

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

Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council

July 8, 2020

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 7:00 pm on July 8, 2020 via a combination of members wearing masks in the Gathering Room and via Zoom conference call.

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

Pr. Elizabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary's Report for June 10, 2020 was approved with one modification. In the Treasurer's Report from June 10 the following statement: 'Property insurance, liability and workers compensation insurance are paid through Dec. 2020' should read as 'Property insurance and liability are paid through Dec. 2020.' MSP (Al, Barb)

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

- \$18,000 envelope and online offering
- Down 6.5% Jan-June from 2019
- Expenses Jan-June increased 10% from 2019
- \$30,522 June monthly expense
- \$ -5,295 June monthly income
- Printer costs have increased unexpectedly, and Barb will follow-up and bring details to next meeting

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth

- Pr. Elizabeth returned from vacation today. Had a wonderful time quarantined in New Mexico.

Pastor Lane

- Home Visits with Holy Communion: 8 @ 10 hours
- Visits without Holy Communion: 1 @ 1 hour
- Services @ Tweeten Apt, Assisted Living, and Manor (and prep): 0
- Services @ Nursing Home: 0
- Staff Meeting: 3 @ 1 hour
- Office Time: 0
- Sunday Sermon Prep and Service: 1 @ 12 hours
- Hospital Visits: 2 @ 2 hours
- Meetings: 0
- Newsletter: 0

Total Hours: 26 hours

2 Funerals: Sharon Storlie and Cameron Brauer - 15 hours

Bekah

- Nothing reported.

Care Ministry (Milly)

- Not present. Nothing reported.

Education (Jacque)

- First Communion will be August 9 with a class held on August 2. We will utilize a safe plan of attendance. Renee Eiken will assist the class of seven to complete their first communion cups.
- The Education Team has decided to cancel Day Camp and Vacation Bible School (VBS) this summer. Bekah will send some activities online to parents for their kids at home.
- Since Syttende Mai has been cancelled for August, the youth will not have their meatball dinner this year.

Mission in the World (Dean)

- Nothing to report.

Outreach (Lara)

- Small subset of Outreach Team met and discussed what to do for the Jamie Berke Hokah house fire and how the team can reach out and help.

Support (Al)

- Property committee has not met. Radon mitigation is completed on parsonage.
- Staffing has not met and will be meeting later this month to discuss PPP funding and staffing issues.
- Stewardship is meeting on Tuesday.
- Finance has not met.
- Communications, Jean Ellingson sent note stating that communications are handled by office staff and the communications team function has minimized.

Worship (Willy)

- Worship Team met today working on getting volunteers for the next 3 weeks of outdoor services. Helping Rick get technology setup and ushering cars. Discussed different opportunities for music because no singing will be allowed for the service. Soloist at a distance or music played outdoors.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. COVID-19 Plan (including non-worship events update)

The team is keeping an eye on what is happening in Houston County. Focus on 3 outdoor services planned for next 3 weeks. August 2 Senior Recognition in Sanctuary. The following Sunday 1st Communion families August 9 in Sanctuary. Strict plans as how people will be entering facility, wear masks and ushered to seats. Radio and FB Live will continue. Worship inside will require RSVP via Signup Genius or call church office. 33 family units allowed. Continue 6ft physical distancing. Team will meet again July 15. In person information will be put in August newsletter.

2. Update from Finance on PPP fund distribution

PPP fund is used up. Staffing will meet next week and discuss how to move forward with staff.

3. Constitution update

By-laws and synod constitution will be merged into one document. Constitution committee met with endowment chairs. Endowments must approve the by-laws first. Endowments approved constitution changes and will review and bring back to Constitution committee by August. Also, Barb sent note that treasurer should also have a vote. This will be discussed by Constitution and Endowment teams. Staffing, Communication, Property, Finance, Stewardship, are being considered to have a seat on council meetings.

Constitution committee will bring modified Constitution to council by August or September. Congregation will vote in February. Council feels that treasurer should vote because the treasurer and Finance Team should both have a vote.

4. Team Guidelines

Saundy and Pastor Elizabeth met with the Endowments about their by-laws. By-laws that had team guidelines will be emailed from Saundy to each team. The current team goals will need to be set by each team lead. Team guidelines should be updated yearly.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. SEMN Synod COVID-19 Relief Grant – due July 10. The Southeastern Minnesota Synod (ELCA) invites congregations and ministry partners to apply for a COVID-19 Relief Grant. The priority areas for these granting dollars will go to applicants 1) responding to direct community needs in a new or expanded way and/or 2) responding to the evolving technical needs of faith communities seeking to do ministry in innovative ways in this time. Please note: these funds are not intended to supplement your organization's budget, and they cannot be used for personnel or insurance expenses. Council discussed what to apply for the grant. Dean suggested using moneys for technical equipment, exploring idea of projectors and screens for completely paperless. Expected 8K cost.

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2. Book discussion – “Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US”
many did not receive their books. Council will discuss book at the next meeting.
"Interrupting Silence," by Walter Brueggeman. is another book suggestion.

Pr. Elizabeth closed the meeting with Lord's Prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:33pm. MSP (AI, Milly)

Next Meeting: August 12, 2020 at 7:00pm via Zoom (possible Gathering Room with restrictions based on COVID-19 status).

In HIS Service,

Sheri Allen