

Trinity Lutheran Church Council  
May 10, 2017

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council meeting was called to order by Mary Deters at 7:45 pm on May 10, 2017 in the Gathering Room at Trinity Lutheran. We celebrated Debra's birthday with cake!

**Members Present:** Pastor Scaife, Mary Deters, Steve Kemp, Debra Spence, Steve Nelson, Barb Arnold, Jean Ellingson, and Mary Zaffke.

**Also Present:** Bill Fried (Stewardship Team), Milly Halverson and Mark Schroeder (Transition Team).

Pastor Jim opened the meeting with prayer.

**Secretary's Report** for April 12, 2017 was approved.

**Treasurer's Report** – placed on file

- January-April giving is down 7% compared to giving for those same months in 2016; Thrivent Choice dollars being directed to Trinity is also less for the same time period.
- General Fund expenses are down 11%.

**PASTORS' COMMENTS:**

Pastor Jim

- Discussed new Baccalaureate Parameters – for school and for churches – to respect separation of church and state.
- Discussed the Call Committee Selection Process. By June, the MSP will be nearing completion, so the next step is seeking call committee candidates. *Trinity Lutheran Church By-laws state: 2 members selected by Council, 4 members elected by congregation; alternates to be appointed or elected to call committee.* An insert will be included in the Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> bulletin: "Seeking Call Committee Candidates Through Prayer", for members to prayerfully consider who among us would be a good candidate to serve on the Call Committee.
- Reminded the Council of the goal of the interim time – *to create a working environment for one full time pastor that provides sustainable creativity.* He said we must be prepared for a candidate to ask, "What have we done to make this a one pastor congregation?" He identified 3 areas to accomplish this goal: 1) organization, 2) staff & volunteer support, and 3) reducing/simplifying tasks. Progress has been made on the first and second goals; however, the third goal remains challenging.

To allow and encourage the changes needed to transition to one pastor a MSC (Steve K, Mary Z) to accept Pastor Jim's proposal to the Council, designating the remainder of the interim period and the first year of the new pastor as a time of experimentation; a time to encourage one another to try something new. To communicate this to the congregation, a newsletter article will be submitted by Mary D.

Pastor Lane

In addition to known duties (sermon prep, Saturday night service, home/hospital visits, staff meetings), Pr Lane officiated at a funeral, baptism, and covered the duties of Pr Jim while he was on vacation.

**TEAM REPORTS:**

**Care Ministry** (Debra)

- 4 Prayer shawls have been given.
- A Thrivent grant will be used to purchase 300 Care Notes – brochures that reach out with help when and where it is needed for children, youth and family.
- A new use for the loom is being discussed– prayer loom?
- The new church directory is here and available to Trinity members at no cost! 175 were printed; donations will be accepted to cover the cost of additional copies, if needed.

**Education** (Pr. Jim)

- A Release Time Proposal for September 2017 – April 2018 was presented to the Council for approval. The program will encompass Kindergarten – Third Grade students, with each grade meeting for one hour/month. (Grades 4-6 will not meet for the current time). Pr. Liptack and Bekah Leafblad will serve as teachers; volunteer adults will be sought.
- Sunday, May 14<sup>th</sup> will be a Sunday School Celebration! Caitlin Bratland will be recognized for her service to Rotation Sunday School, Bibles will be given and a maple syrup breakfast will be served during coffee hour.

### **Mission in the World** (Steve N)

- A special offering will be taken on May 14 and May 20 & 21 in response to the famine crisis in parts of Africa.
- Next meeting: June 1

### **Outreach** (Mary)

At their April meeting, many ideas were discussed and are being planned:

- 3-4 families will be asked to share with the congregation how their family is using and being blessed by the "Taking Church Home" bulletin insert.
- Everyone on the coffee fellowship list will be called to see if they want to continue serving.
- Following up with members engaged in the Blessing Jar experience; giving them an opportunity to share.
- Offering Art As Prayer (once/month for 3 months) led by someone from the Spirituality Center in La Crosse (TBD)
- Creating a Prayer Labyrinth
- Time & Talents is a work in progress
- Meeting with Shepherds to see how it is going with their "sheep"

### **Support** (Steve K)

- Property – Lee H would like clarification on what is expected from them in preparation for the parsonage/yard during Homecoming. Jean will talk to him.

