

**** SUBJECT TO APPROVAL BY THE CONGREGATION COUNCIL AT ITS NEXT MEETING ****

Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council

April 11, 2018

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Mary Deters at 7:45 pm on April 11, 2018 in the Gathering Room at Trinity Lutheran.

Members Present: Pastor Elizabeth, Mary Deters, Milly Halverson, Steve Nelson, Barb Arnold, Willy Leafblad, Steve Kemp, Jacque Wennes, and Mary Zaffke.

Also Present: Bill Fried, Mark Dokken, Stewart Storlie, and Len Myrah

Pastor Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer.

A thank you note was read by Mary D from Bethany Engan, Spring Grove School Choir Director, thanking Trinity for the use of our beautiful sanctuary for their Choir Concert.

Secretary's Report for March 14, 2018 was approved.

Treasurer's Report (placed on file)

- Total giving is down \$20k year-to-date.
- Total expenses are \$112,549 year-to-date.
- Outstanding bills from 2017 continue to be paid in 2018.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth

- Got the keys to her office!
- Special thanks to everyone who prepared the way for her arrival!

Pastor Lane

- Report to the Council included 38 hours of ministry:
Saturday/Sunday Prep & Worship (12 hours)
Staff meetings (3 hours)
Worship & visits at Tweeten (4 hours)
3 Hospital visits (10 hours)

(Pr Jim visited the Manor, Tweeten Apts, and Assisted Living this month to say his good-byes)

Bekah (full report placed on file)

- In her report, Bekah shared faith activities, fundraisers, and gatherings that the youth and families of our congregation are engaged in.
- Their next fundraiser will be the Syttende Mai Dinner (serving carry-outs only).
- The Senior High Youth Group (9th-12th Graders) decided on the name **ThreeSixTeens**. They are enjoying their time together.

TEAM REPORTS:

Care Ministry (Milly)

- During the MN Food Share Campaign, Trinity raised \$405.00
- Care Ministry members keep Trinity's Tiny Pantry stocked. Food donations are welcome.
- Care Ministry will be Coffee Hosts on Sunday, April 22nd, following the installation of Pr Elizabeth.
- HIP program will be shopping at Red's IGA going forward, since his prices are comparable and reasonable.
- Next meeting is scheduled for May 1st.

Education (Jacque)

- The last day of Sunday School will be Mother's Day. Trinity children will sing at worship service and make flowers. There will be games and treats to finish the day.
- The Education Team will invite Pr Elizabeth to a meal and meeting at Jacque's home on May 3rd at 5:30pm.
- A planning meeting was held with parents and youth heading to Houston, to spearhead the Syttende Mai Dinner on Sunday, May 20th from 11am-2pm. Serving will be carry-outs only and the menu will include: meatballs, potatoes & gravy, carrots, lefse/rolls, rommegrot, and brownies for dessert.

Mission in the World (Steve N)

- At the Root River Conference, each congregation is being invited to give generously and make a global impact through the Synod Assembly offering. Christ Lutheran Church in Preston MN has pledged \$1500 if eight congregations from the conference give \$250 or more to the Assembly.

How will our gifts make a global impact?

- In South Sudan, 1 in 7 women die in child birth. Our gifts will enable Reconciliation Lutheran Church and other organizations to provide critical prenatal care which saves lives.
In Tanzania, growth in the Lutheran Church creates a need for trained church leaders.
In Colombia, monies will be used for social justice issues.
- They propose contributing \$300 in response to the Christ Lutheran Church challenge at the Root River Conference Synod Assembly and contributing \$1000 to the Jacobson's Tanzania fund (Missionary-for-a-Day), using funds from the proceeds of the sale of the second parsonage.

Note: This support directly to missions is consistent with our 2017 giving and is "love in action" to our brothers and sisters in Christ in South Sudan, Tanzania, and Colombia.

- They plan to offer the Alternative Giving Fair again this year.

Outreach (Mary Z)

- They are trying new ways to bring us together in fellowship.
- Next meeting is Wednesday, April 18^t

Support (Steve K)

Property

- Special thanks to all who volunteered to clean the parsonage in preparation for Pr Elizabeth's arrival.
- The tuck pointing project is on track. Heritage Endowment designated \$18,722 for the project

Stewardship (Stewart Storlie, Bill Fried)

- During Pr Jim's interim at Trinity, the Team read Ask.Thank.Tell. It inspired the Team to consider doing an unorthodox activity, an out-of-the-ordinary event or plan something at a different time of year. Their idea: a **Game Feed**, with a message of stewardship (possibly in early Fall TBD). They envision an event like a Jobs Fair or Missions Fair, spotlighting "Everything Trinity" tied to a stewardship message. There will be "game" food, but it will not be the main event!

