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

**Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council**

March 11, 2020

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 7:45 pm on March 11, 2020 in the Gathering Room.

**Members Present:** Saundy Solum, Milly Halverson, Al Lochner, Dean Wiste, Lara Wold Mendez, Willy Leafblad, Barb Arnold, Sheri Allen, Jacque Wennes (via FaceTime)

Pr Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer.

**Secretary’s Report** for February 12, 2020 was approved. MSP (Barb, Milly)

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

* January/February 2020 offerings have decreased 17% compared to January/February of 2019
* January/February 2020 expenses have increased 20% compared to January/February of 2019
  + Not a significant 1 item increase, smaller items adding up to build the 20% increase

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Pastor Elizabeth (placed on file) Highlights listed below.

* Pr Elizabeth returned from vacation in Taos to lead worship on February 23, 2020.
* Pr Elizabeth and Rachel Udstuen attended the rescheduled Root River Conference assembly in Chatfield on March 1st.
* March 10th marked the 2-year anniversary of Pr Elizabeth’s ordination and on April 1st she will have been at Trinity for 2 years.
* Since Easter is the second Sunday of the month, which is usually Praise Band Sunday, we’ll switch and have the Praise Band play on Palm Sunday. Easter services will be at 9:15 and 10:45, with festival worship at both. The full breakfast will be before the 9:15 service, and the continental breakfast will be served between the two services.
* The Root River conference pastors met March 10th with a presentation on church safety by Sheriif DeGeorge of Fillmore County. He spoke mainly about active-shooter-type situations. Also, a focus on mental health issues, stress, family disruption, etc. Trinity has a Safe Church Policy that we all should be aware of.
* Pr Elizabeth and Bekah will attend Faith Formation Network even in Rochester March 19 on the topic of mental illness and youth. Other upcoming events include an FCTE (First Call Theological Education) group meeting at Trinity March 26th.

Pastor Lane (placed on file) Highlights listed below.

* Report to the Council included 46.5 hours of ministry:
  + 9 home visits with Holy Communion (10 hours)
  + 4 home visits without Holy Communion (2.5 hours)
  + 3 Services at Tweeten Apts, Assisted Living and Manor (5 hours)
  + Services at Nursing Home (1 hour)
  + 3 Staff Meetings (2 hours)
  + Office Time (3 hours)
  + 2 Sunday Sermon Prep and Service; Saturday included (10 hours)
  + 4 Hospital Visits (3 hours)
  + Meetings (0 hours)
  + Road Time (10 hours)
  + Newsletter (0 hours)

Bekah (Maternity Leave)

**Care Ministry** (Milly)

* Care team will meet March 12 to discuss spaghetti dinner, Easter, HIP (weekend backpack program). HIP has increase from 4 up to 11.

**Education** (Jacque)

* Team put together a movie night package along with 2 bean bags for Jennifer Wedmann benefit. The benefit was a huge success and well attended.

**Mission in the World** (Dean)

* Mission team serviced Lenten support March 11th, $200 raised and team has chosen to donate these funds to Habitat for Humanity project.
* $859.50 check is on hold for Habitat for Humanity. Church has provided the check, but it is currently on hold until further conversations with Steve Nelson.
* Noisy offering funds will be distributed as follows: 10% to budget, 45% to Puerto Rico, 45% to South Sudan.

**Outreach** (Lara)

* Empty Bowls event was a huge success, $1200 raised during this event. Also, Lenten cards were handed out during Empty Bowls event.

**Support** (Al)

* Staffing team reported that Gary has assumed all responsibilities for cleaning at the church and the Trinity center with the assistance of Dana Kjome. Kaitlyn Bratland is filling in for Bekah until the 15th. Bekah will start on the 17th. Support served Lenten supper March4th and raised $300 that will be donated to the Good Samaritan Fund.
* Finance team met and there are 4 items outstanding to be paid to Pr Elizabeth. This is being addressed. Team decided that utilities will be paid directly to vendor instead of a stipend to Pr Elizabeth. Little Nome pays Trinity $15 per day and is paid up through March 15th. New computers are being purchased for the church.
* Property group tested the parsonage for radon, and it was higher than expected. Dana is collecting information on abatement procedures and options; his initial contact will be with Jeff Engen. Also, there are water problems in the basement of the parsonage. Water drain is uphill from the water which causes standing water in the basement quite often. Concerns are that this could lead to mold and health issues.
* Communications team has not met but will be addressing the website with Jean Ellingson.

