

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

Trinity Lutheran Church Council

August 9, 2017

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council meeting was called to order by Mary Deters at 7:04 p.m. on August 9, 2017, in the Gathering Room of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Members present: Pastor Scaife, Mary Zaffke, Debra Spence, Lori Wilhelmson (for Jean Ellingson), Steve Nelson, Jacque Wennes, Steve Kemp, Barbara Arnold

Absent: Jean Ellingson

Guest: Nolie Kapplinger

Pastor Scaife opened the meeting with a prayer.

Mary expressed thanks to all who helped at the congregational meeting.

The July 12, 2017, **secretary's report** was approved as presented.

Treasurer's Report: Placed on file.

Income: Giving through envelopes and online has increased from this same period last year, but overall income is down 6.1 %.

Overall general expenses are down \$10,000 or 5.2%.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Jim: Presented an outline of items to consider regarding Financial and Timing Factors for the Interim Pastor Exit (30-day notice, severance pay, vacation, time between interim and permanent pastors). Also listed were some concerns regarding commitments to the one-quarter time role of the visitation pastor--the synod minimum salary guidelines, reductions in programming among them.

Pastor Lane: Provided an outline of his hours from July 13 through August 5 totaling 101 hours.

Bekah Leafblad : Release Time Schedule: 1st Wed. Kindergarten, 1-2 p.m.; 2nd Wed. 1st Grade, 2-3 p.m.; 3rd Wed., 2nd grade, 2-3 p.m.; 4th Wed. 3rd Grade, 1-2 p.m.; no classes on 5th Wed.

TEAM REPORTS:

Care Ministry (Debra):

- Considering ideas for the prayer loom
- Beginning plans for Christmas Cheer (18-25 families)
- Planning to do the Bag-A-Buck again for the Food Shelf
- Care Notes have been moved to the Fellowship Hall
- Meals on Wheels list is set for the next 8 months
- Looking for additional volunteers for the AMEN readers

Mission (Steve N.): Team did not meet.

Education (Jacque):

- Numbers increased for 2017: 21 in VBS and 19 in Day Camp
- Cards sent out to invite parents to an informational meeting on August 23 regarding Sunday School programming for 2017-2018.
- Bibles will be given to pre-schoolers on September 10.
- Cards sent out about an event for students in grades 9-12 at Shenanigans in La Crosse on August 27.
- Campfires are going well for the younger group but discontinued for the older group.
- Confirmation will be 5:30-7 at the church with a supper served by the parents at 5:30.
- Release time plans continue. A meeting will be held with Pr. Liptack
- Bean bags will be stored at the Trinity Center for the time being.
- Information on Advance Directives will be given after church services on September 17 and 24.

Outreach (Mary Z.):

- The Community Potluck was held on August 2. Thank you to Barb for getting some of the musicians.
- Working on the coffee fellowship list; asked if council teams might consider serving coffee.
- Work continues on the Time and Talents list.

Support (Steve K):

Staffing:

- Three applicants were interviewed for the part-time Administrative Professional/Bookkeeper position
- Working on annual reviews

Finance:

- Lorilyn asked about requiring two signatures on all checks—more information needs to be provided
- All teams are to provide a 2018 budget to her next month.

Stewardship:

- Planning a game feed after church to encourage a 1% increase in giving
- May consider pledge cards

Support:

How do the Endowment Funds work—currently there's a lot of money in them but it cannot be used until a certain amount is reached.

Property:

- Consider all the properties and what to do with them
- Lee needs some helpers as he ends up doing the tasks

Worship (Lori): Team did not meet.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

- **Call Committee update:** Because he felt it may be a conflict of interest with his new position at Trinity, Stewart Storlie has resigned from the Call Committee. Jessie Strinmoen will now become a voting member of the committee. Mary proposed that council members consider: What can we as a council do to welcome the new pastor and family?
- **Update on parsonage renovation:** There is about \$6,300 in the fund. It was suggested that the carpet be cleaned rather than replaced and that painting could be delayed to allow the new pastor to choose paint colors.
- **Tabled motion on 2nd parsonage:** MSC (Steve K., Steve N.) to table the motion again until the September meeting. The appraisal has not been completed.
- **Update on van gift:** Steve N. stated that he spoke with the church's insurance agent who recommends that the Kapplingers search for a different recipient because the church does not carry coverage for vehicles.
- **Update on moving offices around:** Spring Grove Communications is evaluating the wiring needs.
- **Update on the sound system:** It is estimated that the cost to move the sound system box to the back of the church will be approximately \$1,500.
- **Sign-up for newsletter article:** Jacque has submitted an article for the September newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Sabbatical policy/parental leave policy:** The Staffing Team continues their work on this.
- **Staffing recommendation for office personnel:** Nolie Kappliner presented a staffing recommendation regarding the part-time Administrative Professional/Bookkeeper position. **Motion** by Steve Kemp, **second** by Steve Nelson, to hire Stewart Storlie for the part-time Administrative Professional/Bookkeeper position for 18 hours per week (12 hours Admin. Prof., M,T; 6 hours Bookkeeper, W) at \$13.50 per hour, to begin on August 14, 2017. **Motion carried.**
- **Staffing recommendation on funerals:** This should include compensation for the custodian. David, Marlene, Stewart and Alan will meet to work out a plan.

Pastor Scaife closed the meeting with a prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Carol Rustad, Acting Secretary