

TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION COUNCIL

June 9, 2021

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 7:33 pm on June 9, 2021.

Members Present:

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

Members Absent:

Laurie Moen

Pr. Elizabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary's Report for May 12, 2021 was approved. MSP (Dean, Jan)

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

- May offering (envelopes & online offerings) \$16,891
- Total income for May - \$18,617
- Total expenses for May - \$39,200
- Borrowed \$5,000 from Line of Credit
- Year to date Net Income - \$-23,043

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth:

1. The lessening of restrictions for worship and other activities has gone very well, I think. We're now resuming (almost) regular communion as well.
2. Baccalaureate went very well! We had terrific weather for the outdoor service which was also on FB Live. Approximately 2/3 of graduates and their families attended.
3. The Diversity Team has been continuing to meet, and the conversations have been excellent! We are collecting, reading, and watching various resources. Nolie Kapplinger has taken the lead, and the SEMN Synod is now beginning to gather information about congregations that are having diversity conversations. Nolie graciously volunteered to represent us with the Synod for future joint efforts.
4. The plan for a possible addition to the church building is VERY close and I believe it answers all the needs identified by the congregation very well—we'll discuss tonight.
5. The meatball dinner at Syttende Mai was a tremendous success. We may increase the number of meals next year –we ran out in an hour!
6. The virtual Festival of Homiletics May 18-21 was enlightening, as always. I really enjoy attending these conferences, even online. Bekah and I are now taking a Faith + Lead class called

"Burnout and Bias" that meets 1-1/2 hours a week for 4 weeks. The first session was very good, and I think there will be some good information to share with our Diversity group and for the congregation.

7. Wednesday Vacation Bible School begins tonight! I'm excited about our 7 p.m. Vesper services for June. Then confirmation camp is next week. Exhausting but wonderful!
8. We have (had) 6 baptisms coming up in June and July –what a blessing!
9. I am very excited about our plans for a "revival" weekend September 18-19. There is no doubt in my mind that the Holy Spirit has been present and active in our faith community for the past 15 months. But many people are understandably still cautious about group events, others have gotten into the habit of watching or listening to worship, and some have gotten discouraged about God's action in the world considering COVID, system racism, economic inequality, and political and social differences. As we come out of this pandemic, we have a great opportunity to gather and celebrate who –and Whose –we are, and to reignite our faith in God and our mission for the world. We have reserved the Fest Building for our regular 5 p.m. communion worship service Saturday, followed by a big community concert at 7 p.m. The theme of the weekend is "Behold, I make all things new" from Revelation 21. We'll coordinate this weekend with Rally Sunday for our youth, and hopefully a potluck lunch to follow. We'll send out "Save the Date" information in a few weeks, advertise in the local papers (and on KVIK), the bulletin, the newsletter, etc. And then another postcard in early September as a reminder.
10. I'm taking a week of vacation after July 4.

Pastor Lane:

1. Home visits with Holy Communion: 6-8 hours
2. Visits without Holy Communion: 2 hours
3. Services at Assisted Living, Tweeten Apts. And Manor (and Prep.): 2-3 hours
4. Services at Nursing Home: 1-1 hours
5. Staff Meeting: 4 at 3 hours
6. Office Time: 0 hours
7. Sunday/Saturday Sermon Prep. and Service: 1 at 13 hours
8. Hospital Visits: 0
9. Meetings: 0
10. 498 Hope: 4 hours
11. Newsletter
12. Response Team: 1 meeting 1 hour

Total Hours: 34 hours

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

Syttende Mai Meatball Dinner

- The meatball dinner was a huge success! Many people shared that the new drive-thru worked very well.
- We made a profit of \$3,404.81 and donated \$300 back to Trinity's general fund as a first fruits donation.

Vacation Bible School

- We have 8 families signed up to attend our Wednesday night VBS during June, which will be around 27 students and parents.
- Our curriculum will focus on the Lord's Prayer and how the ELCA impacts different communities around the world.
- Thank you to members of the council for serving meals before each VBS night!

