

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

Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council

August 8, 2018

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Mary Deters at 7:00 pm on August 8, 2018 at the Parsonage per Pastor Elizabeth's invitation.

Members Present: Pastor Elizabeth, Mary Deters, Milly Halverson, Steve Nelson, Barb Arnold, Jacque Wennes, Steve Kemp, Kim Kapplinger (for Willy Leafblad), and Mary Zaffke.

Pastor Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer. We are blessed to be a blessing!

Secretary's Report for July 11, 2018 was approved.

Treasurer's Report (placed on file)

- Envelope offering is up 9.2 % (\$14k ahead of a year ago).
- Expenses are running \$29k ahead of a year ago (primarily due to the severance package for Pr Scaife).
- The current figure for the Summer Surge Budget Booster fundraiser is \$8,900.
- The weekly average of members "in the pews" is 187.
- To date we have given \$2,000 to ELCA World Hunger and \$1,500 to the Houston County Food Shelf.
- The Gifts & Memorials Committee has been meeting and it is going well.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth

- She is taking her first Sunday off this week.
- Additional comments (see Continuing Business: All Team Retreat)

Pastor Lane

- Report to the Council included 44 hours of ministry:
 - Saturday/Sunday service and prep (14 ½ hours)
 - 1 Staff Meeting (1 hour)
 - 5 Home Communion visits (9 hours)
 - 4 Hospital visits (12 hours)
 - Online Training on Church Safety (1 ½ hours)
 - Services for Apts, Asstd Living, Manor, Tweeten (6 hours)
- Plus 1 funeral (7 hours)

Bekah (full report placed on file)

- Fellowship around bonfires continues for youth in 7-9th grades. It is a great group of 10-16 youth who don't think 8:30-10pm is enough time together!
- Rally Sunday on September 9th will celebrate all who are involved with Trinity's education programs; bibles will be given to 3-year olds, 3rd graders, 7th graders, and anyone who does not have one and would like one.
- The theme for Sunday School this year will be *Life Lessons from the Bible*.

TEAM REPORTS:

Care Ministry (Milly)

- Trinity's Tiny Pantry is almost empty because it is being used by our community. It is faithfully stocked by the Team.
- Information about the HIP program was given to SG School for their newsletter.
- Care Ministry has been bringing food to a member of their team who was recently diagnosed with cancer and will be undergoing treatment in the weeks ahead.

Education (Jacque)

- A Stockholder's Celebration will be held on September 23rd in the Fellowship Hall at 2pm. Personal stories and photos from the Youth Gathering in Houston will be shared.
- On Rally Sunday, September 9th, the Beary Patch Preschool will be honored and celebrated for 30 years of serving the community.

Mission in the World (Steve N)

- Mission Team will be meeting on August 19th.

Outreach (Mary Z)

- Calls are being made for coffee fellowship servers – an opportunity to share the gift of hospitality!
- Rain, hail, and wind during the Annual Community Potluck on August 1st did not "dampen" the fellowship time shared by those seeking shelter from the storm. An idea to gather together again in a winter month at the Evangelical Free Church was discussed.
- Outreach is partnering with the Methodist Church in Caledonia for their Free Rummage Sale and Back to School event to be held August 16-17th.
- Outreach is thoughtfully touching base with Trinity's new members and newly baptized.

Support (Steve K)

Property

- No report.

Stewardship

- The first “Servant Sunday” worship service and “Loaves and Fishes” feast was held on July 29th in Viking Memorial Park. Special thanks to the Worship and Outreach Teams for working with the Stewardship Team to dedicate the day to an alternative worship service focused on stewardship and outreach in our neighborhood. The free will offering of \$475 was given to the Houston County Food Shelf.
- Letters were mailed to Trinity member households to give thanks for their gifts of time, talents, and contributions, along with their 6-month contribution statements. A review of Trinity’s Income and Expenses for the period 1/01/2018 – 6/30/2018 was also included with the letter.

Communications

- Continue to coordinate with Marlene.
- Offered to make posters for the heating system fundraiser.

Finance

- At the August meeting of the Finance Team they discussed the Council’s decision to give 10% of envelope/online giving offering for 2019 benevolence.
- Ongoing Finance Team discussions include: current budget, 2019 budget, furnace/air conditioning project, and ideas for sharing financial information in monthly newsletters to keep members updated and informed.

