

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

Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council

December 11, 2019

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Mary Deters at 7:45 pm on December 11, 2019 in the Gathering Room.

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

Pr Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report for November 13, 2019 was approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report (placed on file)

- Approximately \$10k has been received in offering in December. We owe \$45k.
- Tuck pointing project has been paid in full.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth (full report placed on file)

- Attended several "farm crisis" meetings in the last few weeks, focused on mental health and resources for farm families.
- Attended her first Synod Nominating Committee meeting in November. The Synod is in good shape with positions mostly filled.
- The Root River Conference assembly will be February 9, 2020 in Chatfield and the Synod convention is in May (Syttende Mai weekend).
- Confirmation (Trinity U) is going well.
- The final architect presentation is Thursday, December 13 with Cashman, via Wieser.
- Attended the Root River conference pastor's meeting on December 10th; Trinity will host the January meeting on January 14th.
- Looking forward to a vacation after Christmas and the "Genesis to Revelation" class at Luther Seminary in January.

Pastor Lane

- Report to the Council included 69 ½ hours of ministry:
 - 8 Home Visits with Holy Communion (10 hours)
 - 4 Visits without Holy Communion (5 ½ hours)
 - 3 Services at Tweeten Apts, Assisted Living, and Manor (4 hours)
 - 2 Services at Nursing Home (2 hour)
 - 3 Staff Meetings (2 hours)
 - Office Time (6 hours)
 - 2 Sunday Sermon Prep and Service; Saturday included (22 hours)
 - 3 Hospital Visits (2 hours)
 - Road Time (12 hours)
 - Confirmation Psalm Class and prep (6 hours)
 - Newsletter (1 hour)
- 1 Burial (Bernie Krenzke)
Assisted with Funerals for Betty Storlie and Fred Arnold

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.
- Special thanks to Peggy Landsom for helping “roll the crusts” for the Thanksgiving pies.
- The themes for the Sunday School Christmas programs are “Bright Star, Bright Star, What Do You See?” (Preschool and Kindergarten) and “Joy Came Into the World” (1st – 6th Grades).
- Trinity U electives in November were: The Teen Girl’s Survival Guide, Christmas Caroling, and Spiritual Yoga.

Care Ministry (Milly)

- Packing Christmas Cheer baskets on Saturday, December 14th for 23 families and singles.
- Quilts will be given to the Heritage House family for Christmas.
- Continue to pack HIP lunches for kids at Spring Grove Public School. HIP families will receive gift certificates for Christmas.

Education (Jacque)

- Currently 9 students and 8 adults have signed up for the Puerto Rico Trip, July 25-August 1, 2020.
- The youth sold 56 pies for Thanksgiving, earning \$746.
- Thirst Day may be suspended temporarily due to low attendance.
- The Ed Team is reminding adults, in the bulletins and newsletters, that Trinity U courses are for youth and adults.
- Kaitlin Bratland will be filling in for Bekah during her 6 weeks of maternity leave.
- A baby shower for Baby Boy Leafblad will be held during coffee hour on December 22nd.

Mission in the World (Steve N)

- Thankful Gifts can be made for two more Sundays in December.
- The Heritage House is enclosed for the winter, so work can be done all winter long.

Outreach (Lara)

- Reverse Advent Calendars are available to all who want to thoughtfully celebrate Advent with acts of kindness, hospitality, and generosity. Our gifts will be an offering on Epiphany Sunday before distributing to the food shelf, housing shelter, etc. Lara will talk to Property (Lee) for suitable locations for collecting the donations.
- Christmas cards are being sent to Trinity members who are in the nursing home, assisted living, or shut-ins.
- Empty Bowls is being planned for 2020. Date to be decided.

Support (Steve K)

Property

- (see Continuing Business)

Stewardship

- Everyone on the membership list will be sent a Christmas card.

Communications

- No report.

Finance

- Budget discussion held on December 10th.

Staffing

- (see Continuing Business)

Worship (Willy)

- Completing volunteer lists for 2020.
- A new process for special music during worship will be posted on the music room door.
- Christmas Eve Services: 3pm Worship, 8pm Candlelight Worship; Christmas Day: 10 am Worship/Communion
- Brian Knox from Luther College will be doing maintenance on our pianos on December 12th.
- Receiving positive responses to the Vesper Service being used during Advent Worship on Wednesday evenings.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Update on Snow Removal Contract (Property)

- Tim and Tyler Ladsten are doing snow removal.

Update from Facilities Planning Committee (Pr Elizabeth)

- Final architect presentation on December 12th with Cashman, via Wieser.
- Next step: vote on which architect to choose.

Final Reading of 2020 Budget (Barb Arnold)

MSC (Steve K & Steve N) to accept the budget as presented.

Update from Nominating Committee

- Only a few positions left to fill: Council Secretary, Support Team Leader, Stewardship member, Synod Assembly member.

Pr Elizabeth will ask congregation members on Sunday to prayerfully consider serving on one of the remaining positions.

Bylaws Discussion:

- Change for the Treasurer's term of office will be listed under continuing business until a decision is made and Bylaws are changed.

Annual Meeting Items: Sale of Trinity Center

- An informational meeting will be held after worship on January 12, 2020, allowing for discussion and questions from members of the congregation.

Pr Elizabeth, Steve Kemp, and Mary Deters will prepare a written statement for the newsletter prior to the meeting, so congregation members are informed and have time to prayerfully consider this decision.

Reports for Annual Meeting

- Due Friday, January 10, 2020

Custodian/maintenance positions(s)

MSC (Steve K, Steve N) to hire Ben Salo as a part time custodian for up to 10 hours/week at \$12/hour.

- His duties will include:
 - Cleaning Trinity Center every school day (approx. 1hour/day)
 - Open and close Trinity Center for special events
 - Clean Trinity Center after special events
 - Clean the Church building on Thursdays
 - Clean the Church after other events, if needed (funerals, weddings, concerts, meetings, etc)
 - If needed, shovel around doorways, after the snow removal crew is done; spread salt/sand, if needed (especially on Sunday mornings before worship and Wednesday evenings).

- Staffing Team plans to continue advertising for a custodian after the holidays, since it is difficult to find someone with expertise, experience, and *energy* needed for the job. (*Note: Ben's custodial position is temporary*).

NEW BUSINESS:

New Computer

- The budget allows for the replacement of one computer per year. Pr Elizabeth will be the recipient of the new computer.

Pianos (Willy)

- Trinity has 4-5 pianos plus keyboards. The Worship Team is exploring if the pianos in the Gathering Room and at Trinity Center may be given away or donated.

Jacque will find out if Bethany uses the piano at Trinity Center; Steve N will find out if Habitat Restore takes piano donations.

Trinity Center Rental: Little Gnomes

A request was received from Little Gnomes inquiring if they could rent a room at Trinity Center for the after school program (Monday-Friday 3-6pm; 8 am-6pm summer/snow days

- Tabled for additional information. Lorilyn Dehning, manager of Little Gnome, will be asked to attend the January Congregation Council meeting.
- Input from the Property Team is also needed.

Barb Arnold to serve on Facilities Planning Team

MSC (Pr Elizabeth, Steve K) for Barb Arnold to fulfill Fred Arnold's position on the Facilities Planning Team. She will be a non-voting member in the selection of an architect.

Pastor Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Upcoming Events: Annual Meeting January 26, 2020

Next Meeting: January 8, 2020 at 7:45 pm in the Gathering Room.

In HIS Service,

Karen Bingham