

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

## **Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council**

December 9, 2020

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 6:30 pm on December 9, 2020 via Zoom conference call.

**Members Present:** Saundy Solum, Al Lochner, Dean Wiste, Lara Wold Mendez, Willy Leafblad, Barb Arnold, Sheri Allen, Jacque Wennes, Milly Halverson

Pr. Elizabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Secretary's Report** for November 11, 2020 was approved. MSP (Al, Dean)

**Treasurer's Report** (placed on file) Highlights listed below. MSP (Al, Dean)

- Income for 5 Sundays in November \$22,211
- Average per week \$4,440
- To meet the budget, it takes \$5,100 per week
- Expenses in November \$26,076
- Net loss of 7,150 for the month of November
- \$9,000 was paid back to government for PPE EIDL repayment

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

#### **Pastor Elizabeth**

1. The Thanksgiving service (pre-recorded) went very well.
2. Response Team made the prudent decision to continue virtual-only activities through the second Sunday in January. We will meet again in early January to assess the situation.
3. The Nominating Committee work is going very well! Saundy and I attended a meeting put on by the Synod about how to host a remote Annual Meeting. We will need to plan this very carefully. It's set for January 31.
4. I am also on the Synod Nominating Team. We met remotely on Dec. 2. The Synod Assembly will be one day only and held remotely in May this year.
5. I attended a Zoom "Equipping Conversations" meeting hosted by the Synod on Dec. 3 regarding "Leadership in Times of Anxiety." The leader, Deacon Mary Ann Schwabe, offered some great insights. This presentation will be offered again and any church leader – Bekah, council, etc. – are welcome to attend.
6. The Worship Team decorated the church on Nov. 28, and it looks lovely. We have some wonderful ways to celebrate Advent and Christmas even though we cannot be together in person:
  - a. Interactive Advent calendar on our website ([trinitysg.org](http://trinitysg.org)) (plus Reverse Advent Calendar and Thankful Gifts catalogue)
  - b. 498-HOPE meditations from Pr. Lane and me every day
  - c. Facebook "Live at 5" meditations from me every day
  - d. Wednesday virtual Advent services at 7:30

- e. Virtual Christmas concert Dec. 19 at 7:30 (KVIK and Facebook)
- f. Virtual Sunday School Christmas program Dec. 20 at 9:15
- g. Drive-through Nativity experience on Christmas Eve, including sheep and a donkey
- h. Christmas Day pre-recorded service at 10
- i. Lessons and Carols pre-recorded service on Dec. 27

7. The Facilities Planning Team will not meet until sometime in the new year. We have received an invoice from Wieser/Cashman.

8. Pastoral acts: Pastor Lane and I have had several more funerals in November and I had 2 baptisms as well. We do these with immediate family only.

9. Confirmation (via Zoom) begins again January 6 for 5 weeks.

10. I know this seems redundant, but on a personal note, my bathroom work is almost done.

### **Pastor Lane**

1. Home Visits with Holy Communion – 0
2. Visits W/out Holy Communion – 4 @ 4 hours
3. Phone calls - 8 hours
4. Services @ Tweeten Apt, Assisted Living and Manor (and Prep) 0
5. Services @ Nursing Home 0
6. Staff Meeting – 4 @ 2 1/2 hours
7. Office Time – 2 hours
8. Sunday/Sat Sermon Prep and Service – 2 @ 21 hours
9. Hospital Visits
10. Meetings 0
11. Newsletter – 2 hours
12. Response Team - 1 hour
13. Drive time - 3 hours
14. 498-HOPE – 2 hours

**Total Hours – 55 hours**

Ed Myrah, Ted Kroshus and Pat Blagsvedt Funerals 21 hours

## **Bekah Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Report**

### **Sunday School**

- Sunday School is not meeting in person for the month of December and at least the first two weeks of January.
- I have sent out the December packets with Advent and Christmas activities and supplies to every student (3-year-old through 6th grade) so they can have Sunday School at home as a family.
- Our Christmas Program this year will be virtual - I will put together a video of students reading from the Christmas story and singing songs that they have pre-recorded at home. Reading and singing assignments have been sent to 33 students. They will send their recordings to me by December 14 and the program will go live during our December 20 worship.
- I will be sending out a survey to parents asking if they would like another Sunday School packet in January.

### **Confirmation/Trinity U**

- Our second 5-week section of confirmation will begin on January 6. We will likely meet via Zoom for most, if not all, of those Wednesday evenings.

### **Release Time**

- Pastor Len and I decided with the rising numbers in Houston County that we should put Release Time on hold. We will reconvene when he and I feel more comfortable in that setting.

### **3:16s**

- 3:16s is continuing to meet online on Wednesday nights for the month of December.

### **MSGN**

- Middle School Game Nights will also be held online for the month of December via Zoom.

### **Houseboat Trip 2021**

- Unfortunately, no one attended the informational meeting in November, but I have been emailing with a few parents whose youth are interested.
- I have four youth signed up and two more thinking about it. The maximum is 10 youth.
- I still think we will be able to fill the boat - I will just need to ask more youth personally! And possibly open the trip to 8th graders.

### **Care Ministry (Milly)**

- Care team is planning Christmas cheer on Saturday with 31 homes delivering too. \$750 in Thrivent grants plus \$1,500. Team has received a request for food delivery to a couple that is unable to make their own food. Request for blankets. Team is getting blankets for Tweeten Lutheran and will deliver to the correct individuals. Meeting at 10am on Saturday. Laura team will help deliver.