Staffing

- Will not be implementing the Time Clock Wizard program/app for staff to use because it is more complicated than expected. For now, each staff member will categorize how they are spending their time and it will be evaluated later.
- To create a more standardized form for job descriptions, the Staffing Team continues to work on updated staff job descriptions and task lists.
- Continuing to work on creating a written Personnel Policy.
- Examining the bookkeeper position, along with the Finance Team, to provide for proper transparency and accountability.
- Due to lack of communication, the custodian has been working 40 hours/week, not the reduced summer hours approved by the Council of 30 hours/week. Steve K will contact a member of the Staffing Team to talk to David about the change.

Worship (Willy)

- No report

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Update on use of Trinity Center by SG School

- SG School did not need to use Trinity Center for Lion's Academy.

Bylaws Committee Update (Jacque)

- Serving on the Bylaws Committee: Janna Myrah, Jacque Wennes, and Pr Elizabeth.

Date for Congregational Forum to discuss Council composition (Mary D)

- With input from the Excelling in Mission Team in May, the Support Team in June, and the Transition Team in July, a congregational forum to discuss and communicate all the input and to give Trinity members an opportunity to give their input, is the next step.

MSC (Steve N, Milly) to schedule a congregational forum following worship on September 30th, to give Trinity members an opportunity to share their input regarding the composition of the Council.

Follow-up from Congregational Meeting on August 5

- Once the cost of the boiler replacement is known, we can inform and share information (letter, newsletter) and begin to ask for donations. Coffee fellowship time could serve as another way to inform and answer questions.
- The asbestos abatement is the "unknown".

All Team Retreat Follow-up (full report placed on file)

Pr Elizabeth shared a One-Page Ministry Draft from the retreat. It serves to draw us back to our mission.

- What differentiates us?
- How do we live out our mission as a faith community?
- List of key ministry ideas for outreach and care, education, worship and spirituality/fellowship.
- Accept that our goals will never be achieved – they are ongoing: *"Give voice to the Holy Spirit. Be a place and a people that help others find God. Connect, grow in faith, and uplift one another"*.

Landscape Survey

- In May, we will be electing a new bishop and staff. The survey is an opportunity to be part of that process. Due August 26th.

Facilities Use Policy (Jacque)

- Jacque met with Joe Deschler, Mark Dokken, and David Selness who offered some revisions to the policy. David Selness felt our liability coverage was excellent, so other organizations do not need to take out their own liability policy when they use our facilities.
- Jacque will continue to work on it and bring it to the council in September.
- Wedding and funeral policies will remain separate from the Facility Use Policy.

Newsletter Articles are due August 24

Youth Fundraising

Three fundraisers are being planned for 2019 and mission trips are being discussed:

- Stockholder sales will repeat in January at \$15/stock.
- Youth will serve Easter Breakfast on April 21st from 7-9 am.
- On May 19th, they will serve the Syttende Mai Meatball Dinner.
- They offered to serve Lenten Suppers, if no one else wants to.

MSC (Steve K, Jacque) to approve all of the youth fundraisers for 2019.

Request for a few hymnals for shut-ins who listen to the radio service

A request for a few hymnals for shut-ins came from Pr Lane. He suggested that 5 would be enough.

MSC (Milly, Mary Z) to buy a few hymnals for shut-ins who listen to the radio service.

Bag-A-Buck Fundraiser (Milly)

The Care Ministry Team is planning a Bag-A-Buck fundraiser on October 21st, during deer season.

MSC (Milly, Steve N) to have a Bag-A-Buck fundraiser on October 21st, for the benefit of the Houston County Food Shelf.

Update on Membership Database Project (Jacque)

- Marlene, Jacque, and Pr Elizabeth met to discuss a plan for reaching members to update information.
- Jacque informed the Council that half of the membership database is inactive. Mary Z sees this as **an outreach opportunity** to say, "We miss you". "We invite you to be a part of our faith community". Kim Kapplinger shared an experience when reaching out to an inactive member in a former church, who said, "*I didn't think the church cared about me anymore.*"
- Pr Elizabeth asked, "How do we define membership?" She challenged us to think thoughtfully about "requirements" for membership, which can alienate the millennials in our midst.

Pastor Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm. *Praise the Lord!*

Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 12th at 7:45 pm in the Gathering Room.

In HIS Service,

Karen Bingham