

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

Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council

June 13, 2018

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Mary Deters at 7:45 pm on June 13, 2018 in the Gathering Room at Trinity Lutheran.

Members Present: Pastor Elizabeth, Mary Deters, Milly Halverson, Steve Nelson, Barb Arnold, Steve Kemp, Jacque Wennes, and Mary Zaffke.

Also Present: Lee Hoekstra, Lorilyn Dehning, Stewart Storlie

Pastor Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report for May 9, 2018 was approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report (placed on file)

- Envelope offering is up 3.1% for the first 5 months of 2018, as compared to the same period in 2017. Total offering is up 0.9%.
- Expenses for each Trinity property is being recorded for more accuracy.
- In June, we borrowed \$14k (from ourselves) for expenses.
- Barb and Lorilyn have been studying the ELCA Guidelines for Bookkeepers and Treasurers.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth

- For worship, she is enjoying singing the Psalms.
- There have been many funerals since her arrival (9 or 10).
- She visited Confirmation Camp at Good Earth Village and was excited to find the kids engaged in the activities.
- She attended a "First Call" meeting on managing conflict.
- The Trinity website is being updated.

Pastor Lane

- Report to the Council included 33 hours of ministry:
 - Saturday/Sunday Prep & Worship (13 hours)
 - 1 Staff meeting (1hour)
 - 5 Home visits (6 hours)
 - 4 Services at Nursing Home, Manor, Apts, Assisted Living (6 hours)
 - 2 Visits to a member in Stewartville (7 hours)

Plus 2 funerals (19 hours)

Bekah (full report placed on file)

- In her report, Bekah shared Summer activities for our Trinity Youth: ELCA Youth Gathering (June 24-July 2), VBS and Day Camp (June 18-21), Confirmation Camp (June 10-15); and throughout the summer: Senior High Youth Group – 3:16s (Sundays at 8:30pm) and Bonfires (Thursdays at 8:30 pm).
- Special thanks to all the Trinity volunteers who are serving, hosting, teaching, and praying for our youth and families participating in these faith activities.

TEAM REPORTS:

Care Ministry (Milly)

- Pr Elizabeth ordered the additional items to be added to the baptismal chests. Milly will include an article in the July newsletter asking for volunteers to make more chests. We have 9 chests left.
- Snacks have been brought to the SG Library to share with hungry kids during the summer months. SG School is also serving free breakfast and lunch for all students during the summer.

Education (Jacque)

- Vacation Bible School for 3-5 yr olds increased from 19 to 22 this year.
- Day Camp increased from 17 to 32 which requires 4 counselors from Sugar Creek and many other volunteers to help.
- The Education Team will be hosting an ice cream event Thursday, June 21 in Viking Memorial Park at 7pm.
- The Syttende Mai Dinner was a great success, serving 520 carry out dinners and clearing \$3000+. The Ed Team decided to tithe 10% (\$300) to the Houston County Food Shelf.
- They are awaiting input from the Property Team in developing an evacuation plan regarding security (active shooter). They will coordinate Trinity's plan with ALICE (similar to the plan at SG School). They will educate the Safe Church Policy in the upcoming months.

Mission in the World (Steve N)

- Bishop Delzer will be our guest at Trinity on October 7th. He is traveling to South Sudan and Tanzania this summer and will share a message with us about our brothers and sisters in Christ in those countries.
- They have begun a conversation/discussion about benevolence in 2019.
- A Habitat for Humanity house is being built in Ridgeway, IA. The Mission Team will be participating and welcomes anyone who wants to join them (in late June TBD).

Outreach (Mary Z)

- Trinity Prays received enough volunteers to pray for all of the youth and adults going to the ELCA Youth Gathering. Prayer booklets are being put together by Outreach Team members.
- Planning has begun for the Summer Music in the Park event, August 1st, featuring Thankful Brass and other Trinity musicians.
- Coffee Fellowship servers are being contacted.

Support (Steve K)

Property

(see New Business: Conversations with Support Team Chairs)

Stewardship (Stewart)

- July 29th is the first month with 5 Sundays and a Game Feed event is in the planning stages.
- Stewardship is considering sending members a 6-Month Giving Statement (in July) along with a financial statement.

Communications

- 5-6 persons are available to take photos at any church event.

Staffing

(see New Business: Conversations with Support Team Chairs)

Finance

(see New Business: Conversations with Support Team Chairs)

Worship

- Schulmerich Handbells have been ordered; a First Fruits tithe will be given.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Election of Vice President

MSC (Milly, Mary Z) nominating Steve Nelson to serve as Vice President of the Council.

Visioning and Planning Team

- Information was shared in the June 10th Sunday bulletin and will be included in the July newsletter—seeking all who feel called to serve on the Visioning and Planning Team.

