

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

## **Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council**

February 12, 2020

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 7:55 pm on February 12, 2020 in the Gathering Room.

**Members Present:** Saundy Solum, Al Lochner, Dean Wiste, Lara Wold Mendez, Willy Leafblad, Barb Arnold, Sheri Allen, Jacque Wennes (via FaceTime)

Pr. Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer.

**Secretary's Report** for January 8, 2020 was approved

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

- ELCA World Hunger Envelopes \$426.27
- Total Expenses \$33,852.92
- Net Income \$-11,736.10
- 3 payroll periods in January
- Noisy offering was missed February 9<sup>th</sup> due to cancellation, offering will be February 23<sup>rd</sup>.
- National recommendation is 2.7% for salary increase in 2020. Council will discuss options.

### **STAFF REPORTS:**

Pastor Elizabeth (placed on file) Highlights listed below.

- Pr. Elizabeth is feeling 98% improved and will be leaving for Taos, New Mexico for 9 days on her rescheduled vacation. Returning to lead worship on February 23, 2020.
- Pr. Elizabeth continues FCTE (First Call Theological Education) group meetings.
- Lenten theme is "Becoming a Disciple" with weekly themes of "Called," "Equipped," "Sent," "Supported," and "Prepared." Postcards will be sent to invite whole community to attend Lenten and Holy Week worship services.
- Strong congregational vitality is being proved by increased membership (+20 in 2019) and 5 upcoming baptisms.
- Root River conference pastors met in January hosted by WELCA at Trinity. Another meeting February 11<sup>th</sup> focused on supporting farmers in tough times featuring Cynthie Christensen as a speaker.
- Annual Meeting went well. Budget and special accounts were discussed and as a generous congregation, we focused on the mission that we are called to "use our gifts to serve God and to care for all people."
- February 9<sup>th</sup> service was cancelled due to weather conditions. Pr. Elizabeth, Rachel Storlie, and Rick Sundet executed the "radio only" service.

Pastor Lane (placed on file) Highlights listed below.

- Report to the Council included 67.5 hours of ministry:
  - 7 home visits with Holy Communion (8 hours)
  - 3 home visits without Holy Communion (2.5 hours)
  - 3 Services at Tweeten Apts., Assisted Living and Manor (5 hours)
  - 3 Staff Meetings (2 hours)
  - Office Time (3 hours)
  - 3 Sunday Sermon Prep and Service; Saturday included (21 hours)
  - 6 Hospital Visits (3 hours)
  - Confirmation Paul's Letter class and prep (9 hours)
  - Road Time (13 hours)
  - Newsletter (1 hour)

Bekah (Maternity Leave)

**Care Ministry** (Pr. Elizabeth in lieu of Milly)

- Last year's care event with light fellowship after Ash Wednesday noon service was a great success and will be done again this year.

**Education** (Jacque)

- Kaitlin Bratland is filling in for Bekah while on maternity leave.
- Next fundraiser will be the Lenten suppers.
- Team will be putting together a movie night package for Jennifer Wedmann benefit.

**Mission in the World** (Dean)

- \$859.50 check is on hold for Habitat for Humanity. Church has provided the check, but it is currently on hold until further conversations with Steve Nelson.

**Outreach** (Lara)

- Planning upcoming "Empty Bowls" event. Next meeting will be after the event is completed to greet new members.

**Support** (Al)

- Stewardship met and Steve filled in new members on current procedures. The only open issue is the janitorial position.

**Worship** (Willy)

- Worship team is planning to meet Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss Lenten and Easter services with Pr. Elizabeth.

**CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

- Pr. Elizabeth gave the Council an update on the meeting with Jeff Wieser and his architect Greg Cashman. Feedback forms were filled out by special committee and presented to the architect. Results from architect are expected to be presented by architect to team on or before the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in March.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### Appoint Vice President

- MSP (Willy, AI) To nominate Milly Halverson for Congregation Council Vice President position.

### Council Meeting Time

- Meeting time will remain at 7:45pm 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month. Meeting time will be readdressed during summer months.

### Rosendahl Fund

- MSP (Dean, AI) To move the Rosendahl fund from the Heritage Endowment umbrella into a separate fund in a Thrivent account. The Rosendahl bequest is dedicated for a ground floor addition to the existing church building.

### Custodial Position

- MSP (AI, Dean) made a motion to hire Gary Wilhelmson to fill custodial position at Trinity. This position will consist of maintenance and cleaning. Trinity will pay for Gary to obtain a boiler license. Initial pay will be \$12/hr. with increase after 90 days.

### Report to ELCA

- Pr. Elizabeth presented the Council with a questionnaire to complete and bring to March meeting. This questionnaire collects information on the goals, faith, and relationships among our congregation.

### Chamber of Commerce

- Spring Grove Chamber of Commerce has invited Council members to their visioning meeting to be held on February 19, 2020 at Jo's Coffee House 5:30pm-7:00pm. Lara and Dean will attend to represent Trinity and report back at the March Council meeting.

### Lenten meals

- The following teams will serve meals prior to Lenten services. Plan for 40-50 attendees. Each team will decide where the funding goes that was raised on their evening.
  - March 4<sup>th</sup> – Support Team
  - March 11<sup>th</sup> – Mission in the World Team
  - March 18<sup>th</sup> – Worship Team
  - March 25<sup>th</sup> – Care Ministry Team (Spaghetti)
  - April 1<sup>st</sup> – Youth

### Snowmobile use on property

- Snowmobiles have been cutting through Trinity property near cemetery. Saundy will contact the snowmobile club.

### All Team Retreat

- Pr. Elizabeth would like to schedule an all team retreat this summer. While attending the retreat, each team would focus on where they would like to spend their time and attention regarding our Lutheran identity. Also, determine our mission and raise any specific areas that Trinity should focus on for the next 3 years. Tentative time would be a Sunday afternoon during the month of July.

## Office Computers

- Pr. Elizabeth stated that current office computers are out of date and capacity is not adequate for updated software needs. Judy is working with Ryan at Spring Grove Communications to develop a plan to determine replacement computers. Ryan will be attending Finance Meeting in March with recommendations.

Pr. Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer and doxology.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm.

**Next Meeting: March 11, 2020 at 7:45pm in the Gathering Room.**

In HIS Service,

Sheri Allen