

TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION COUNCIL

July 14, 2021

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 7:32 pm on July 14, 2021.

Members Present:

Pr. Elizabeth, Dan Alstad, Barb Arnold, Michelle Jahnke, Kim Kapplinger, Jan Kraabel, Bethany Moen, Laurie Moen, Steve Nelson (for Steve Kemp) Saundy Solum, Judy Tollefsrud, Dean Wiste, Mary Zaffke

Members Absent:

Lara Wold Mendez

Pr. Elizabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary's Report for June 9, 2021 was read and approved. MSP (Mary, Laurie)

Treasurer's Report (placed on file) Highlights listed below. MSP (Dean, Steve)

- June offering (envelopes & online offerings) \$ 25,728.
- Total income for June - \$ 32,628
- Total expenses for June - \$ 22,520
- Checking account balance at the end of June - \$ 10,721.
- Year to date Net Income - \$-12,905.
- The expenses in 2021 are less than in 2020.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth:

1. Vacation was great! Pr. Lane also had a good vacation I believe. Having foot surgery August 6 which will limit my mobility for 6-8 weeks. I will have a scooter and crutches to get around.
2. I attended a Bias and Burnout class on 4 Thursdays in June for an hour or so each day (all on Zoom, naturally), through Luther Seminary's Faith + Lead program. I am taking another one in August on Generosity. I also continue my work on the Synod's Fall Theological Retreat team. I also continue to participate in Spring Grove 2030 meetings and planning.
3. Vacation Bible School was not well-attended, especially toward the end when only 1-2 families attended. Hopeful we won't have to do it this way ever again.
4. Confirmation Camp, on the other hand, was great! It was wonderful to have 30 youth overnight at the church, at GEV for a day, and here all day on two other days. And I was right: It was exhausting!
5. We have 3 more baptisms this weekend – what a blessing!
6. Pr. Lane and I have also each had a funeral in the last few weeks.
7. Pr. Elliott Malm recently left Mabel First and Scheie for another call. They do not have an interim (and may not get one for some time). Pr. Lane is covering some pastoral visitation and, depending on how long the vacancy lasts, I may do some pastoral support as well. I plan to

Speak with Assistant to the Bishop Barb Streed to learn more about how they plan to move forward with this vacancy.

8. I am very excited about our plans for a weekend of "Fellowship and Renewal" September 18-19. As mentioned, 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 "See, I make all things new" from Revelation 21. Sunday's guest preacher will be Ret. Bishop April Larson (first female bishop in the ELCA, La Crosse Area Synod). We'll coordinate this weekend with Rally Sunday for our youth, and hopefully a fellowship time 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.
- I have already talked to Pr. Len Liptack to engage Faith of Blackhammer and Garness, and today I spoke with representatives of Mabel First and Scheie. I hope also to engage Wilmington, and possibly some other local area congregations as well. The Worship team is meeting next Wednesday to continue planning worship and music.

Pastor Lane:

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| 1. Home Visits with Holy Communion: | 6 visits @8 hours |
| 2. Visits without Holy Communion: | 2 visits @2 hours |
| 3. Services @ Assisted Living, Tweeten Apts. and Manor (and prep): | 2 services@4 hours |
| 4. Services @ Nursing Home: | 0 |
| 5. Staff Meeting: | 5 meetings@ 3 hours |
| 6. Office Time: | 2 hours |
| 7. Sunday/Sat Sermon Prep and Service: | 1 @ 13 hours |
| 8. Hospital Visits: | 3 @ 2 hours |
| 9. Driving time: | 7 hours |
| 10. Meetings: | 0 |
| 11. 498-HOPE: | 12 times @ 2 hours |
| 12. Newsletter: | 2 hours |
| 13. Response Team: | 1 meeting@1 hour |

Total Hours: 46 hours

1 Funeral for Nancy and John Kemp in Osakis, MN.

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

Vacation Bible School

- We had 8 families participate in our Wednesday night VBS during June. We discussed the Lord's Prayer and focused on a few phrases: "Give us this day our daily bread," "Your kingdom come," and "Hallowed be thy name."
- I had to cancel one of the evenings of VBS because I had the stomach flu.
- A huge thank you to everyone who helped provide meals for the VBS families! It was a fun fellowship time before VBS activities commenced.

Confirmation Camp

- Our 7th and 8th graders attended Trinity's confirmation camp during the week of June 13-16.

- We hired a bus to take a day trip to Good Earth Village on Tuesday, June 15. We had a great time getting to know GEV counselors and spending time in God's creation.
- Overall, running our own confirmation camp was a huge success, but I think students really felt they were missing out of the full camp experience. They loved the lock-in and wanted to stay over at church every night -I don't think I could have handled that! :) It was a fun and tiring week, but so worth it!

