

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

Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council

June 12, 2019

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Mary Deters at 7 pm on June 12, 2019 in the Gathering Room at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Members Present: Mary Deters, Steve Nelson, Barb Arnold, Jacque Wennes, Steve Kemp, Mark Schroeder (for Willy Leafblad), Milly Halverson, and Lara Wold Mendez.

Pr Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report for May 8, 2019 was approved

Treasurer's Report (placed on file)

- Based on the budget, we should have 42% of income at 5 months into the year; we are at 38%.
- Expenses are minus \$17k.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth (full report placed on file)

- She attended the Festival of Homiletics preaching conference on May 13-17 and found it to be a rewarding continuing education experience and time with colleagues.
- Pr Elizabeth developed an "idea" book (with the help of Marlene) and shared it at the second "farmer roundtable" event held at Trinity on May 29. It is a resource to connect and offer support to farm families and will be online in the near future.
- Reverend Regina Hassanally was elected to be the next bishop. A farewell event for Bishop Delzer will be held on August 18 from 2-4pm at Our Savior's in Faribault.
- The call committee met and discussed with Pr Elizabeth, the highs and lows of her first year, and what she is most excited about.

Pastor Lane

- Report to the Council included 45 ½ hours of ministry:
 - 12 Home Communion Visits with prep (14 hours)
 - 6 Devotional Visits, no communion (5 hours)
 - 5 Hospital Visits (6 hours)
 - 4 Staff Meetings (3 hours)
 - Office Work (4 hours)
 - Saturday/Sunday Worship with prep (11 ½ hours)
 - Services at Manor and Assisted Living (2 hours)
- Betty Benson Funeral (8 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.
- Our 7th Grade students are attending Confirmation Camp at Good Earth Village the week of June 9-14.
- Everything is coming together for the Indianapolis mission trip July 27-August 2.

Care Ministry (Milly)

- Starting next month, the Friends In Faith Team will provide regular visits to congregation members who are unable to fully engage in the life of the church and provide extra support to members during difficult periods in their lives.

Education (Jacque)

- Thirty volunteers prepared and served 540 meatball dinners during Syttende Mai. After expenses and a \$300 donation to the Habitat build, \$3,745.63 was raised for the youth program!
- The Education Team agreed to purchase the Connect curriculum for the 5-6th grade Sunday School classes, from special funds for Sunday School (approx. \$400 for two years).
- There were 5 of the 16 Trinity Seniors at Senior Recognition Sunday. The Education Team will visit with the Scholarship Endowment Team to discuss other ideas, such as planning it earlier in the year to free up Memorial Day weekend, or hosting a reception after the baccalaureate service for the seniors, parents, and congregation members.

Mission in the World (Steve N)

- Trinity's new work dates for the Habitat build are August 21st and 24th.
- The Sherry Pitts Family is humbled by the generosity of the surrounding communities and grateful for this opportunity to be homeowners. The goal is still to be in their house by the end of the year.
- In addition to monetary donations, some of the donations being offered by businesses and individuals include trusses, flooring, excavating, and hanging sheet rock.
- \$205 was raised from the 2X4 stud signing.
- The Jacobsen's, whose work we support in Tanzania, are not retired. They are part time, going back and forth, and giving some responsibilities to local Tanzanians.

Outreach (Lara)

- The Team continues to discuss ways to "reach out".
- Creating a Summer self-care booklet for families.
- Trinity will not be in charge of the Summer Community Picnic this year. If there is not another church willing to do so, it will not be held this summer.
- New member Sunday will be in September to welcome 8 new members (currently).

Support (Steve K)

Property

- A church walkaround was done on May 6th by the Property Team. A list of items needing immediate attention and others that need attention but can wait, was made.
- Recommendations by the Property Team will be discussed under New Business.

Stewardship

- The Servant Sunday outdoor worship and picnic will be June 30th. Costs will be offset through a Thrivent Action Team grant.
- A Thrivent Action Team grant will also be used for a postcard and newspaper ad inviting the community to the Servant Sunday event.

