

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

Trinity Lutheran Church Council

September 13, 2017

The Trinity Lutheran Church Council meeting was called to order by Mary Deters at 7:45 pm on September 13, 2017 in the Gathering Room at Trinity Lutheran.

Members Present: Pastor Scaife, Mary Deters, Lori Wilhelmson (for Debra Spence), Steve Nelson, Barb Arnold, Laurie Moen (for Jean Ellingson), Steve Kemp, Jacque Wennes, and Mary Zaffke.

Also Present: Bekah Leafblad (Youth & Family Coordinator)

Pastor Jim opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report for August 9, 2017 was approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report – placed on file.

- General Fund income is down 8.2%; however expenses are also down 10.7%.
- Accounts payable (approximately \$14k) is due.
- Net income is \$10k behind giving this same time last year.
- Bookkeeping continues to work on improving efficiency, accuracy, and accountability.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Jim

- For funerals, a stipend is to be paid to Lane. To date, no stipend has been paid but it was budgeted to pay him for 7 funerals.

Pastor Lane

- Provided a summary of his ministry hours from August 1-31.

Bekah

- In her report for September she highlighted Bonfires, Shenanigans, Release Time, Rotational Sunday School, Confirmation, ELCA Youth Gathering, and Fundraisers!

MSC (Jacque W, Steve N) to approve Bekah collecting \$40 per confirmation student to buy groceries for 18 meals during the 2017-2018 Confirmation season, to be prepared by parents.

(Note: If there are any hardship cases, parents may talk to Pastor Jim or Bekah).

MSC (Jacque W, Steve K) to approve the fundraising events planned (144 Envelope Challenge, Scrip Gift Cards, and Thanksgiving Pie Sales) for the ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston TX in June 2018.

TEAM REPORTS:

Care Ministry (Laurie M)

- Little Free Pantry is being discussed.

Education (Jacque W)

- A first reading of the Safe Church Policy, regarding safety of children while in activities related to church, was given to the Council. Work on the policy will continue by the Education Team and be presented for Council approval when completed.
- The Education Team budget has been completed and submitted to the Finance Team.
- The Education Team has agreed to pay a \$150.00 stipend to Dr. Wanda Deifelt, who will be a guest speaker on the Reformation during coffee hour on October 8th.
- The Education Team has approved Bekah Leafblad's attendance at the ELCA Youth Extravaganza event in Houston, TX, January 25-29. Airfare, hotel and registration expenses have been donated.

MSC (Jacque W, Steve K) to approve Bekah Leafblad attending the ELCA Youth Extravaganza, January 25-29, 2018 in Houston TX and to approve up to \$400 from the church budget.

Mission in the World (Steve N)

- Shared ways our members can respond to hurricane/fire relief efforts through Lutheran Disaster Relief and Thrivent matching funds.
- The Mission Team is partnering with WELCA to promote Lutheran World Relief (LWR) kits.
- LWR Sunday will be September 24th.
- The Mission Team is discussing alternative giving ideas for November/December.
- There is an opportunity to be involved in a Habitat for Humanity project in Hesper in 2018; and they are exploring other mission trip opportunities for 2019.

Outreach (Mary Z)

- Time & Talent sheets are available for Trinity members to complete. A member of the Outreach Team has offered to tabulate findings and an electronic version will also be made available.
- Members of the Outreach Team will be present during the fellowship coffee hour in September to offer encouragement to Trinity members to complete their Time & Talent.
- Following the Reformation Celebration on October 22nd, a reception is being considered featuring foods of the Reformation, known as "Katie's Table".

Support (Steve K)

Staffing:

- In the exit interview with Linda Pierce, she shared helpful suggestions for improving office efficiency.
- Marlene reports that Stewart is transitioning well.
- New office hours for Wednesdays: noon-6pm.
- Staffing reviews will be conducted in the next 3-4 weeks.
- Currently there is no written policy for use of church staff for funerals. As a ministry of Trinity Lutheran "to provide a welcoming, peaceful funeral worship service", a Staffing Team recommendation was presented to the Council for approval.

MSC (Steve K, Lori W) to accept and adopt the Visitation & Funeral proposal presented by Staffing.

Finance:

- The Education Team has given the Finance Team leader an expense voucher system for bookkeeping, that they will be utilizing, to support accurate areas of expenses. Copies of the expense vouchers will be given to all team leaders to use.

Stewardship:

- A Game Feed event is being planned after first of the year (2018).

Support:

- A video for the Call Committee to share with prospective candidates, featuring our church and community, is nearing completion, thanks to the creative talents of Karen Fried, Sarah Schroeder, and Eric Wold.

Property:

- Improvements will begin, using the \$7500 given so far for First Parsonage upgrades, once contractors are available to begin the work.
- Office space rearrangements/changes have been made.
- Carpet in SW entry is being replaced.
- Sound system has been moved to the back of the church; "sound issues" are being worked on.

Worship (Lori W)

- Reformation Celebration at 2 pm on October 22nd will feature an organ recital by Dr. Greg Petersen, followed by a reception. The Bell Choir will join him on one number. He will also be the guest organist during Sunday worship.
- Reformation Sunday and Confirmation Sunday is October 29th
- With Christmas Eve on Sunday this year, the Worship Team is planning a Lessons & Carols Worship Service at 9:15 am; and 3 & 5 pm Christmas Eve Worship Services.
- Pastor Jim encouraged the Council to "think about" holiday worship expectations when we have one pastor. Would we consider Thanksgiving Eve or no Christmas Day worship?

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

2nd Parsonage

- On behalf of the Finance Team, Steve K shared the recommendation of the Finance Team to sell the 2nd Parsonage.

MS (Steve K, Mary Z) to accept the recommendation of the Finance Team to sell the 2nd parsonage when Bekah Leafblad's contract is fulfilled on 2/8/2019 or at a later date determined by the Council.

Motion rescinded (Steve K, Mary Z) following Council discussion.

MSC (Steve N, Steve K) to table the sale of the 2nd parsonage until 2/2019, honoring the contract we have with Bekah Leafblad and the gifts she brings to our congregation.

Beary Patch Preschool

- From Bethany Bergsgaard, an update on the 4-Star Parent Aware Rating was given to the Council, including information on how the preschool is serving low income families through scholarships given to students to attend free of charge.
- Pr Jim, Mary D, and Jacque will meet with Bethany to continue caring conversations.
- A \$1000 donation has been given to Trinity by the Beary Patch Preschool.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sabbatical Leave Policy

- First Reading of the Sabbatical Leave Policy was given to the Council by the Staffing Team. Council member are to review and bring any changes to the October meeting.

SGHS Choir Concerts at Trinity

- Because of the positive comments she received last year, Bethany Engen, SGHS Choir teacher, has requested to have three concerts at Trinity for the 2017-2018 school year.

MSC (Laurie M, Steve N) to accept the request to have three concerts by the SGHS Choir at Trinity for the 2017-2018 school year, to be given on 12/18, 3/20, 5/22.

- A suggestion was made by Steve K encouraging representatives from the school to communicate with the Property Team – as a gesture of goodwill and thankfulness.

Pastor Jim closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 11 at 7:45 pm.

In HIS Service,

Karen Bingham