

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

Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council

February 13, 2019

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Mary Deters at 7:45 pm on February 13, 2019 in the Gathering Room at Trinity Lutheran Church. Welcome Lara as Team Leader for the Outreach Team!

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

Also Present: Lee Hoekstra

Pr Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report for January 9, 2019 was approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report (placed on file)

- Comparing January 2018 / 2019 envelope and online giving, shows we are down 11.5 %; however, expenses are also down 23%. As of 2/13/19 we are \$18k behind for the year (not including the money we have borrowed from ourselves).
- The budget reflects receiving \$5,100 per Sunday; we are averaging \$3,800 per Sunday.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth

- In January, Pr Elizabeth attended a Let's Talk Ministry event with other Root River pastors and laypeople. Models for cooperative ministry were presented, as many churches are facing challenges. *What are we called to do to support our neighbor churches facing challenges?*
- Pr Elizabeth has been nominated for a position on the Augsburg University board of directors, to represent the Root River conference. Voting will take place at the Synod Assembly in May.
- Laypeople who have volunteered to attend the Root River Conference Assembly are Willy Leafblad, Steve Kemp, and Jacque Wennes (via FaceTime).
- Pr Elizabeth is participating in a community group that is gathering together to address the potential "farm crisis". She will also be attending several resiliency workshops put on by Mayo Clinic and the Department of Agriculture. *How can we meet the needs of struggling farm families and others affected, from mental health to more substantive resources?*
- All-Team retreat will be held Sunday, March 3rd from 2-3pm. Discussion will focus on what it means to be a "transformed community of faith".

Jacque will inquire if she can attend the Root River Conference via FaceTime.

Pastor Lane

- Report to the Council included 58 ½ hours of ministry:
 - 2 Sunday sermons, services, and prep (19 hours)
 - Communion Services: Tweeten Care Center, Tweeten Apts, Asstd Living, Manor (5 hours w/ prep) Psalm
 - Study (4 hours)
 - 10 Home Visits with Communion (10 hours + 5 hours driving)
 - 2 Home Visits without Communion (2 hours)
 - 4 Hospital visits (3 hours + 6 hours driving)
 - Staff and general office time (3 hours)
 - Newsletter article (1 ½ 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.
- Planning to go on the Mission Trip to Indianapolis this summer are 9 youth and 2 adults.
- In January, Bekah attended the SEMN Synod Faith Formation Retreat and the ELCA Youth Ministry Network's Extravaganza. She is happy to share what she learned – just ask!

TEAM REPORTS:

Care Ministry

- No report

Education (Jacque)

- Sunday School has moved back to church. It is working well to have rotation teachers rotate rooms and students report to the same room each week.
- Confirmation students participated in a service project with WELCA, putting together 94 layettes and 50 school kits on February 6th.
- Stock sales are going well. To date, the youth have raised \$2,685 for the Indianapolis trip.
- Trinity U is being developed as a new confirmation program for the fall of 2019. The program will involve adults sharing their talents, hobbies, and Christian faith with youth through time and hands-on-experiences. Youth will also have a classroom setting for Christian education prepared by the pastor and Bekah.
- Based on input from parents, the Education Team is exploring the "Connect" curriculum by Sparkhouse, that is geared towards 5th and 6th graders.

Mission in the World (Steve N)

- Discussing how Trinity can support the Habitat for Humanity project.

Outreach (Lara)

- The Empty Bowls event raised \$800 for World Hunger and the Houston County Food Shelf.

Support (Steve K)

Property

- Waiting to see what the Visioning & Planning recommendations are before proceeding with projects at Trinity Center or church.
- Working with Andy Allen to get started on the storage area for the handbells and praise band equipment.
- The original estimate for the heating/cooling project was \$232,300. To date, we have spent \$197,729.55.
- Univents are installed, boilers have been inspected, and the cold weather showed some necessary "tweeks".

Stewardship

- The next Servant Sunday is March 31st and a brunch is being planned. Free-will offering will go to Houston County Food Shelf and "first fruits" to our ELCA benevolence commitment.

Communications

- No report

Finance

- No report

Staffing

- Completed the task list for the custodian
- Pr Elizabeth is in the process of meeting with each staff member to go over their annual review.

Worship (Willy)

- Planning is underway for the Lenten and Easter season worship services.
- Again for this season, postcards will be sent to our community inviting all to be a part of our worshipping community.
Ash Wednesday services will be held at noon and at 7pm.
- The Worship Team voted to use the traditional Holden Village liturgy during Lenten week 1,2, and 4 and the ELW Evening Prayer Service during week 3 and 5.
- Maundy Thursday will be a traditional communion service; Good Friday, a Tenebrae service; and Easter Sunday worship at 6:30 am and 9:15 am (with breakfast in between).

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

2019 Annual Meeting Date

MSC (Steve K, Barb) to schedule the 2019 Annual Meeting for January 26, 2020.

Visioning & Planning Update

- Wintry weather has caused some delay. Next scheduled meeting is March 11th.