Appoint a Gifts & Memorials Committee

MSC (Jacque, Steve N) to form a Gifts and Memorial Committee comprised of 3 members of the congregation, initially serving the following terms: 1 member serving 3 years, 1 member serving 2 years, and 1 member serving 1 year; and thereafter members will serve 3-year terms.

- The committee will review and update the current policy on gifts and memorials and bring an updated policy to the Council for approval.
- Volunteers will be sought through newsletter, bulletin and by being asked.

Newsletter Articles are due June 15

NEW BUSINESS:

Conversation with Support Team Chairs

At the request of the Support Team, the Council listened to the comments from the Support Team chairs (Staffing, Communication, Property, Finance, and Stewardship) concerning their representation under the current Five Team Structure.

- All agree that it may be time to re-visit and/or make some changes.
- Most Support Team chairs like the current format but are not interested in serving on the Council; most felt that one vote was not enough to represent the five Support teams.
- A suggestion from the Finance Team was to have the Treasurer and Finance Chair be the same person and to have a vote on the Council.
- The Support Team suggested that all Teams come to them with their ideas before coming to the Council, so they can coordinate and support all the work we do at Trinity.
- Council members were asked to think about our next steps.

Request from SG School regarding use of Trinity Center (Lee Hoekstra)

- Because of construction at the SG School this summer, they would like to use Trinity Center for the 4 week Lions Academy, beginning July 9th. They are requesting use of Trinity Center 4 days per week from 8:30-11:30 am, with 80 students attending. The school will provide its janitorial staff and temporary wi-fi. They have also requested use of the large room on the first floor.

MSC (Milly, Steve K) to rent Trinity Center to SG School for the Lions Academy for 4 weeks at \$50 day, plus a damage deposit of \$250 (refundable).

Facility Use Agreement & Release Form (Lee Hoekstra)

- Copies of the Facility Use Agreement & Release form will be sent to the Council to review before the Council meets in July.

Term Limits for Support Team Chairs (Finance, Staffing Stewardship, Communications, Property)

- Tabled until October.

Mission Team request for Fundraisers (Steve N)

- An Alternative Giving Fair is being planned between Thanksgiving and Christmas (November 24-December 23). Proceeds from the fundraiser will be dispersed to: Alternative Gift International, ELCA Good Gifts and Lutheran Partners in Global Mission.

MSC (Steve N, Milly) to approve the Mission in the World Alternative Giving Fair fundraiser, to be held between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

- A Noisy/Crinkly Offering, one Sunday per month (except in November and on Communion Sundays), is being planned by the Mission Team to raise funds and awareness of the needs in Puerto Rico and South Sudan. Proceeds from the fundraiser will be dispersed to: Lutheran Disaster Relief (45% South Sudan, 45% Puerto Rico, 10% Trinity's budgeted expenses).

MSC (Steve N, Steve K) to approve a Noisy/Crinkly offering one Sunday per month, to raise funds and awareness of the needs in Puerto Rico and South Sudan.

Finance Team request for Fundraiser (Lorilyn)

- A Summer Surge fundraiser is being planned by the Finance Team in July to raise \$12k for debt reduction. A First Fruits tithe will be given on July 22 (or July 29 TBD).

MSC (Steve K, Steve N) to approve the Summer Surge fundraiser in July to raise funds for debt reduction.

Reformation Day (Pr Elizabeth)

- The pastors of the Root River Conference were unanimous in wanting the joint Reformation Sunday Worship Service to be an annual event. Pr Elizabeth was asked if Trinity would host this year on October 28th.
- Worship and fellowship would be held on Reformation Sunday from 3-5pm, with special guests from Tanzania, guest speakers on the Reformation, special music, and food (provided by Katie's Table volunteers).

MSC (Steve N, Mary Z) to host the Root River Conference Reformation Sunday Worship Service, October 28th, from 3-5pm at Trinity.

Staffing

MSC (Steve K, Jacque) to re-prioritize time spent and decrease the number of custodial hours to 30 hrs/wk during the summer months, to be re-evaluated in September.

Beary Patch Preschool

- Mary D, Lorilyn, Jacque, and Pr Elizabeth met to discuss the Beary Patch Preschool ; going forward, the preschool will fall under the Education Team.

Wedding Policy Guidelines (placed on file)

- The Worship Team voted unanimously to make a suggested addition to the Introduction of the Wedding Policy Guidelines to include: how the ELCA describes marriage, how weddings at Trinity are planned with these values in mind, and to be officially welcoming to LGBTQIA.

MSC (Willy, Steve K) to accept the suggested addition to the Wedding Policy Guidelines

Pastor Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 11th at 7:00 pm.

In HIS Service,

Karen Bingham