

TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION COUNCIL

May 12, 2021

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 7:35 pm on May 12, 2021.

Members Present:

Pr. Elizabeth, Dan Alstad, Michelle Jahnke, Kim Kapplinger, Steve Kemp, Jan Kraabel, Bethany Moen, Laurie Moen, Saundy Solum, Dean Wiste, Lara Wold Mendez, Mary Zaffke

Members Absent:

Barb Arnold, Judy Tollefsrud

Pr. Elizabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

Pr. Elizabeth Shared confirmation update from the year.

- 8 mentor groups were given 100 to change the world. The following are some ideas:
 - Build bird nest on the bird trail for protection
 - Socks and something for Sierra
 - Toiletries for food pantry
 - Supplies for pets in a homeless shelter in La Crosse.
- Packed layettes with the ladies

Secretary's Report for April 14, 2021 was approved. MSP (Steve, Dean)

Treasurer's Report (placed on file) Highlights listed below. MSP (Jan, Mary)

- First 4 months of 2021 envelopes/on-line offering up 6.7% from the first 4 months in 2020.
- Total income (from all sources) is up \$5,000 from 2020, but this does include \$9,000 from the government.
- Total expenses for the first 4 months are \$66 less than the first 4 months in 2020.
- Net income is \$-2,460 compared to \$-7,440 in 2020.
- Checking account balance at the end of April \$8982.49
- Year to date Net Income \$-2459.49

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth:

1. In-person worship has been a tremendous blessing, and now adding congregational singing will be even better. I look forward to fewer and fewer COVID restrictions as the summer goes by – hopefully no masks by July 1 if we can get 70% of Minnesotans vaccinated!
2. Confirmation concludes tomorrow night with a special Ascension Day balloon celebration. I look forward to hearing the 8 mentor groups' "change the world" challenge. Some of the sneak previews have been very interesting!

3. The Synod Assembly (virtual) is tomorrow (will have been Saturday). Jacque Wennes and Jonah Udstuen are nominees, and Council President Saundy Solum, Rachel Udstuen and Willy Leafblad are attending in addition to me. The agenda is fairly simple this year. I serve on the Nominating Committee and the Fall Theological Planning Committee, as well as the Augsburg Corporation board.
4. Our Senior Recognition service was a great success!
5. The Diversity Team had its first meeting. Nolie Kapplinger has taken the lead, and I look forward to more study and conversations.
6. The Facility Planning Team met twice to review a 99% final plan for an addition to the north side of the church building. The plan will likely come to Council to review at the June meeting.
7. The Response Team met and made the decision to discontinue RSVPs and begin congregational singing. I am so grateful for these servants who have partnered to keep us safe during this last year.
8. I'm also excited about the return of the meatball dinner at Syttende Mai. The weather looks favorable, so we will likely have worship outdoors on that Sunday.
9. I have a Root River conference meeting on Tuesday. It will be our last one before our summer break. I'm hoping for a return to in-person text studies – much more engaging – by next fall.
10. I will be attending the virtual Festival of Homiletics May 18-21. COVID restrictions have enabled me to attend more continuing education courses because so many of them are virtual.
11. The Music Task Force will also be ending with some thoughtful conversation around how we plan worship.
12. Baccalaureate will be Wednesday, June 2, here at Trinity. We hope to have it outdoors but with COVID restrictions relaxed, we may be able to have more people indoors (with masks) if the weather is not favorable.
13. Wednesday Vacation Bible School begins June 9!
14. We have six baptisms coming up in June and July – what a blessing!
15. I am starting to think about ways to re-engage people in worship and other church activities once our COVID restrictions have lifted. Ideas include a preaching series (perhaps with guest preachers), and a "revival"-like event on Rally Sunday!

Pastor Lane:

1. Home Visits with Holy Communion: 7 - 8 hours
2. Visits W/out Holy Communion: 2 hours
3. Services @ Assisted Living and Manor (and prep): 2 -3 hour
4. Services @ Nursing Home: 2 -3 hours
5. Staff Meeting: 4 @ 2 hours
6. Office Time: 0 hours
7. Sunday/Sat Sermon Prep and Service: 1 @ 13 hours
8. Maundy Thursday prep and service: 6 hours
9. Hospital Visits: 0
10. Meetings: 0
11. 498 HOPE: 4 hours
12. Newsletter
13. Response Team: 1 meeting 1 hour

Total Hours: 42 hours

Bekah Leafblad -

Sunday School

- Sunday School will come to an end on Sunday, May 9. We had five weeks of Sunday School in person this spring where students learned about Doubting Thomas, the Road to Emmaus, and the Holy Spirit.

Confirmation

- Our last evening of confirmation for this school year will be Wednesday, May 12.
- We had a great service night last Wednesday, where our students helped WELCA put together layettes.

