

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

**Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council**

January 13, 2020

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 7:00 pm on January 13, 2021 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, Judy Tollufsrud

Pr. Elizabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

**Secretary's Report** for December 9, 2020 was approved. MSP (Milly, Al)

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

- Total Income for 2020 \$353,120.00
- \$7261.00 increased income in 2020 above 2019
- Total Expenses for 2020 360,275.00
- \$29,330 increased expenses in 2020 above 2019
- Balance at end of dec \$10,900
- January offering \$3200 online and envelopes
- Reminder for teams to use request forms for raising funds, requests are to be approved by council.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Pastor Elizabeth**

1. The Response Team made the prudent decision to continue virtual-only activities through the second Sunday in February. We will meet again in early February to assess the situation. I do not know what Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter week will look like yet, but I have faith that this community of faith is responding faithfully to God's call for us during this time.
2. I will very likely do a "Facebook Live at 5" set of meditations for Lent like Advent. One way or the other I believe we will be together, in person, for Easter!
3. We have some work to do this week (and the next weeks) to prepare for the annual meeting. Q&A on January 24 and the voting on January 31.
4. Our Advent and Christmas celebrations were well-received, even though we could not be together in person. I am unsurprised and overjoyed that we ended the year in the black!
5. The Facilities Planning Team will not meet until sometime in the new year. (As I write this, I am meeting with Len Myrah on Tuesday to plan.) We received a large donation toward the new addition.
6. Confirmation (via Zoom) began January 6 for 5 weeks.
7. In addition to the Synod Nominating Committee, I have also been asked to serve on the Synod Fall Theological Planning committee. We meet for the first time (via Zoom) on January 26.
8. I attended a Synod Zoom worship and prayer service this morning in response to the events in Washington, D.C., this morning. I will keep reiterating my mantra of the last few months: We are the Body of Christ, and there are no "sides" and no "divides" in this body. I pray continually that we all have the humility to look inward and the grace to look outward without judging our fellow humans. This will take work in this our confused, hurt, and divided country, but we are called to model the Kingdom of God. It's work worth doing!

9. My much-needed vacation was great. I read a lot of books, took a lot of walks, and ate a lot of good Southwest food. I am ready to begin the new year!

### **Pastor Lane**

1. Home Visits with Holy Communion – 0
  2. Visits W/out Holy Communion – 1 hours
  3. Homebound connection - Phone calls, cards, delivering Pods - 11 hours
  4. Services @ Tweeten Apt, Assisted Living and Manor (and Prep) 0
  5. Services @ Nursing Home 0
  6. Staff Meeting – 2 @ 1 1/2 hours
  7. Office Time – 2 hours
  8. Sunday/Sat Sermon Prep and Service – 1 @ 9 hours
  9. Hospital Visits
  10. Meetings 0
  11. 498 HOPE - 3.5 hours
  12. Newsletter – 2 hours
  13. Response Team - 0
- Total Hours – 28 hours
- Truman Haugstad and Owen Hagen Funerals 2 hours

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

#### **Sunday School**

- Sunday School will not meet in person for the month of January and at least the first two weeks of February.
- I have sent out January At-Home Sunday School packets with activities and supplies to learn about Simeon and Anna and Jesus as a boy in the temple.
- Our Christmas Program on December 20 was a hit! I heard many positive comments from members of the congregation. Plus, I think the children enjoyed seeing themselves on screen!
- The survey responses from last month showed that most parents were at least using some of the activities in the At-Home Sunday School packets, so I will plan to continue sending them while in-person larger activities are suspended at church.

#### **Confirmation/Trinity U**

- Our second 5-week session began on January 6. We will meet on Zoom for the remaining of this 5-week session.
- We have different speakers coming in to share about their vocation! Those speakers include Scott Bingham, Rachel Udstuen, Scott Solberg, Bishop Regina Hassanally, and Professor Todd Green from Luther College.
- I have not scheduled any Trinity U courses yet this year as I was waiting for the decision from the Trinity Response Team on whether groups could meet or not. Now that groups of 10 can meet in the building, I plan on offering some smaller classes if students/parents are comfortable with that.

## **Release Time**

- Release Time is still on a break.

## **3:16s and MSGN**

- Our high school youth group continues to meet on Wednesday nights at 8:00 on Zoom.
- Middle School Game Nights continue to meet every other Friday night at 7:30 on Zoom. Stock Sales
- We hope to have our Stock Sales fundraiser in February before Lent begins. In the past, youth have tended not to like this fundraiser because they have to make phone calls, but I like to continue it because it allows them to connect with members of our congregation and can make them some great money for their trips!

## **Houseboat Trip 2021**

- The Education Team has decided to open up the trip to 8th graders so that we can fill the houseboat!
- We currently have four youth signed up from 9th and 10th grade, so hopefully we can get to our max of 10 with some 8th graders joining us!

## **Extravaganza 2021**

- I will be attending the ELCA Youth Ministry Network's Extravaganza virtually February 4-6. It is a time for youth ministry workers to gather, worship, learn, and share ideas about their ministry. As of right now, more than 1,000 youth workers are registered to attend.

## **Care Ministry (Milly)**

- Care team delivered 31 bags of groceries, toys, games, Red's IGA gift certificates for Christmas Cheer on the Saturday before Christmas. Donation received of \$500, gave to needy families. 3 illness family received funds as well. Lori Moen is taking over lead on Care Team.

