

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

Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council

May 8, 2019

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Mary Deters at 7:45 pm on May 8, 2019 in the Gathering Room at Trinity Lutheran Church.

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

Also Present: Bev Nelson, Nolie Kapplinger

Pr Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report for April 14, 2019 was approved.

Treasurer's Report (placed on file)

- Total income as of the end of April: approximately \$115k; total expenses: approximately \$125k. All bills were paid in April, past due bills. Also, \$5k of the \$10k borrowed has been paid back.
- Thrivent Choice Dollars received: \$4709.00
- For bookkeeping, Lorilyn is requesting a report from all who served a Lenten Supper.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth (full report placed on file)

- Attended a First Call Theological Education retreat, April 29-May 1, on the topic "Resilience in Ministry".
- Assisting with worship services at the Festival of Homiletics preaching conference, May 13-17.
- The "community space" idea is moving forward with a presentation to a donor tentatively scheduled for Friday of Syttende Mai weekend.
- The second "farmer roundtable" event will be at Trinity on May 29th from 10-11:30 am.
- The list of candidates for bishop has been narrowed to seven. Representing Trinity as voting members at the Synod Assembly (May31-June1): Sheri Allen, Fred Arnold, Mary Zaffke, and Pr Elizabeth. Bekah and Willy Leafblad will be attending as visitors.
- Parsonage improvements are being made: fencing has been ordered, a patio door is being installed, and most of the rocks are gone.

Pastor Lane

- Report to the Council included 57 hours of ministry:
 - 10 Home Communion Visits (11 hours)
 - Driving Time for all Visits (9 hours)
 - 3 Hospital Visits (2 hours)
 - 5 Visits (4 hours)
 - 1 Wednesday Lenten Worship (6 ½ hours)
 - 1 Saturday/Sunday Worship with prep (11 ½)
 - 1 Sunday Worship with prep (8 hours)
 - Manor/Asst Living, Nursing Home Worship with Communion and prep (5 hours)
- Norma Reed Funeral (6 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.
- Bonfires will be held every Sunday through the summer in the Leafblad's backyard starting June 16th.

Care Ministry (Milly)

- Seeking volunteers for Friends & Faith Team.

Education (Jacque)

- The last day of Sunday School will be May 12th. The children will sing at worship and play games outdoors (weather permitting).
- The Youth, with help from adults, will be making and serving the Syttende Mai Meatball Dinner on Sunday, May 19th. Carry-outs only for \$10.00.
- The Trinity Youth will be riding/walking with Greg Wennes's Fire Truck in the Syttende Mai parade. Thanks to Steve Nelson for driving!
- Barb Gulbranson and Bev Nelson will be hosting the Senior Recognition reception on Sunday, May 26th.
- Thirst Day on May 30th will discuss the book "Love Big, Be Well".
- The theme for Day Camp, June 24-27th, will be Rolling River Rampage.
- Bekah reported the results of her survey of Release Time parents: 17 of 62 survey responses were received; 80 kids were involved in Release Time for the 2018-2019 school year. Parents commented that:
 1. their children like, or even loved Release Time.
 2. most wanted Release Time to be for K-6 grades and wanted it to meet once a week or every other weekFor next year, the current model will continue and some new ideas for curriculum will be tried.

Mission in the World (Steve N)

- The Habitat project has a family – the Sherry Pitts Family. The ground-breaking ceremony will be May 17th at 12:30pm
- During the Syttende Mai Celebration and on Sunday, May 19th at Trinity, there will be an opportunity to donate and sign 2X4 "studs" that will be used in the build.
- Trinity will have a team of 8-10 people onsite for two full work days, June 26th and June 29th.

Outreach (Lara)

- Planning continues on the recycling project.

Support (Steve K)

Property

- No report

Stewardship

- 5th Sunday event is being planned for June with an outdoor worship service and picnic in the park.

Communications

- No report

Finance

- Waiting for information from the endowments (4th Quarter 2018, 1st Quarter 2019).
- A Summer Surge Fundraiser is planned again for this summer.

Staffing

- Lorilyn is presenting a digital timecard to the Staff on May 8th.
- Pr Elizabeth and Jan Kraabel are working on a draft of PTO language to bring to the Staffing Committee.

Worship (Willy)

- The Worship Team is discussing the optimal schedule for Easter services next year, possibly adding another service.
- When learning a new liturgy in the future, they are discussing options for projecting liturgy and/or including it in the bulletin. A new liturgy choice for the future: Behold I Make All Things New
- May offer Communion training in the Fall.
- An outdoor worship service will be held on June 30th.
- Hymn Sing starts on June 9th.
- May find a more permanent location for the cross (used during Easter).

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Update on the Furnace/Air Conditioner Project (Finance)

- All bills have been paid through March for the Furnace/Air Conditioner project. The work has not been completed, and there will be more installation bills. We have raised \$225,000! An additional \$25,000 would cover the projected balance needed.

Update on Custodian Position (Support/Staffing)

- References have been checked for the one applicant for the custodial position and an email has been sent to set up an interview time.

Update on Hiawatha Valley Education/WIN Program

- Another walk through of Trinity Center will be done on May 14th with a building contractor. They identified some areas of improvements to the physical space they would want/need to make if they buy the property, rather than lease it.

Finance Team Continuing Resolution (Support/Finance)

- Congregation Council requested clarification from the Support and Finance Teams on the first goal of the Continuing Resolution change: *Maintain a church environment that members and others will wish to be a part of.* They were asked to report back to the Congregation Council in June.

Summary of Visioning & Planning Team (Steve K, Bev N, Nolie K)

The Visioning & Planning Team was tasked with gathering information in order to make recommendations about the future growth and enhancement of the congregation. Based on the 112 surveys from interviews, forums, and electronic communication, *"the ministries of Trinity can be maintained and have the potential to grow with some changes to our existing space."*

Results were summarized into three areas:

- Additional, enhanced space: education, welcome/fellowship, accessibility
- Space: storage, updates, flexible, green
- Things that should be retained

A list of “dreams” shared by participants for Trinity’s ministries was also compiled. If a decision is made to go forward, the Visioning & Planning Team members asked to talk to the Building Team.

The Congregation Council agreed (with Jacque) that we have assessed the needs and we have a need. Mary reviewed the next step:

- The Congregation Council selects a Building Team Chairperson; a Congregational meeting is scheduled to share the findings and recommendations.

NEW BUSINESS:

Approval of New Members:

MSC (Steve N, Jacque) to approve Wayne Sherry, Quentin Thorson, Dana Lundgren and Family as new members to Trinity Lutheran Church (per C8.03 of Trinity’s Constitution).

Direct 1 month only of Noisy Offering to SG Habitat build (Steve N

MSC (Steve N, Milly) to direct the “Noisy Sunday” offering on May 12th to the Habitat Project (10% to budget, 90% to Habitat Project).

MSC (Steve N, Willy) to direct the donations from the 2x4 “stud” fundraiser to the Habitat Project.

Summer Surge Fundraiser

MSC (Steve N, Barb) to approve the Summer Surge fundraiser for this summer.

Stipend for Phone Use

MSC (Steve N, Milly) to pay a stipend of \$10/month to Marlene to be used toward her phone plan, to compensate her for the use of her phone several hours a week for Trinity business.

Pastor Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 7:00 pm in the Gathering Room.

In HIS Service,

Karen Bingham