

**** Pending approval at the Annual Meeting in 2025 ****

Trinity Lutheran Church
2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

February 4, 2024

President Kim Kapplinger called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m. There were 60 members present in-person and 6 members online via Zoom.

Pastor Elizabeth led the group in prayer.

Len Myrah and Rachel Storlie made a motion to approve the Secretary minutes from the Annual Meeting in February 2023. Motion passed.

Steve Nelson presented the 2023 Financials and gave a short overview. He stated the church was in great financial shape. During the year, the church received \$59,000 in ERC funding with a small amount to come yet in 2024. All loans at the bank were paid off and the line of credit to ourselves was increased from \$16,000 to \$25,000 and this has all been used as of January 2024 payments. He explained accounts were opened at New Albin Savings Bank along with current accounts at Merchants Bank. This is to help stay within FDIC insurable guidelines to protect Trinity's monies. He also explained some of the funds in Special Accounts and their designations. Financial statements were audited on Jan. 21, 2024, by Sheri Allen and Autum Wiste. A motion was made by Milly Halverson and seconded by Barbara Arnold to approve the financial statements presented in the Annual Report. Motion passed.

Pastor Elizabeth then gave her report and commented on how excited she was to be called to Trinity six years ago. Her highs were all the great projects that had been completed in the last year (steeple, windows and previously the boiler/air conditioning). She is grateful for all the music at Trinity with the choir, handbells, and musicians. She thanked her wonderful staff and the outgoing team leads for all their work. Her low for the year was the loss of our Youth Director. She feels this will be a challenging year.

Presentation of the 2024 budget was done by Steve Nelson and assisted by Lorilyn Dehning because ZOOM had gone down and we were unable to re-connect with Jacque Wennes, Finance Team lead. The budget was completed using a three-year average of actual spending habits of the church. Discussion was held on the proposed budget since it had a negative balance. Len Myrah stated that we have a lot to be thankful for at Trinity. Pastor Elizabeth commented on the \$150,000 amount above the budget that was raised/paid for projects and missions of our church. One third of the congregation income comes in December. It is never fun to help pay the electric or garbage bill, but we need to get excited about all aspects of running our church. Jessi Strinmoen commented that the salary for a new youth director should be raised as she felt the salary currently in the budget is not a realistic amount to attract anyone. The youth need to become a priority, so we don't continue to lose members. It was explained how Vanco and Merchants bank electronic giving fees worked. Mark Udstuen asked about the possibility of getting Venmo or PayPal to help reduce bank fees. Lee Hoekstra and Terry Holland made a motion to approve the 2024 Budget as presented. Motion passed.

Mary Zaffke gave additions/changes to the team ballot. Nominations from the floor were received for the Nominating Committee for 2024: Barbara Arnold, Gary Wilhelmson, and Bev Nelson agreed to serve. Synod Assembly Delegates will be Terry Holland, Heather Gray, and Lorilyn Dehning. Dr. Jim Gray and Jessi Strinmoen made a motion for a unanimous team ballot. Motion Passed.

Other Business

The congregation was directed to read the reports from the Trinity Center/Release Time report and the Master Planning Committee Report.

Being no other business, Pastor Elizabeth led the congregation in a closing prayer and adjournment was at 11:30 a.m.

Installation of new and returning team and endowment members followed.

Respectfully submitted,

Lorilyn Dehning