## **Education (Jacque)**

- Ed Team met 1-7-21.
- Since the Christmas program was such a great success the education team suggested to Bekah to produce something similar for Easter.
- Confirmation's second 5-week session began on January 6 via Zoom.
- Education Team has decided to open the houseboat trip to 8th graders so we can fill the houseboat.
- We discussed church safety and general thoughts are that the church is a safe place for people to get warm or escape from hardship anytime.
- I want to thank everyone for this last 4 years serving as Education Team Leader. It has been a blessing to serve the members of Trinity Church.

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

- Mission in the World team reviewed end of year report and discussed how moneys from missionaries were distributed.

## **Outreach (Lara)**

- Outreach Team targeted helping meals on wheels to get meals delivered for SEMCAC. 56 people were served. \$1200 in donations. Delivered on Christmas Eve day a hot meal from Ivy Grove. Also, a cold meal from Red's were delivered to heat up on Christmas Day. Care packages and cards were put together by members of community. Also discussed plan for 2021. Sock drive currently going on.

## **Support (Al)**

- No group meetings since last meeting except Finance. Finance update from Judy. Finance reviewed budget and approved budget.

## **Worship (Willy)**

- Worship Team met last Sunday. Highlights include reviewed December, Advent decorating, virtual caroling, Christmas. Kim Kaplinger will be new lead after Annual meeting. Music ministry is forming, and Kim will also serve on the music ministry team. Planning forward for lent, discussed possibly liturgy.

## **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

1. Response Team updates – team met last week. Holding off in person worship currently. Suspending in person worship through February 15th. Meetings of less than 10 people can occur at church with distance and masks still worn. Mabel First is having prayer services in person. This is being held as a joint prayer service, Pr. Elizabeth will attend as well as Rachel Storlie. Meeting again in February to discuss next steps.
2. Facility Plan update - Team has not met. Plan to meet next week on Tuesday 5:30pm mixed via zoom and church socially distanced. A new donor has given \$500,000 donation for the building fund. A finance/fundraising team should be assigned for this project, including a person from the finance team. Also, \$100,000 to scholarship endowment was donated.
3. 2021 Budget. Final budget reviewed.
4. Team Guidelines. Saundy is collecting team guidelines and would like to set it up like a handbook. Saundy asking if team should have goals listed or just activities done by the team. Teams are not consistent at the time. Format should have team mission at the top. Saundy will standardize and send out to each team to confirm changes.
5. Constitution is prepared for annual meeting. A few grammar modifications will be made prior to printing. Will not be mailing it out, it can be picked up at church or available for download.
6. Annual meeting plan. Pr. Elizabeth drafted a letter. Council needs to decide format. Less complicated if 1 format is used. Could 10 attend in church basement and 10 upstairs? Does zoom have a limit of 100? Need at least 85. QA on the 24th. Actual meeting on the 31st. 346 active and 306 inactive, 652 households. Ballot and constitution changes and red/green slips rsvp card will be mailed. Attendance will need to be taken. 24th practice session.
7. Bishop Arends gift and thank you. Year of Spring Grove. Nolie and Kim organized and delivered. Trinity received a nice thank you.
8. Nominating Committee Update. Milly stated they are meeting tomorrow night. Willy is looking for 1.5 people and Milly looking for 1 person. Numbers per team are suggestions, not in the by-laws.
9. Security update. Pr. Elizabeth discussed security discussions. Council discussed locking the church for safety, or not.
  - a. Insurance update from Dave Selness. Dave feels that door should be kept open for pantry unless we have damage week after week.
  - b. Kitchen Update. Gas has been turned off to stoves.
  - c. Trinity Center Update. Installed camera door lock/doorbell system. Trinity Center is locked 24/7. Press doorbell and Bethany can unlock from the inside. Key cards are also distributed. Picture is also taken of those at doorbell. All at a cost of \$1100.
  - d. Barb moves that we lock the church, Willy seconds it. Start locking after the annual meeting. Discussion. Chief Foltz suggested that we lock the church. Motion to table Milly Pr. Elizabeth.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### 1. 2021 Council meetings

a. February – zoom or in person. Council chooses to be zoom in February. After annual meeting, full teams on council. Al will be going off and his position will be gone if new constitution passes.

2. Banking authority. Making sure right people are on the bank account. Judy Tolufsrud Finance Lead needs to be added. Modify the form. Motion to approve with changes. MSP (Al, Dean)

3. Event fundraising form. Add a note for special circumstances to the form to be approved by Pr. And council president and team lead if needed prior to next council meeting or 2 months' timeframe. Add lines for signatures/dates. Saundy will take this as a to do. MSP (Lara, Milly)

4. Previously, people paid to sponsor a radio broadcast, now it will be a sponsor for Media Ministry where moneys can go toward radio broadcast, licensing, equipment, etc. Council agrees this is a great idea to expand the fund designation.

5. Facebook Live for funerals. Do we want to charge for usage of FB live? Council agrees to charge a \$10 fee. Willy will discuss with worship team for funeral policy modifications.

Pr. Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:18pm. MSP (Dean, Barb)

**Next Meeting: February 10, 2021 at 7:00pm via Zoom due to restrictions based on COVID-19 status.**

In HIS Service,

*Sheri Allen*