**Worship** (Willy)

* Worship Team met March 1st and is looking as possible summer worship services at Trol Park. Also, reviewing a new liturgy called ‘Behold I Make All Things New’ by Ben Larson. Willy is also working with communications team to add this liturgy to Trinity website. Worship team is continuing planning for Palm Sunday and Easter services with Pr Elizabeth. Finally, communion cards are being addressed. Current policy is that in order to be a voting member at Trinity, a person must commune and give within a two-year period. Team is looking into updating the communion card process.

**CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

Facilities Planning Team

* Update from the March 10th presentation by Weiser Brothers and architect. Initial presentation included 10K square feet. Facilities Planning Team felt that even though the vision was met, this was oversized for our needs. Architect will go back and reduce footprint. During the meeting, the architect was asked to keep the existing elevator in the next version of plans. Team will be meeting again on April 16th.

Rosendahl Bequest

* It was determined by the Heritage Endowment team that the bylaws were not followed when Council voted to move the funds into a separate fund. Council cannot transfer moneys out of heritage umbrella. The $10k year end gift is in a bank account designated as capital fund.

Congregational Report to the ELCA

* Pr. Elizabeth will average the results turned in from council responses.

Chamber of Commerce Visioning Meeting February 19th

* Lara attended the visionary meeting. She stated that it was a great meeting with a lot of energy and plans. The group is looking for four more individuals to be on their committee. The Chamber of Commerce received an EDA state grant as well as starting funds provided from City Council. EDA advertising is hoping to move their advertising to Chamber of Commerce. Chamber will attempt to improve the community calendar. It was suggested that a Spring Grove Monopoly board be created as a fundraiser.

Snowmobiles on Property

* Saundy talked to snowmobile club about the snowmobiles on Trinity property. Snowmobile club will address next season if issue is not resolved.

All-Team Retreat

* Planned for this summer August 2nd 1pm-3pm if Giants is available. Pr. Elizabeth will check with Bill (Giants) to determine if building is available.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Meeting Time

* April meeting will be held April 15th 7:45pm to avoid Holy Week.

Expense Voucher and Fundraising Forms

* Marlene sent out revised Expense Voucher and Fundraising Forms. This is a reminder to all to use the new forms. Lorilyn will go through forms with anyone needing additional explanation. Please provide receipts with forms.

COVID-19 Virus

* Email received from Synod, at this time no activities going forward. Starting this Sunday, no offering plates and communion ushers will be giving hand sanitizer. Easter Sunday concerns. Pr. Elizabeth is considering a disposable solution for communion ($75 for 500). Addition of gloved helpers for Easter Sunday. Church will stay open at this point.

Easter Monetary Gift Options

* Marlene will add Easter Monetary gift options (where the money will go) to the bulletin. Council discussed options for Easter monetary gift. General fund, Houston County Food Shelf, Lutheran World Relief, and dept reduction were listed.

Beary Patch

* Jacque updated council on Beary Patch status. Last October, council voted to charge Beary Patch 10% of their gross tuition as the maintenance and utilities charge starting in 2019. Prior to 2019, it was an annual donation by Beary Patch. The new agreement was given to Beary Patch board of directors. Saundy will sign the agreement after Beary Patch board of directors’ signs form. Jacque also stated that spring and fall programming is established and tuition is set for the 2021 school year. Bethany will create a flyer with information to send home with Sunday School students. Bethany will be on maternity leave starting some time in May.

Pr Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer and doxology.

Meeting adjourned at 9:17pm.

**Next Meeting: April 15, 2020 at 7:45pm in the Gathering Room.**

**\*\*\*UPDATE\*\*\*\*Next Meeting (NOTE Remote Access): April 2, 2020 at 7:00pm via Zoom.**

In HIS Service,

Sheri Allen