Communications

- Continue to work with office staff on special projects. The talents of additional people are being added to the Team.
- Looking for more ways to use the creative talents of Karen Fried, to free up some of Marlene's time.
- Focusing on photos—to share with shut ins, non-attending members, and as an outreach to our community.

Staffing

- Working on the transition from two pastors to one pastor.

Finance

- No report

Worship (Willy)

- Easter Sunday worship was attended by 89 at the 7am service and 296 at the 9:15 am service.
- The Good Friday Crosswalk gathered 41 followers together in a public witness of faith, followed by a simple soup supper in the Fellowship Hall.
- 5th graders had their first communion on Maundy Thursday.
- To streamline the "stuff" that is in the pews, Worship Team monies will be used to purchase pew booklets. They will be placed at the end of each pew, leaving only hymnals in the pews.
- They want input from Pr Elizabeth, regarding Wedding Guidelines and overall policy for use of facilities, before bringing it to the Council for approval.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Update on 2nd Parsonage (Mark Dokken)

- Signing is scheduled on April 20, 2018. Ron & Carol Bjerke purchased the 2nd parsonage for \$92,500 with addendum “as is”.
- Mary D will request a copy of the proposed closing statement prior to signing, and Mark offered to go over it with her.

Authorized signatures for checking account (copy placed on file)

MSC (Steve K, Mary Z) to accept the updated list of authorized signatures and who can have information on accounts.

- The key to the safety deposit box has been found!
- The Trinity Cemetery Association has requested its own tax id# (separate from Trinity’s tax id#)

Facility Planning Committee (Len Myrah)

- Len recommended to the Council that a Facility Planning Committee be established to look for ways to enhance the “flow” and remodeling of our church space—making it a more user-friendly structure. The Church Building Consultant that discussed possible building projects with Trinity in July 2017, also gives us access to architects and assistance with the process.

He shared that the key to a successful building project is good communication and taking the first step.

The Council was asked to review the documents outlining the “process” and to share thoughts/ideas at the May Council meeting. Also, to think about whether a Visioning & Planning Team should be established first, to gather quantitative/qualitative information.

Memorial Committee

- For reference, examples of Policies on Gifts and Memorials was given to the Council by Lee Hoekstra. The Council was asked to review it and make a decision at the May Council meeting.

Ad hoc committee on Wednesday night service

- Exploring the “Wednesday is the new Sunday”

Transition Team Survey

- In order to gather additional input, the Council will invite those who served on Excelling in Mission to our May Council meeting; and members of the Support Teams to the June Council meeting.
- Congregational forums to discuss and communicate all input, and to give Trinity members an opportunity to “weigh in” will be planned (TBD). Any decision to change the make-up of the Council would require a vote at the annual meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

Old Cemetery Presentation (Mark Dokken)

- Mark presented History, Facts & Stories of Norwegian Ridge Cemetery. The purpose of his visit and presentation was to give thought to the restoration of the Norwegian Ridge Cemetery—to beautify our church property and honor the Christian pioneers of our church and community. He explained the current status, sequence for restoration, and capital campaign suggestions to pay for the restoration.
- His personal comments: *Cemeteries are green spaces but they are more graceful and can be quite elegant. It could be a “flower garden of graves”. A place for strolling, reflection, thought...”.*
- Pr Elizabeth shared that Waterloo Ridge did a cemetery restoration and how very meaningful and uplifting it was. Many churches plan Easter Sunday worship in cemeteries to symbolize the “rising from the grave”

Membership Data Base (Jacque W, Jean E)

- Jacque and Jean have volunteered to update the membership data base.

Fewer Newsletters

- Pr Elizabeth will work with the staff. She thought simplifying the newsletter would be better than fewer.

Synod Offering (Steve N)

- The Root River Synod Assembly will be held May 4-5th in Mankato, and will be attended by Steve Nelson, Milly Halverson, Pr Elizabeth, and Mark Schroder.
- The Mission Team proposal is to contribute \$300 to the Preston Lutheran Church challenge at the Synod Assembly and \$1000 to the Jacobson’s Tanzania fund (Missionary-for-a-Day), using funds from the proceeds of the sale of the 2nd parsonage.

MSC (Milly, Steve K) to accept the proposal from the Mission in the World Team, to give an offering of \$300 at the Synod Assembly and \$1000 to the Jacobson’s Tanzania fund (Missionary-for-a-Day), using funds from the proceeds of the sale of the 2nd parsonage.

Use of sale of parsonage funds (Finance Team)

- Received suggestions on how to use the sale of parsonage funds from Finance Team. No action will be take until the sale is final.

Pastor Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 9th at 7:45 pm.

In HIS Service,

Karen Bingham