

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

**Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council**

June 10, 2020

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 7:00 pm on June 10, 2020 via a combination of members in the Fellowship Hall wearing masks and via Zoom conference call.

**Members Present:** Saundy Solum, Milly Halverson, 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 May 13, 2020 was approved. MSP (Dean, Al)

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

- \$18,500 envelope and online offering
- \$2,000 income from Thrivent Choice
- \$45,900 monthly income (includes PPP funding and grant)
- \$38,700 monthly expenses
  - Property insurance, liability and workers compensation insurance are paid through Dec. 2020
  - Expenses also include back-pay via PPP (Payroll Protection Program) funds
  - SEMN Synod payment was made through May

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Pastor Elizabeth**

- Pr. Elizabeth attended the Festival of Homiletics online.
- Served 1 graveside service, Lane has served 2 graveside services.
- Root River Conference has been meeting 1 time per month on Zoom.
- Presiding Bishop Eaton is pre-recording a sermon for worship on Sun 6/7/20.
- Drive-through communion had 120 people participate. Trinity will provide communion again on Father's Day (6/21) right after worship using individual kits.
- Working on COVID-19 preparedness plan and will bring to meeting next week on Tuesday with the COVID-19 Response Team.
- Donations of groceries and supplies from Trinity and community were delivered to Winona and then they were taken to Minneapolis for people affected by the riots.

**Pastor Lane** No report submitted. Has been visiting 1:1 and preaching.

**Bekah**

**Bible Stories with Bekah**

- I have been putting out a weekly YouTube video of me reading a Bible story with some sort of lesson, song, or challenge.

**Trinity U/Confirmation**

- I sent out a survey for students, parents, and mentors, asking how this new form of Confirmation went for them. Pastor Elizabeth and I are going to look through them more in-depth soon to start planning for the fall.
- From the responses, we are thinking we will add more large group meetings and offer fewer TU electives.

### **Confirmation Camp/Family Camp**

- Good Earth Village has cancelled all camp programming for this summer.
- We will have the students who were supposed to go to Confirmation Camp this summer attend next summer 2021.

### **Day Camp and VBS**

- Sugar Creek has cancelled all day camps for this summer.
- Education Team is talking about having some sort of Day Camp in August. We will discuss more at our July meeting.

### **Trinity Center Youth Room**

- Jacque and I walked through Trinity Center and decided the best youth room would be Room E or the old movie room.
- We are needing to do some cleaning out of furniture/supplies, so I plan on doing that this summer.
- I also talked with a few students who just completed 9<sup>th</sup> grade who would like to help decorate and set up the youth room, so that will be fun!

### **Care Ministry (Milly)**

- Busy with packing for HIP because school is serving lunches. Packed 13. Will be packing for summer school and
- Also keeping Trinity's Free Little Pantry full. It was depleted, so refilled pantry. We are now buying groceries from Red's.

### **Education (Jacque)**

- Bekah sent out Confirmation surveys to mentors, students and parents, they came back with mixed results and some suggestions for improvement. The Education Team decided to continue the Trinity U concept for Confirmation during the upcoming year with some adjustments since the first year is a learning process.
- We will be sending this year's 7<sup>th</sup> graders to Confirmation Camp next year. We will have 20 8<sup>th</sup> graders (this year's 7<sup>th</sup> graders) and 12 7<sup>th</sup> graders (this year's 6<sup>th</sup> graders) attend Confirmation Camp next summer since Good Earth Village has cancelled this summer's activities.
- ELCA Youth Gathering is scheduled for June 29-July 3, 2021 in Minneapolis. We will bring updates to Council as they are revealed. Bekah is the Gathering Synod Coordinator for the SEMN Synod so she helps prepare other groups to attend the Gathering.

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

- Nothing to report.

### **Outreach (Lara)**

- Small subset of Outreach Team met and discussed how to meet without using Zoom or meeting in person. Discussed options for outreach.

### **Support (Al)**

- Property Committee has not met. Work is happening at parsonage next week for sealing walls for radon mitigation. Meyer Concrete will start concrete work next week.
- Staffing Committee presented that Scott will be paid into July using PPP funds and re-evaluated at the end of July.
- Finance Committee met and has purchased cameras, but they are on back order. Microsoft yearly subscription will add \$6.99 per user.