Confirmation Camp

- Our 7th and 8th graders will attend Trinity's confirmation camp during the week of June 13-16.
- We have hired a bus to take a day trip to Good Earth Village on Tuesday, June 15. It will be great to spend some time on GEV's campus and interact with a few of the counselors from GEV.

Houseboat Trip

- Everything is going smoothly in planning the houseboat trip. We will have a participant meeting in June to go over last minute logistics and sign some paperwork.
- We will have a captain from S&S Boat Rentals take us from the rental location to a great beach on the Mississippi!

Bonfires at Bekah's

- Wednesday evening bonfires in my backyard will begin on June 9 at 8:30 and continue on Wednesdays throughout the summer.

Personal

- It is with great sadness that I will be resigning my position as Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry at Trinity effective August 1, 2021. Willy has accepted a position teaching 7-9 grade band in Lake City, MN. Our family will miss Spring Grove and the many friends we have made at Trinity.

TEAM REPORTS:

Care Ministry (Laurie)

- No report

Communications (Mary)

- Met with Pr. Elizabeth and Marlene, and then will be meeting as team in the near future.

Education (Bethany)

- The Meatball Dinner was a huge success. Made \$3404.81. \$300 given back Trinity General Fund as First fruits fund.
- 8 families for VBS – started today.
- Confirmation camp starts on Sunday.

Finance (Judy)

- Offering is up 3.7 % from last year.
- Thrivent matching dollars are less \$4,400 than last year.
- Total expenses are 159685. This is identical to the same time last year.

Outreach (Lara)

- Fellowship – plan to roll out fellowship on communion Sunday's - they are looking to hold fellowship outside. Will start on June 20.
- Working on boxes for college students in October. Still looking for more students to send boxes to.
- Planning on asking the congregation to make donations toward the boxes.
- Manicure Ministry – goal to be with shut ins for conversations and special time spent.

- Talked about having a community picnic on September 29. May look at having this a part of the revival weekend in September.

Mission (Dean)

- Mission Team met to discuss how to disburse money from the Missionary-for-a-day-candle and Noisy Offering.
 - Disbursements:
 - \$1,040 – Jacobsen Missions
 - \$500 – Lutheran Campus Ministry, Winona, MN
 - \$500 – Good Earth Village
 - Lorilyn is sending this money now.
- We will wait on Noisy Offering disbursements until more in account.

Property (Dan)

- Team did not meet.
- \$3,500 bid from Landsom Brothers to take down 8 ash trees and 4 pine trees at the parsonage.
- Still waiting on a bid from Ongrade Excavating for the cement work at the parsonage.

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

- There were 3 recent resignations: Bekah Leafblad, CYF Ministry, Lorilyn Dehning, Bookkeeper and Willy Leafblad, Bell Choir Director. The Bookkeeping position is being advertised and the CYF Ministry and Bell Choir Director positions will be advertised soon. Candidates for open positions will be interviewed after reviewing their qualifications and references.
- An exit interview is scheduled with Bekah Leafblad next Thursday, June 17th.
- A motion will be made at Council to renew Pr. Lane Zaffke's one-quarter time contact at the salary proposed in the 2021 budget. When his salary is renewed again, Staffing recommends a 2 year one-quarter time contract. This change from a one year to two-year contract was discussed with Pr. Lane.

Stewardship (Steve)

- Plan to send out the 6th month giving statements at the end of June.
- Talked about making envelopes for offering for the Sunday School and Confirmation students
- Servant Sunday is August 29.

Worship (Kim)

- Talked about the suggestions from the Music Task Force.
- Plan to meet in August to discuss the plan for the first few months of the fall. Will work with the music leaders.
- Working on the lector list.
- Working on the usher list.
- Working on the revival weekend event.