### **Education (Jacque)**

- Bekah has sent out packets to Sunday School kids in November & December with activities and supplies for the cost of \$70 per month. She will take a survey in December and see if the packets are being utilized.
- 33 students are singing and/or reading. They are practicing/recording themselves and will send their videos to Bekah in time for the program to be broadcast during worship December 20<sup>th</sup>.

- Pastor Len decided we should not have Release Time classes with the recent surge of COVID cases.
- The youth are looking for someone to donate a futon for their youth room at Trinity Center.

### **Mission in the World (Dean)**

- Mission in the world team is planning the alternative giving and thankful gifts catalog this year. It will also be on the church website. Added local opportunities to alternative giving: Reds, Good Samaritan Fund, Houston County Food Shelf. Jan and Marlene did a great job making this catalog available on Trinity website.

### **Outreach (Lara)**

- Outreach team and Jesse Strinmoen helped orchestrate thanksgiving dinner which included 276 meals served. Delivered 100 meals in Spring Grove area. \$400 left over and given to Good Samaritan Fund. Marlene created the online advent calendar. \$47 spent on Advent calendars sent to Sunday School students via mail. More Advent calendars have been created to have at the door. Planning for Christmas, calling all shut ins. Team will continue to do personal calls around Christmas time and checking with meals on wheels to see if they are delivering through holidays. If not, plan is to purchase food and deliver to those people.

### **Support (Al)**

- Staffing Team report. Scott resigned on November 12. Pastor Elizabeth and Worship Team will determine how Scotts task will be managed. Staff reviews have been completed at this time. Stewardship has not met but they are sending out the annual Christmas cards next week.

### **Worship (Willy)**

- Worship Team met on November 22<sup>nd</sup> to prep for Advent. Also discussed what should be done for worship at this time. Decorated for Advent and planned services. Brainstormed Christmas worship schedule. Virtual Trinity Christmas concert made by community and congregants. Rachel Storlie is spearheading this Virtual Trinity Christmas. Rachel and Jean are creating a caroling video for at home sing along. Also exploring a new ELW liturgy 'All Creation Sings'. Scott resigned his temporary position.

### **Book discussion – “Interrupting Silence: God’s Command to Speak Out” by Walter Brueggemann**

- All members discussed their opinions of this book. Intent is to share with others in the congregation interested in reading the materials.

### **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

1. Response Team updates. Met 2 weeks ago, suspended in person worship through beginning of 2021. Meeting again January 5<sup>th</sup> to determine next steps. Bishop requested to be consistent with our service offerings to congregation to give plenty of time for planning.
2. Facility Plan update. Pr. Elizabeth stated that the team intended to meet in November but have been delayed until 2021. Last meeting had round 2 with the architect. Team intends to renew information to send back to the architect. Billed for CAD drawings, we now have detailed drawings of existing Church footprint.
3. 2021 Budget. No modifications requested.
4. Team Guidelines. Saundy pushed to January meeting.
5. Constitution Update. Synod changes have been applied and constitution committee made final modifications. Constitution will be brought to annual meeting.
6. Equity Team Update. Currently, no volunteers for this team.

7. Annual meeting. Plan for remote meeting. Saundy will make a motion is to adopt following resolution to do meetings remote. MSP (Milly, Jacque)

**Motion: To adopt the following continuing resolution, C10.08.A20 'This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically' to this congregation's by-laws.**

Discussion follows for ideas on annual meeting. A practice setup meeting is required to make sure everyone can connect if a remote annual meeting is to occur. Have a separate person monitor chat other than meeting leader. Make sure visuals are not used as some people may be on phones. How to maintain confidentiality in a vote on zoom? If you can identify who was there, ballot can be sent out ahead of time to be dropped off at church. Hybrid for people on site and via on zoom for people who do not have computers. Paper voting and electronic voting mixed. In person depends on COVID settings at the time for state of Minnesota. Al suggested, if we can work together to help facilitate in person groups with different locations and one person with the computer using zoom in the room. Printed packets to everyone with a type of RSVP as to how they will attend (options: phone, in person, computer). 85 are required for quorum. Annual meeting is set for January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Schedule for 11am as extra setup time is needed. Also, information could be provided on website on portal page accessed via login account behind a firewall.

Reports due December 18 to go into packets mailed prior to January 31<sup>st</sup> 11am meeting. Each leader for support must provide their own report.

8. Gift for Bishop Arends Update. Nolie and Kim are working on building a gift basket. A year of Spring Grove is the theme...a gift for each month. Very creative!

9. Nominating Committee Update. Milly a secretary, Care team leader, Education, mission in the world 1 person left to be replaced. Outreach is filled. Communications has Tyson Grinde for student position. Finance is filled, Property 1 person left to replace. Staffing, stewardship, worship, mission endowments filled, senate assembly 2 people left to be filled.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Security update. Pr. Elizabeth would like to have a doorbell added to Trinity center with a camera. \$1100 to install to allow door to be unlocked via software from within building. Motion to upgrade trinity center lock vote for system to be installed. MSP (Milly, Al)

Should church doors be locked? Some members are hesitant to lock all doors because their intent is to leave church open for those in need of spiritual help. Also, most congregants are used to door being unlocked. Other members are concerned of security issues. Team suggested to shutoff pilot lights on stoves because we are not using the stove at this time. Also, Pr. Elizabeth will talk to insurance representative to determine what occurs if damage is done in the church.

2. Meeting time for 2021. 7pm for January meeting.

3. Root River Conference – Pr. Elizabeth requested that a check for \$150 be sent to Root River Conference. Offerings are used for guest speakers, etc. MSP (Milly, Lara)

Pr. Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:26pm. MSP (Dean, Barb)

**Next Meeting: January 13, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom due to restrictions based on COVID-19 status.**

In HIS Service,

*Sheri Allen*