

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

Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council

August 14, 2019

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Mary Deters at 7 pm on August 14, 2019 on the new deck of the parsonage.

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

Also Present: Len Myrah

Pr Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report for July 10, 2019 was approved.

Treasurer's Report (placed on file)

- Lorilyn requests budget figures from Teams before the end of August, with careful thought given to priority needs. Special account monies will not be used.
- Income is steady and bills are being paid. Expenses: \$31,485.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth (full report placed on file)

- Attended the FCTE (First Call Theological Education) meeting in Rochester on July 17th.
- Participated in the Relay for Life event.
- Churchwide Assembly in Milwaukee was a worship and learning experience, with some very profound and moving moments when the assembly voted to come together on certain issues.
- She will be attending Bishop Dezler's farewell celebration on August 18th.

Pastor Lane

- No report

Bekah

- In her report, Bekah shared faith activities, fundraisers and gatherings that children, youth, and families of our congregation are engaged in.
- The Indianapolis Mission Trip was a great experience for the Leafblad's and the nine youth who participated.
- She served as a voting member at the Churchwide Assembly. Highlights for her included the walk to the ICE office in Milwaukee and celebrating the milestones of 50 years of women's ordination, 40 years since the first woman of color was ordained, and 10 years since full inclusion of LGTQIA+ clergy.
- She is preparing for education programs (Sunday School, Release Time, Confirmation).

Care Ministry (Milly)

- Planning a Wisdom Luncheon to be held on Sunday, October 6th at noon. Trinity has 89 members over the age of 80.

Education (Jacque)

- Jacque made the following corrections to her July 10th report: the theme for Day Camp this summer was “Who Is My Neighbor” and the theme for Vacation Bible School was “Rolling River Rampage”. In 2020, Day Camp and VBS will be June 22-25, 2020.
- Education Team will meet on August 15th, now that Bekah has returned from the mission trip to Indianapolis and the Churchwide Assembly.
- Indianapolis Mission Trip was a great success. The 9 youth and the Leafblad’s were involved in serving the communities of Indianapolis at food banks and shelters, helping elderly with cleaning and yard work, and spending time with those in assisted living and nursing homes. One of the goals for the trip was to bring back these services to our local community. The youth will share their experiences with the congregation on Stewardship Sunday, September 29th.

Mission in the World (Steve N)

- The Mission Team focus is the Habitat project. The footings have been completed and Trinity’s workdays are on August 21st and August 24th, if there are no further delays with pouring the concrete.

Outreach (Lara)

- Busy with “Helping Hands”.
- Work continues on a new list for serving coffee fellowship.
- 12-15 people have expressed interest in joining Trinity on a New Member Sunday. The Outreach Team will be contacting each of them to confirm their intent.
- Discussing an idea to support and encourage young Mom’s.

Support (Lee H)

Property

- Received an insulation proposal for chancel ceiling and floor below bell tower (\$4,800). To add more insulation to the sanctuary ceiling is an additional \$3,200. This was not a part of the energy audit but Property was aware of the need.
- Wind has caused some damage to the steeple. Krause Konstruktion looked at the steeple, main roof, and chimney and cost estimates were: steeple (\$58,000), main roof (\$350,000 to \$375,000), and removal of chimney (\$8,220). The slate shingles are not covered by insurance.
- Railings at the SW entrance have been repaired. Thank you, Kyle Flatin.
- Work continues on church and Trinity Center Floors. Light fixtures are being retrofitted for LED bulbs.

Stewardship

- On the 5th Sunday in September, the 29th, the youth who participated in the Indianapolis Mission Trip will “Thank and Tell” about their experience.
- Mid-year statements were sent in July, with a Stewardship letter.
- Working with Habitat for Humanity to provide food for volunteers.

Communications

- No report

Finance

- We still owe \$15,000 to line of credit and \$14,000 to ourselves.
- Summer Surge has raised \$3,074 to date.
- Finance Team will be looking closely at the budget, focusing on ways to be more cost effective.
- Request open communication/information from Len Myrah and the Facilities Planning Team as architectural firms are contacted.
- Terms for 3 Finance Team members will end and need to be filled for 2020.

Staffing

- To help get office staff hours in line, they inquired if mid-year and end-of-year giving statements could be generated by the bookkeeper instead of by an administrative professional. Bookkeeper declined.
- Continue to work on Personnel Policy.

Worship (Mark S)

- Next meeting is scheduled for September 11th.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Update on Custodian Position(s)

- The new custodian is doing a good job of general cleaning. Lee, Rick, and Dana continue to tackle some of the other cleaning jobs, such as the floors.
- No decision has been made about who should be in charge of setting up for funerals.

Update on Parsonage Yard Improvements

- Best grass in town!

NEW BUSINESS:

Selection of the Facilities Planning Team (Len)

- Eight members expressed an interest in serving on the Facilities Planning Team: Bev Nelson, Mark Udstuen, Andy Allen, Nolie Kapplinger, Mark Dokken, Steve Kemp, Jacque Wennes, and Fred Arnold.

MSC (Steve N, Milly H) to approve and accept all eight members to serve on the Facilities Planning Team.

- Len has been in contact with several architects and several have agreed to “take a look”. Some of the architectural firms also have their own construction firms.

Paid Time Off (PTO) for part-time employees

- The Staffing Team prepared a PTO and Holiday Benefits for Part-Time Employees Policy for approval. The policy affects 3 part-time employees: Marlene, Stewart, Kayla. Action will be taken in September, so that the Council has time to review the policy proposal.

Pr Elizabeth will email a copy to the Congregation Council members.

September Noisy Offering – AMMPARO (Steve N)

MSC (Steve N, Milly) to designate the September Noisy Offering to AMMPARO.

Lease space for Living Well with Chronic Conditions (Pr Elizabeth)

- Living Well with Chronic Conditions is a group workshop designed to help people better manage their symptoms and improve their daily lives. They inquired about leasing a space one day per week for 2 hours for 6 weeks.

MSC (Milly, Barb) to lease space in the Gathering Room at Trinity on Tuesdays, from 9-11 am for 6 weeks for Living Well with Chronic Conditions.

Pr Elizabeth will inform them of our decision.

Churchwide Assembly

- Pr Elizabeth shared information on the approved resolution declaring the ELCA as a “sanctuary church body”.
- In Sunday’s bulletin she will include a letter from our bishops that addresses what this declaration means, as individuals and congregations.

Recommendation from Property

MSC (Lee H, Mark S) to approve the recommendation of the Property Team to accept Expert Insulations proposal for insulating the entire attic (chancel ceiling, floor below bell tower, sanctuary ceiling) for a total cost of \$7,939.

Pastor Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

Next Meeting: September 11, 2019 at 7:45 pm in the Gathering Room.

In HIS Service,

Karen Bingham