Houseboat Trip

- Everything is going smoothly in planning the houseboat trip. We had a participant meeting in June where we went over last-minute details and signed paperwork.
- Our final payment for the houseboat trip is due the day we depart. I plan on getting a cashier's check from Merchant's as there is a 3% cash discount. The cashier's check will be made to S&S Boat Rentals for \$2,890.91 (as opposed to \$2,980.32 if we didn't pay with cash).

Bonfires at Bekah's

- Wednesday evening bonfires in my backyard have started and will continue through July 28, except for July 21 when I will be on the houseboat trip.

Personal

- It has been a great honor to serve the youth and congregation members of Trinity for the last four and a half years. Thank you for treating me and my family with such love and care.

TEAM REPORTS:

Care Ministry (Laurie)

- Hoping to have her group meet prior to the council retreat.
- Nice donations coming in for the pantry.
- 8 mayo clinic parking passes were given as a gift from Jean Ellingson. These parking passes are available in the church office.
- SE MN Synod ELCA Covid 19 Food ministry grant – given 7 congregations, \$500 each – Trinity was one of the recipients.

Communications (Mary)

- Jean Ellingson will no longer be serving as she is moving out of the area. Tyson Grinde has declined being on the Communications Team. Mary will check into adding at least one more person to the team.

Education (Bethany)

- Did not meet.
- Need to replace a person on her team.

Finance (Judy)

- No report

Outreach (Lara)

- Outreach has many projects in the works, but on the forefront is gathering servers for fellowship and helping with the two going away celebrations.

Mission (Dean)

- Help serve the final vacation bible school supper.

Property (Dan)

- Reached out to Brian Whilhelmson for bid for cement work at the parsonage for the front steps. Brian said would be around \$400 to \$500. Back step cement work bid would be around \$100 to \$150.
- American Water Works for maintenance plan for water proofing and the radon – \$109 per year for this plan. After discission, it was decided to get a kit from public health to check the radon.

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

- The Staffing Team conducted an exit interview with Bekah Leafblad on June 17th. Bekah provided feedback on programs she initiated and shared challenges with recruiting volunteers and maintaining programs with Covid restrictions. Bekah felt supported at Trinity and was gratified by her successes in rebuilding a youth program.
- Discussions were held on hours, salaries and compensation for the part-time bookkeeper and Director of CYF Ministry positions and interviews were conducted.
- Council Motions

Stewardship (Steve)

- Will be meeting on August 11 to finalize plans for Servant Sunday, which will be August 29.

Worship (Kim)

- Will be meeting July 21, 2021.

BIBLE STUDY:

- Discussion was shared regarding Revelation, chapters 8-14.
- Saundy asked council members to read chapters 15-22 for next month's council meeting.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Facility Planning update – reached out to architects for pricing to present at the August meeting.
 - Barb reported that the Thrivent Fund for building project are 22,766 ahead.
 - The \$3,825 was transferred out of special account that was designated for the building project into the Trivent Fund.
2. Diversity "Conversations" update – it's more of community conversation group. Still working on a plan.
3. All-Team Retreat Sunday, August 15 10:30-12:30 at church. Saundy asked all to remind their team members about the all-team retreat.
4. Income Voucher and Expense Voucher:
 - Income voucher needs to be filled out completely, turned into the office and needs to be approved by council.
 - The expense voucher needs to be filled out completely with receipts included turned into the office and needs to be approved by council.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Personnel updates

- a. Bookkeeper – Motion from Staffing Team: To approve the hire of Nicole Krenzke on June 28th as Trinity's part-time bookkeeping at 10-12/hours per week. Seconded by Steve. MSP
- b. Director of Children, Youth, and Family (CYF)Ministry – Motion from Staffing Team: To hire Kerri Janke as Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry at 32 hours/week with starting date of July 27th. Seconded by Dean. Michelle abstained. MSP
2. Kim shared that the Worship Team will be looking for monetary assistance for the Worship and Renewal weekend, mostly for publicity. Will have more information at the next meeting.
3. Kim and the Worship Team will be looking to increase the line of budget for the worship team to hire professionals to add some music.
4. Judy said to submit budget requests by August.
5. Becca asked if she could buy the laptop that the church provided. Council said no.

Doxology and adjournment

- Mary made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Jan. Meeting adjourned at 8:56pm.

Upcoming dates:

- Next Council meeting: Wednesday, August 11 at 7:30 pm
- All-Team Retreat: Sunday, August 15 10:30 am-12:30 pm

Submitted by, *Michelle Jahnke*