

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

Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council

April 14, 2019

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Mary Deters at 11:15 am on April 14, 2019 in the Gathering Room at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Members Present: Mary Deters, Steve Nelson, Lorilyn Dehning (for Barb Arnold), Jacque Wennes, Steve Kemp, Willy Leafblad, Milly Halverson, and Lara Wold Mendez.

Also Present: Bekah Leafblad

Pr Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report for March 13, 2019 was approved.

Treasurer's Report (placed on file)

- March bills are paid and April giving has paid all obligations, plus some other outstanding expenses.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth (full report placed on file)

- April 15th marks one year at Trinity! A summary of new and different ways that have been done during her first year were shared.
- The first "farmer roundtable" event was Tuesday, March 26th. It focused on conversations, connecting solutions, and showing support to the challenges facing farm families and communities.

Pastor Lane

- Report to the Council included 60 hours of ministry:
 - Holy Communion services with prep (4 hours)
 - 2 Psalm studies with prep (4 hours)
 - 4 Staff Meetings (3 hours)
 - 9 Home Communions with travel (14 hours)
 - Saturday/2 Sunday Services with prep (23 hours)
 - Tweeten Nursing Home (1 hour)
 - 1 Pre-Marriage (2 hours)
 - Meeting with Care Team (1 hour)
 - Newsletter (2 hours)
 - 2 Hospital Visits (6 hours)

Bekah (full report placed on file)

- In her report, Bekah shared faith activities, fundraisers and gatherings that children, youth, and families of our congregation are engaged in.
- The first Middle School Game Night at her house was a success! She received positive comments from students and parents.
- A sample lesson plan for the Connect curriculum for 5-6th graders is available to look at in her office.

Care Ministry (Milly)

- They will serve the Lenten supper on Maundy Thursday.
- Tulips will be given to everyone on Easter Sunday in appreciation for all the acts of caring and kindness done in service to others.
- They are revising Friends & Faith and an article will be in the May newsletter. The Team plans to work on it through the summer with a training session in June. The Outreach Team offered to collaborate with Care Ministry.
- Mike & Laurie Moen were given \$100 for the Habitat build they are participating in. (Laurie serves on the Care Ministry Team).

Education (Jacque)

- Day Camp and Vacation Bible School will June 24-27.
- 15 Trinity members have expressed a willingness to be “professors” of Trinity U courses.
- Steve & Bev Nelson will host the April 25th “Thirst Day”.
- An online google survey assessing the release time program will be done.
- The Education Team addressed the Synod Report disparities and shared the following:
 - 1) **Willingness to try something new:** *Our Team believes we are doing a good job of trying new things ie. new curriculum for Sunday School and Trinity U.*
 - 2) **Work for social justice/advocacy:** *We plan to work on creating a Trinity U course dealing with social justice.*
 - 3) **Equipping our members to share their faith:** *We plan to work on a Trinity U course regarding leadership, speaking, and involvement. Also, youth will be involved in a summer program of “Flat Jesus” – taking him places and posting photos on social media while having fun with their “friend” by their side.*

Mission in the World (Steve N)

- The Chili Supper on March 29th, hosted by their Team, raised \$305 for the Habitat project.
- Mission in the World Team is focusing on raising funds for the Habitat project. A family has been chosen and ground breaking will be in May.

Outreach (Lara)

- Handwritten cards were sent to nursing home residents and shut ins.
- The Outreach Team assisted the Stewardship Team with their Servant Sunday brunch on March 31st.

Support (Steve K)

Property

- The Property Team is focusing on small projects for the next several months.
- Lee, Rick and Dana are doing some of the custodial duties; a few custodial jobs may pass onto other groups until the custodial position is filled.

Stewardship

- The Servant Sunday Brunch received \$442 in free will offering. 10% will be given to benevolence and the remainder to the Houston County Food Shelf.
- An outdoor service and picnic are being planned for the June Servant Sunday.

Communications

- No report

Finance

- To date, all bills are paid on the furnace/air conditioning project. Monies remain in the fund and donations are still being received.
- The tuck-pointing project is scheduled to be done this year.
- They are discussing increasing the rent on the garage at Trinity Center in 2020.

Staffing

- A part-time custodian position is being advertised. To date, two applications have been received.
- They are discussing Paid Time Off (PTO).

Worship (Willy)

- The Worship Team is planning Holy Week worship and special music.
- The credence table will have a new cloth for Easter.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Update from Teams regarding Lenten Suppers

- The Potato Bar Lenten Supper, served by the Worship Team, received free will offerings of \$250.
- The Taco “Bells” Lenten Supper, served by the Handbells & Rachel Storlie, received free will offerings of \$372.

Pastor Lane’s contract

MSC (Steve K, Steve N) to accept the recommendation of the Staffing Team to extend the ¼-time contract of Pastor Lane for another year at the salary approved in the 2019 budget.

Chamber of Commerce

- Discussions are in progress, as the benefits of establishing a Chamber of Commerce for the Spring Grove community are explored.

Update on Endowment Reports

- Year end and first quarter reports for each endowment will be included in the May newsletter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Trinity Center

- Hiawatha Valley Education Division is looking for a new location for the WIN program (What I Need). WIN serves students with learning needs. Trinity Center is one of the sites being considered. The Director has toured TC and consulted with Superintendent Udstuen about integrating with the school.
- A walk-through is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16th with a building consultant and Lee Hoekstra, from the Property Team, will also be present.

Lenten Suppers vs Lenten Brunches

Since Lenten Brunches were better attended and received more free will offerings, the pros and cons were briefly discussed regarding any changes. Tabled for now.

Finance Team Continuing Resolution update (Lorilyn)

The Finance Team presented a document with changes to be added to the Continuing Resolutions under the Finance Team section. Council members were asked to review the changes and be prepared to entertain a motion to approve in May.

Visioning & Planning/Building Team

- A summary and recommendation(s) from the Visioning and Planning Team will be available in May.
- If it is recommended to “move forward”, the next steps as outlined in the “Organizing the Congregation” document will be for the Council to appoint a chair to the Building Team. Once that is done, the Council and the Chairperson will select 6-8 people to serve, with the Pastor serving ex-officio.
- The tuck-pointing project is scheduled to be done this year. If this is impacted by the recommendation(s) of the Visioning & Planning Team, the Property Team’s input will be crucial to the decisions going forward.

Offering envelopes

Marlene is working on cost saving options for offering envelopes.

- Current envelopes cost approx. \$1400/yr
- Envelopes that cannot be mailed cost approx.. \$1076/yr (Note: current offering envelopes are seldom mailed).

Custodial duties

Pr Elizabeth asked if the following are to be considered custodial duties: putting hymn numbers on the board and ordering coffee and napkins.

- Council members felt that they should be added to the custodial duties

Pastor Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 12:35pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 8th at 7:45 pm in the Gathering Room.

In HIS Service,

Karen Bingham