Release Time

- Pastor Len and I were able to meet with K-4th graders from school for Release Time education in the months of April and May. We'll finish up on May 26.

Baccalaureate

- Trinity will host Baccalaureate for graduating seniors on Wednesday, June 2 at 7:00 p.m.

Summer Activities

- I am preparing for the following summer activities:
 - VBS - Wednesday evenings in June
 - Confirmation Camp - June 13-16 for 7th and 8th graders
 - Bonfires with Bekah - Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m. throughout the summer
 - Houseboat trip - July 19-22

Syttende Mai Meatball Dinner

- The youth of Trinity along with some other wonderful helpers are prepared to serve the Syttende Mai Meatball Dinner on Sunday, May 16 from 10:30-1:30! It will be a drive-through event.

TEAM REPORTS:

Care Ministry (Laurie)

- Big order from Channel One to help with packing meals for the school back packs.
- Little Pantry going well.
- Has Red's grocery cards available in the Good Samaritan Fund.

Communications (Mary)

- Will be meeting soon.

Education (Bethany)

- Sunday School wrapped up.
- Confirmation wrapped up.
- Gearing up for day camp.

Finance (Judy)

- Did not meet last month.

Outreach (Lara)

- Will be meeting – looking at how we can resume fellowship.

Mission (Dean)

- Meeting this coming Tuesday

Property (Dan)

- Met in late April to talk about insurance for the church properties.
- Looking at cement at the parsonage – looking at putting a ramp, - steps
- Talked to Landsom Brothers to look at some dead trees – 8 big trees, and 2 little trees.

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

- Met last night – sending out questioners to area churches on how they are budgeting for musicians.

Stewardship (Steve)

- Gift and memorial book – looking for someone to do calligraphy – Mary Zaffke will help needed.
- 6 month giving statements will be sent out at the end of June.
- Last Sunday in August will be Servant Sunday.
- Will be meeting again on June 1.

Worship (Kim)

- Will be meeting on May 23.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Response team updates
 - No longer have to RSVP to attend worship.
 - Still need to practice social distance.
 - We can now sing in worship with masks on.
 - Response team will meet late May.
2. Facility Planning update
 - Met with architect a couple of weeks ago and met last week. A couple of tweaks need to be made to the blueprints. They are hoping by June to have a plan to show council.
3. Diversity “Team” update
 - Nolie Kapplinger is taking the lead.
 - Team met 2 weeks ago. 6 members, and 2 could not make the meeting.
 - Just getting started to have some good conversations.
 - Group is meeting twice a month. Will be meeting again tomorrow evening.
4. Music Task Force update
 - Jan reported that Music Task Force met May 4th. Will meet one more time and will have summary soon.
5. Team Guidelines & Procedures
 - Communication, Finance, Outreach need to send their team guidelines to Saundy.
 - Saundy will be sending a working in progress report for the “Team and Committee Guidelines Document” to the council members to review.
 - Saundy will plan to go through this document beginning of the year.
6. Security update
 - Started locking the office doors on May 3, 2021.
 - Saturday A.A. Group wants to meet in the Gathering Room and not meet in the fellowship hall. This group meets wants to have a place that is more private as the people that attend want to remain anonymous.

7. VBS meals for Family Camp
 - a. June 9 - Finance, Communication, Property – Walking Tacos
 - b. June 16 - Care, Staffing, Stewardship – Chilly Dogs
 - c. June 23 - Education coordinating – TBD
 - d. June 30 - Worship, Outreach, Mission – Breakfast for Supper

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Synod Assembly report and offering
 - Synod Assembly meet May 8 via ZOOM and it went well. The Synod Assembly attendees from Trinity were Pr. Elizabeth, myself, Rachel Udstuen, and Willy Leafblad.
 - Trinity sent in \$1000 for our Synod Offering, which was budgeted.
 - 2 people are serving at the Synod - Jonah Udstuen is representative on the Synod Youth Jackie Weness is representative to Consultation Committee.
2. Insurance update (Property)
 - Dan met with Dave Selness — Dave recommends increasing our coverage to \$4.5 million. This comes to an extra \$1,500 a year premium for all properties - Trinity Center, Parsonage, Church.
 - Send to Finance to see if they have funds to cover the increase and will bring back to June meeting.
 - Dave also recommended that we look at a disaster plan.
3. Ideas for next book share/discussion
 - Read the book of Revolutions for the next 3 months.
 - Read chapters 1-7 by next's month council meeting. We will discuss in the first 15 minutes of the meeting.

Pr. Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8.55pm. Dan, Dean.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 9, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.

Upcoming dates:

- Newsletter articles due – not due until June 18 because the recent issue was for May/June

Submitted by, *Michelle Jahnke*