

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

Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council

March 13, 2019

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Mary Deters at 7:45 pm on March 13, 2019 in the Gathering Room at Trinity Lutheran Church.

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

Also Present: Bekah Leafblad

Pr Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report for February 13, 2019 was approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report (placed on file)

- February giving (envelope and online) is up from January and 10% over 2018.
- Overall net income is \$5,800 behind, compared to \$10,800 behind in 2018.
- We still owe ourselves \$14k.
- Borrowed \$10k this week to pay payroll.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth (full report placed on file)

- The attendees at the all-team retreat on March 3rd brainstormed what the Trinity "brand" is and what the Apostle Paul might write to Trinity.
- In preparing our report to the Synod there were several disparities in the survey completed by the council: 1) our **willingness to try something new**; 2) our work for **social justice/advocacy**; and 3) how good we are **equipping members to share their faith**. She would like to keep the conversation going and suggested having each team discuss these 3 issues and give the council feedback, so that we have a consistent vision of who we are.
- Received positive feedback for having two Ash Wednesday services, at noon and in the evening.
- Sunrise North received a substantial grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation, enabling them to pay off the mortgage on the new building.

Pastor Lane

- Report to the Council included 24 ½ hours of ministry:
Preaching & Services for Saturday and Sunday (11 hours)
Services Tween Apts and Assisted Living (2 hours)
Psalm Study and Prep (4 hours)
5 Home Communion (5 hours)
1 Staff meeting (1 hour)
1 Meeting on Farm issues (1 ½ 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.
- Youth will be serving a Lenten supper and Easter breakfast for their next fundraisers.

Care Ministry (Milly)

- Discussing reinstating Friends & Faith.
- Permission was given from school to put a note in school bags about Trinity's Free Tiny Pantry.

Education (Jacque)

- Once a month, for the rest of the school year, Bekah will host a Middle School Game Night at her house, to give the 7th and 8th graders more fellowship time.
- Thirst Day is going well at Pastor Elizabeth's. The next gathering is March 21st to discuss the book of poems, "God got a dog".
- The youth will have a unit in the Syttende Mai parade, using Greg Wennes's fire truck as the inspiration for the design and theme.

Mission in the World (Steve N)

- Mission Endowment is contributing \$700 to the Habitat project.
- A Chili Supper for Habitat for Humanity, will be hosted by the Mission in the World Team on March 20th.

Outreach (Lara)

- Outreach is working on a Lenten devotional, updating the coffee host letter to encourage serving healthy options, and planning to send handwritten notes to nursing home residents.
- They are working with the Care Team to plan visits with nursing home residents.
- Looking at ways to "care for creation", such as recycling at church.

Support (Steve K)

Property

- Waiting for the heating unit in the Gathering Room. It will probably be installed at the same time as the A/C.

Stewardship

- A Servant Sunday Brunch will be hosted by the Stewardship Team on March 31st, with help from the Outreach and Communications Teams. A Thrivent Action Team grant will be used towards the costs of the brunch. A free will offering will be taken for the benefit of the Houston County Food Shelf, with a 10% First Fruits offering to SE MN benevolence.

Communications

- Working with the Stewardship Team on the Servant Sunday Brunch event by preparing informative cards spotlighting Synod initiatives we support, how our support makes a difference, and encouraging involvement.

Finance

- (See Continuing and New Business)

Staffing

- No report

Worship (Mark)

- Worship Team will host the Lenten Supper on March 27th, serving a Baked Potato Bar.
- They are preparing for Holy Week.
- Discussing Outdoor Potted Plants/Planters.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Update on Syttende Mai Nerf War (Pr Elizabeth)

Pr Elizabeth confirmed that a Nerf War event will be held on Saturday during the Syttende Mai celebration on the Norwegian Ridge Cemetery lawn. She has assurances that it will be respectful of the cemetery and supervised.

Who is authorized to sign checks?

At the advice of the Finance Team, check signing will be left as is, with only Mary Deters and Barb Arnold allowed to sign checks and sign loan documents for the church.

- Pr Elizabeth, Alan Frydenlund, and Lorilyn Dehning will have access to view and discuss the accounts with bank personnel.
- Lorilyn Dehning can also do payroll direct deposits.
- The following are allowed to pick up bank bags as needed: Marlene Deschler, Stewart Storlie, Steve Morken, and Janna Myrah.

Update to Bylaw Committee

- To date, no one has volunteered for this committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Report to Synod

- Will update information on the Synod Report for the Year to include that our endowments are also being managed by outside professional advisors (in addition to being self-managed).

Pr Elizabeth will ask Marlene to update and send the revision to the Synod.

Barb will ask the 3 Endowment Committees to prepare a year end report for the newsletter.

Trinity U Presentation (Bekah)

Bekah explained the **elective model confirmation** – an approach that offers flexibility, and choice of study topics and class times. The goals:

- To create a relational confirmation program where students understand that they can live out their faith in everything they do in their lives.
- To give students a choice and voice in what they are learning so they enjoy coming to church and learning about their faith.
- To help Trinity youth find Christ in different aspects of their life.

Courses will be offered throughout the year:

- Know – hands on learning
- Live – service to our neighbors and congregations
- Grow – fellowship and faith nurturing experiences

A Core Class will be taught each year once/month (Bible Core, Luther/Catechism Core, Vocation Core & Confirmation Project).

Trinity U courses will be taught by members and participation is intergenerational. Any age person will be able to take the classes. Confirmation students can also receive credits for church activities such as: being an usher, reader or serving communion; participating in the Choir, Handbells or Praise Band; participating in a Mission Trip, etc.

Pastor Lane's Contract

Pr Lane's contract will end April 15th as specified "12 months after Pr Elizabeth's hire date".

- Tabled until April.

Pr Elizabeth will discuss with the Staffing Team and bring a recommendation to the April Congregation Council meeting.

Chamber of Commerce

- Teresa F at Merchants Bank informed Trinity that a group of people are considering forming a Chamber of Commerce in Spring Grove. She was inquiring if Trinity would want to participate and have a representative.
- Tabled for more information.

Electing a new Vice President

MSP (Milly, Steve K) to nominate Steve Nelson as Vice President of the Congregation Council.

Copy machine replacement

MSP (Steve K, Milly) to accept the recommendation of the Finance Team to replace the two existing copiers with a new Canon Image Runner Advance copier (C7260), with a sixty-month lease (with service and supplies) and a \$488 monthly fee.

Funeral Policy Update and

- Accepted by Finance.

Pr Elizabeth will coordinate with Jan Kraabel to update the Gifts and Memorials section of the Funeral Policies and Practice. Once that is done, area funeral directors will be given Trinity's updated funeral policies.

Contact Information for Team Members

Marlene requested updated contact information for all team members and asked Team Leaders to assist.

Pastor Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 10th at 7:45 pm in the Gathering Room.

In HIS Service,

Karen Bingham