- Nothing from Stewardship or Communication. Communication did a 2<sup>nd</sup> calling to people over 80. Stewardship is planning to meet next month.

### **Worship (Willy)**

- Worship Team has not met. Responded to the call to help with last Sunday's service.
- Willy asked permission from Council to use the organ for summer classes and council approved. Willy will coordinate with Rachel and Jean.

### **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

1. COVID-19
  - a. Update from the Response Team. Meeting next Tuesday, team met a week and a half ago. Trinity will follow Decorah First method of making changes one month at a time. Trinity is not providing in-person services through June and will re-evaluate in July. Pr. Elizabeth is working on logistics in/out using social distancing, etc.
  - b. Saundy met with Bishop Hassanally and congregational group to discuss COVID-19. Bishop stated this is not political and we will follow health organization guidelines. Met with other presidents to discuss options for return.
  - c. Insurance Update: No insurance is available to cover pandemic outbreaks in facilities. Some are popping up, but not recommended.
  - d. Trinity will not hold requested family event in July.
  - e. August 15 wedding is approved with 50 attendees.
  - f. September 12 wedding is approved with 50 attendees.
  - g. Steps/Ideas on reopening – meeting next week to discuss today's governors' changes. Offices are open, just not in-person services.
2. Trinity Center
  - a. Little Gnome has decided to not use Trinity Center at all. They have cleaned out their items.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Trinity Center Folding Chairs
  - a. 30 Folding chairs with desk extension are stored at Trinity Center. Education Team recommends to council to either put them up for sale or give them away. Al stated that they could be utilized due to COVID-19 social distancing, now that we must be thinking outside of the box. Council agrees to store them for now at Trinity Center.
2. Synod Assembly Offering
  - a. During Root River Conference meeting last week, the pastors discussed taking the 1k donation and putting it toward a cause as emergency relief in St. Paul Minneapolis. Synod came back stating that there still are needs at the synod like Lutheran Campus Ministry. Pr. Elizabeth stated that council can determine the new destination for the funds. Jacque stated that Mission Endowment money goes to Winona and Mankato campus ministries. This is part of the Lutheran Campus Ministry. Synod will be sending out information next month about Good Earth Village and Lutheran Campus Ministry. Council agreed to wait until next month to determine where we would like to donate the funds.
3. The Constitution Committee
  - a. The Constitution Committee, including Saundy, is in the process of reviewing and changing constitution documents with changes provided from the Synod. They reviewed structure and decided to return to 10 support teams with 10 team leads that will be part of Council. Proposed by Constitution (By-laws) Committee. Each of these 10 team leaders is tasked to create their team's responsibilities/guidelines for next year. Each team will have one paragraph by-law in the Constitution. Revamped Constitution will be provided to Council for vote. Council suggested to

have the secretary vote. By-laws and Constitution will be merged into one document. This team has been meeting for the past five weeks.

4. Inequality and Diversity in Our World Today
  - a. What role does Trinity have, as a pillar in the community, to help positively affect people regarding diversity? Pr. Elizabeth will locate the statement from the ELCA on forgiveness on racial oppression and add this to the newsletter and provide educational resources. Council discussed visual representation of 'Black Lives Matter.' Trinity will start with education on why Black Lives Matter in the newsletter. Would like to also add it to Confirmation curriculum.
5. Council Leadership Diversity Learning
  - a. Pr. Elizabeth suggested to start a book club with the council members with everyone reading 'Dear Church' by Lenny Duncan, to address racial inequality. Council would spend 20-minute discussing the book during the Council meeting. Also, Marlene can put resources on Facebook page and website. Council will purchase their own books. (MSP, Milly, Lara)
6. Vacation
  - a. Pr. Elizabeth will be taking vacation June 29-July 7. She is going to New Mexico for a refreshing break.
7. Screen System
  - a. Pr. Elizabeth will be meeting with Doug Condon tomorrow regarding audio visual options for Trinity and to gather estimates for a screen system into Trinity.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m. MSP (Al, Milly)

**Next Meeting: July 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom (possibly in the Gathering Room with restrictions based on COVID-19 status).**

In HIS Service,

*Sheri Allen*