Submitted by *Michelle Jahnke*