Review of Current Church Model (1+ ¼ pastors, 1 FTCYF coordinator)

- Pr Elizabeth shared that the current church model is working. However, if Trinity were to be “yoked” to a neighbor church facing challenges, the current church model would need to be reviewed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Potential Fundraiser – Christmas card

- A Trinity member suggested making cards using the beautiful photo of the church found on page 3 of the annual report, as a possible fundraiser.

Update on Bookkeeper Position (Staffing, Pr Elizabeth)

- Two qualified applicants were interviewed. Lorilyn Dehning was offered and accepted the position , effective February 1st.

Finance Team Leader Change

- President Mary Deters officially nominated Alan Frydenlund to serve as the Finance Team Leader, to replace Lorilyn Dehning.

Funeral Policy Change Recommendation (Willy)

Willy presented recommendations from the Worship and Finance Teams to the following policies: Funeral Policies and Practice, Visitations and Funerals (recommended stipends), and TLCW Funeral Lunch Guidelines.

MSC (Willy, Steve N) to accept the recommended changes to Trinity’s funeral policies and stipends for visitations and funerals at Trinity, as presented by the Worship and Finance Teams.

Pr Elizabeth will coordinate with Jan Kraabel to make the following changes to the Funeral Policies and Practice by updating the Gifts and Memorials section

Willy will make the changes discussed to the Visitations and Funerals policy.

Pr Elizabeth and staff will notify area funeral directors of Trinity’s updated funeral policies, recommended stipends, and funeral lunch guidelines via letter, including copies of the updated policies.

Lenten Suppers

- March 13 – Youth
- Mission – TBD
- Worship – TBD

Way to turn on the Fellowship Hall lights from the elevator entrance (Mary)

Possible solutions were discussed to address “lighting the way”!

- Install an LED light in the Fellowship Hall that is on all the time.
- Use radio frequency, with a switch by elevator entrance – a more costly option.
- Use flashlight on your smart phone!

Puerto Rico Trip (Jacque)

Parents of youth have been surveyed regarding a mission trip to Puerto Rico in 2020 and the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2021. Of the 20 responses received, 45% said they would be interested in participating in both. Before proceeding, the Education Team requested Council endorsement.

MSC (Jacque, Steve K) that Trinity endorse the youth/adult intergenerational mission trip to Puerto Rico in 2020 and fundraising events as approved by the Congregation Council.

MSC (Jacque, Willy) that Trinity endorse the youth to attend the ELCA Youth Gathering in 2021 in Minneapolis MN and fundraising events as approved by the Congregation Council.

Trinity Constitution and Bylaws (Lee)

- It is recommended by the church wide assembly that the Constitution and bylaws be one document.
- Lee suggested forming a committee to re-examine our Constitution and bylaws, and to do so on an ongoing basis, since every 3 years the church wide assembly presents new amendments.

Mary will write a newsletter article asking for volunteers to serve on a committee to re-examine Trinity’s Constitution and bylaws.

Habitat for Humanity project (Steve N)

The following resolution was presented to the Congregation Council by the Mission in the World Team:

Whereas, the Bible teaches us that we are to love our neighbors as ourselves; and

Whereas, Trinity congregation’s mission statement supports a desire to be active members in creating a positive impact in our local community; and

Whereas, there is a great need for affordable housing in our community; and

Whereas, the Trinity Mission in the World team supports the opportunity to construct such a home in the Spring Grove community:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Trinity Council seek ways within the 2019 budget to support the effort to build a Habitat for Humanity home in Spring Grove by meeting the financial requirement from Habitat to contribute \$1000 to move their participation in Spring Grove forward.

MS (Steve N, Steve K) for Trinity Lutheran Church to be a non-profit sponsor of the Habitat for Humanity home in Spring Grove with a pledge of \$1000.

Discussion followed with suggestions for fulfilling our \$1000 pledge outside of the budget, such as Mission Endowment. On behalf of the Education Team, Jacque pledged a First Fruits offering of \$300 from the Syttende Mai fundraiser.

Motion Carried.

Photo of Pr Elizabeth

MSC (Barb, Lara) to have a professional photo of our new pastor taken for the Historical Bulletin Board by Katrina Myrah for a cost of \$75.

Servant Sunday Brunch

MSC (Steve K, Willy) to hold a Servant Sunday Brunch on the 5th Sunday in March, with a free-will offering being given to the Houston County Food Shelf and a First Fruits offering of 10% to ELCA benevolence commitment.

Candles (Willy)

- Candles will be purchased using funds from the Worship Team budget. (\$115)

Syttende Mai request

Pr Elizabeth received a request from the Syttende Mai committee asking if the grassy area north of the church could be used to host a Nerf War event during the celebration. The Council felt more information was needed before a decision could be made. Tabled.

Pr Elizabeth will email the Syttende Mai committee for additional information (such as supervision, time frame, parking issues, participation fee, etc).

Pastor Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, March 13th at 7:45 pm at the parsonage.

In HIS Service,

Karen Bingham