Communications

- Work continues on their "How do you like to be communicated with?" survey.

Finance

- No report

Staffing

- See Continuing Business

Worship (Mark)

- Discussed the pros and cons of name tags. Council members made several suggestions: wear name tags on new member Sundays; have those involved in worship activities, such as ushers, wear name tags.
- They are considering introducing a new liturgical setting next year. It is a “modern” version created by Ben Larson.
- The Worship Team did a walkaround the church looking for a location for the large metal cross.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Update on the Furnace/Air Conditioner Project (Property/Finance)

- The project, as far as Winona Controls is concerned, is in its final stage. There is money to pay the final bill of \$1,500; additional monies will be needed for the energy audit repair costs and cosmetic repairs to ceilings, walls, floors, etc, that are the responsibility of Trinity.

Update on Custodian Position (Support/Staffing)

MSC (Steve K, Steve N) to accept the recommendation of the Staffing Team to hire Kayla Tollefsrud for the part-time (20-25 hrs/wk) Trinity Church custodian position at \$12/hour, for a probationary period of three months, after which time the position will be reassessed.

- The Staffing and Interview Teams requested the Congregation Council discuss the possibility of hiring another person to clean Trinity Center, be responsible for opening/closing the two buildings, and possibly being responsible for setting up/taking down for funerals. All agreed that extra help is needed.
- An application has been received from a person interested in the position.

Steve Kemp will ask the Staffing Team to bring more details to the Congregation Council, such as number of hours, list of duties, and input from our new custodian.

Finance Team Continuing Resolution (Support/Finance)

- The following change will be made to the first goal of the Finance Team Continuing Resolution: *Attempt to increase church membership and church participation by maintaining a welcoming environment.*

Pr Elizabeth will ask Marlene to update the change.

Building Team Chair (Mary)

Mary read an email from Len Myrah accepting the responsibility of Building Team Chair.

MS (Steve N, Milly) to nominate Len Myrah as chair of the Building Team. **Motion Carried** by paper ballot: Unanimous

Mary will notify Len Myrah that he will be serving as chair of the Building Team.

Pr Elizabeth will address the congregation on Sunday to bring clarity to the results, next steps, long term planning, and to ask for prayers as we continue to discern what God wants for Trinity.

MSC (Steve K, Steve N) to schedule a congregational meeting on July 14th following worship in the sanctuary, to discuss the opportunity to enhance our existing building based on the work done by the Visioning & Planning Team.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report on Beary Patch Preschool (Jacque)

- Jacque's goal has been to open avenues of communication with Beary Patch. As the Education Team leader, she serves as president of the Beary Patch Board, as written in the preschool by-laws.
- Beary Patch had a successful year with full enrollment of 10 Pre-K and 10 3-year olds.
- Bethany Bergsgaard, Director, has received recertification as a 4-Star rated preschool with the Parent Aware Program through the State of Minnesota.
- Income as of May 5th: \$25,132.55 with expenses at \$21,056.65, for a profit of \$4,075.90.
- Tuition will be the same for the 2019-2020 school year.
- Beary Patch will be sending Trinity a check for \$1,000.00.

Custodial Salary Recommendation (Property)

MSC (Steve K, Milly H) to accept the recommendation of the Property Team to put aside monies that would have gone to the custodial salary, since David's retirement (April 21st), into a maintenance and repair fund to be used to do needed work around the church

North Ramp Recommendation (Property)

MSC (Steve N, Milly) to accept the recommendation of the Property Team to immediately close the north ramp for safety reasons.

Steve K will inform the Property Team that their recommendation to close the ramp was accepted.

Mary will inform Roble Funeral Home of the ramp closure.

Karen will ask Communications Team member, Karen Fried, to make signage for the ramp and north door.

Pastor Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, July 10, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Gathering Room.

In HIS Service,

Karen Bingham