He would like to discuss property issues and how to start the conversation with the Council on how to prioritize and how to pay for improvements. (see New Business: Church Building Consultant)

(Barb A) clarified that the Sound System is "on hold" for now.

(Jean) will give Lee "the list" connected with memorials.

- Staffing – work in progress
- Finance – working on 2018 budget, so that the Transition Team knows what we can afford. They are also recommending that we consider a constitutional change limiting the number of years a memorial can "sit" unused.
- Stewardship (Bill F) offering their service to other Teams and/or members with their ministry events, goals, etc. On the Sunday of the Homecoming celebration, June 25<sup>th</sup>, they will facilitate any Trinity group who wants to share information about Trinity, during the coffee hour being hosted at the Parsonage open house.

### **Worship** (Jean)

- Hymn sings, during summer worship, will begin Sunday, June 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Liturgy Setting 10 will continue through June.

## **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

### **Update on Beary Patch Preschool (Mary)**

- A suggestion was made to form a committee of 3 to discuss changes to the current agreement between Trinity and the preschool.

### **Newsletter Article**

- Care Ministry (Debra) – 498-AMEN
- “Trying Something New” (Mary D)
- Outreach (Mary Z) – monthly articles will throughout the year

### **Transition Team (Milly H & Mark S)**

- Presented the Lead Pastor Position Description , a part of the Ministry Site Profile. It is a resource for prospective pastors, the call committee, and for ongoing conversations.

**MSC** (Steve N, Debra) to approve the Lead Pastor Position Description with the changes discussed to Outreach/Mission section.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Church Credit Card**

**MSC** ( Steve K, Jean) to accept the proposal for Trinity Lutheran Church Credit Card Policy explaining the parameters for credit card use by the Pastor (Pr. Jim), Youth & Family Coordinator (Bekah) and Administrator/Bookkeeper (Marlene).

### **New Education Team Leader (Mary D)**

- Michelle has resigned as Education Team leader for health reasons.
- The Education Team would like to take some time to organize what their duties are, before choosing who will serve as the new Education Team leader.

### **Mission Investment Fund / Application for Church Building Consultant (Mary D)**

- An application will be submitted by Mary.
- Consultant is free of charge.
- After submitting an application, the consultant will look at all Trinity properties and give suggestions.

### **Marketing Idea – Video of church/community (Mary)**

- A creative way to highlight our church and community and to prospective candidates.
- Steve will check with the Communications Team (Karen F, Sarah S) for their feedback.

### **Gift of a Piano (Jean)**

- Dr Frisch from Caledonia has a Steinway grand piano (1947) that he would like to gift to Trinity.
- Jean met with the Midwest expert on Steinway pianos, who estimated a cost of \$1000 for a few minor repairs. (Dr Frisch has offered to pay for the piano tuning).

**MSC** (Steve N, Jean) to accept the donated Steinway piano from Dr. Frisch.

### **Lutheran Magazine (Mary D)**

- A Trinity member wanted to know if we would consider giving every Trinity member a copy of the Lutheran Magazine. Mary Z will discuss it with the Outreach Team.

**Wednesday is the new Sunday**

Council members discussed an article about churches across Minnesota trying new ways to accommodate hectic lives of the faithful, with Wednesday night services as a popular option.

- To determine if there is an interest, the Worship and Education Teams will discuss.

Pastor Jim closed the meeting with prayer

MSC (Jean, Steve N) to adjourn the meeting at 10 pm.

**Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 14 at 7:45 pm.**

In HIS Service,

Karen Bingham