Bible Study

- Revelation Chapter 1-7
- Read chapters 8-14 for next month's meet.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Response team updates
 - Back to in person worship. Masks are encouraged for those who are uncomfortable and for those who have not be vaccinated.
 - Will not meet unless it is needed.
2. Facility Planning update
 - Saundy and Pr. Elizabeth present the preliminary blue prints for the church addition from the Visioning and Planning Team.
 - The Visioning and Planning Team will next look over the preliminary blue prints and talk with the contractor for a quoted price.
 - The Visioning and Planning Team will then bring this all to the congregation.
3. Diversity "Team"update
 - There are 8 people who have met 3 times and have talked about various diversity issues.
4. Music Task Force update
 - The Music Ministry Taskforce (MTF) was formed to review Trinity's music ministry; it's rich past, current offerings and possibilities for the future. The MTF completed their work in May and shared a report with the Council. The report included areas for consideration and a few recommendations that emerged after MTF discussions and review of surveys completed by music leaders and other involved in Music Ministry.
 - The Music Taskforce (MTF) proposed 4 areas for further consideration by the Pastor, Worship Team and others involved in Music Ministry. Areas included: 1) highlighting current Music Ministry, 2) integrating musical talent throughout the service, 3) enhancing contemporary worship service and, 4) increasing participation in Music Ministry.
 - The MTF made two recommendations for the Pastor, Finance, Staffing and Worship Teams. The recommendations included: 1) a review of Music Ministry budget including current staffing and projected needs and, 2) an evaluation of the planning and scheduling process for Music Ministry.
 - Challenges identified by MTF members and those surveyed included: a) recruitment of individuals for all aspect of Music Ministry, b) commitment required for participation in all aspects of Music Ministry and, c) competing obligations for all age groups and families who consider participation in Music Ministry.
 - The MTF also acknowledged the many contributions of those with musical gifts at Trinity and the considerable talents of our music leaders. The MTF concluded that music has been and will continue to be central to worship at Trinity.
 - Members of the MTF were J Kraabel (chair), B. Fried, K. Kapplinger, W. Leafblad, M. Schroeder, R. Storlie and J. Tollefsrud.
5. Team Guidelines & Procedures

- Saundy shared the “draft” copy. She is asking for all to read through all the teams’ responsibilities and suggest any changes or items missing.
 - Saundy is still waiting on Endowment.
6. VBS meals for Family Camp
 - a. June 9 - Finance, Communication & Property
 - b. June 16 - Care, Staffing & Stewardship
 - c. June 23 - Education coordinating
 - d. June 30 - Worship, Outreach & Mission
 7. Insurance
 - Judy made a motion to increase insurance coverage to \$4.5 million. This comes to an extra \$1,500 a year premium for all properties - Trinity Center, Parsonage, Church. The Worship Team will be asked to try to determine a value of the organ at which time another change to the policy may be necessary. Dan seconded. Passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Renewal of Pastor Lane’s contract
 - A motion was made by Jan to renew Pr. Lane Zaffke’s one-quarter time contract at the salary proposed in the 2021 budget. Dean seconded. Passed.
2. Personnel changes
 - Plans are to advertise the Children Youth & Family position in the next week.
3. Trees at the parsonage
 - Dan made a motion to have the Landsom Brothers remove the 12 trees at the parsonage. Jan seconded. Passed.
4. Endowments
 - Pr. Elizabeth received all 3 Endowment Reports. We have several special accounts. Saundy will plan to have as an agenda item in the near future to look at all the different special accounts.
5. All Team Retreat
 - Sunday, August 15, 2021. 10:30 am to 12:30 pm at the church.
6. Leafblad Family going away party
 - Sunday, August 1 as part of fellowship, right after church.

Doxology and adjournment:

- The meeting closed with singing of the doxology.
- Meeting adjourned at 9:50 pm.

Upcoming dates:

- Next Council meeting: Wednesday, July 14 at 7:30
 - Newsletter articles due: June 18 –this will be a July/August newsletter! Please plan ahead.
- Thank you!

Submitted by, *Michelle Jahnke*