

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

Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council

May 13, 2020

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 7:00 pm on May 13, 2020 via Zoom conference call.

Members Present: Saundy Solum, Milly Halverson, Al Lochner, Dean Wiste, Willy Leafblad, Barb Arnold, Sheri Allen, Jacque Wennes

Pr. Elizabeth opened the meeting with a devotion and a prayer.

Secretary's Report for April 2, 2020 was approved. MSP (Milly, Jacque)

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

- \$19,700 envelope and online offering
- \$2,200 income from Thrivent Choice
- \$26,400 monthly income
- \$24,200 monthly expenses
- Net income has decreased 9.6% compared to 2019
- Expenses have decreased 1.9% compared to 2019

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth (Placed on file) Highlights listed below.

- Electronic newsletters, bulletins, recorded services, and 'hymn of the day' continue to support our congregation.
- The ribbons on the rail have been an inspiration to many.
- Continued zoom meetings with Synod, FTCE group, and Faith + Lead leaders.
- Confirmation (via Zoom) concluded last week. I also led a Revelation Trinity U class.
- The Synod is sending a digital service, complete with bulletin, for us to use on May 24. We'll look at it when we receive it to see how much of it we can adapt for our service on that day, but you may have a "guest preacher." In addition, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton is recording a sermon for June 7 that all the ELCA can use.
- Looking forward, Bekah and I will both be attending (via Zoom, of course) the Festival of Homiletics May 18-19. I'll be officiating at Bernice Glasrud's graveside service on May 29.

Pastor Lane No report submitted.

Bekah (Placed on file) Highlights listed below.

- "Bible Stories with Bekah" are presented weekly on the Trinity Lutheran Spring Grove YouTube channel.
- Core confirmation last class was on May 6 via Zoom. Confirmation classes will start back up again in September/October.
- For now, we will not be offering any Trinity U electives over the summer. This may change depending on our reopening after COVID.
- A survey will be sent out for students, parents, and mentors, asking how this new form of confirmation went for them. Responses will be reported next month.
- The last middle-school game night of the school year is scheduled via Zoom on May 15th.

- Bonfires with middle schoolers over the summer may be scheduled depending on COVID rulings.
- We will have our last 3:16s of the school year on Wednesday, May 13.
- Planning some sort of senior high youth activities over the summer. I will be planning things once I know more on reopening and continuing social distancing. Middle School Friday game nights are also meeting via Zoom.
- No information currently from Good Earth Village on status of summer Confirmation Camp/Family Camp.
- Day Camp and VBS will look differently this summer – Sugar Creek has already cancelled camp through July 12, so they will not be sending counselors to run our Day Camp during the week of June 22.
- We could move Day Camp and VBS to August. We can decide when we receive information from Sugar Creek about their summer status.

Care Ministry (Milly)

- Care team supports food shelf and HIP, buying products at Red's. Package for 15. Food shelf at church is fully prepped.
- Jackie Parker received a \$250 Thrivent grant and used it to purchase groceries for Semcac.

Education (Jacque) (Placed on file) Highlights listed below.

- We discussed First Communion and Senior Recognition Sundays being the first two Sundays back and only allowing those celebrated and their families to attend, this could be an attempt of "soft" reopening of church.
- We hope to have Baccalaureate service on Wednesday August 5th since the school is planning on having commencement on the evening of Friday August 7th.
- We have notified Day Campers/VBS participants that we hope to reschedule to August from the week of June 22.
- Bekah is putting out a survey to confirmation students, parents and mentors to see how the new Trinity U went this first year. Will bring results to council at a later date.
- Bekah informed Ed Team she no longer wants student activities at her house because of the baby's schedule. We are looking at utilizing a room at the Trinity Center for 3:16s and Middle School Game Night. The youth could help decorate and it has bean bags, would move the ping pong table and air hockey table.

Mission in the World (Dean)

- Dean emailed and/or called all members on Mission team to review future opportunities. Dean was contacted by Dawn Hanson from Kwik Trip as they are looking for additional parties that could take their freezer food donations. Sunrise is already accepting their max capacity for freezer foods. Kwik Trip is looking for suggestions to give their additional freezer food within the Spring Grove area.

Outreach (Lara)

- Not present. Nothing to report.

Support (Al)

- Stewardship Team has not met this month. Dan is on the call from Property team to discuss radon project bids, details in continuing business. Finance and staffing have met, and all items are on agenda under continuing and new business. Communications team has not met but completed calling tree of 350 members. It has been determined that church records need to be updated. Communication team will contact all members age 80 and above starting May 10th to ask if they any needs that can be met by our church.

Worship (Willy)

- Worship Team met May 10th and reviewed feedback from Holy Week online services. Discussed when services do resume there will be no paper, including bulletins and hymnals.
- National Association for Music Education webinar stated that it is not considered safe to sing or play instruments in church even with masks during pandemic.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

COVID-19

- Response Team meets May 14th. All service closures are extended through June 1st. Pr. Elizabeth will have a Synod meeting as well on May 14th, Synod guidelines will be reviewed during this meeting.

Employees

- Additional support for COVID-19 affected employees will be provided through (PPP) Paycheck Protection Program. The SBA (US Small Business Association) is also providing Economic Disaster Loans (EIDL) to small businesses. Trinity has applied for both PPP and EIDL.

Radon Project

- Dan from the Property Committee joined our call and provided information on 2 bids for radon mitigation at Pr. Elizabeth's residence. The council approved the bid for American Waterworks at a cost of \$8,506.50. MSP (Barb, Jacque)
- Council discussed options for payment. There are funds available in special accounts from selling old parsonage. There is \$2k available in regular budget. There is \$6,900 left over from tuckpointing budget. Also, Dan is going to check with American Waterworks to determine if they have a payment plan.

NEW BUSINESS:

Paycheck Protection Program

- Businesses qualifying for PPP must spend at least 75% on payroll and up to 25% on rental, equipment, utilities.
- All hourly employees have been reduced since March 15th. The PPP will supplement their pay for hours they are unable to complete through July 7th, 2020.

Lawn Mowing

- Gary Wilhelmson has presented a bid to mow Trinity lawn property for \$2300. Currently Chad St. Mary has been mowing. For the past 2 years, Chad has completed mowing as a donation to Trinity. Sandy will contact Chad to determine his 2020 plans before moving forward with consideration of other bids.

Reopening

- Date still not set. Reopen will be paperless, no hymnals. Synod guidance will be provided during May 14th meeting.

Little Gnome Preschool

- Little Gnome Preschool has requested 1 room at Trinity Center starting June 1st for 5 days per week. At this time, council will need more information on number of students and cleaning requirements. Pr. Elizabeth will follow-up with Lorilyn and council will discuss options at June 10th meeting. If need be, an email vote can be done prior to June 10th with additional information provided.

Hosting Non-Trinity Events

- 2 non-essential summer events are planned at Trinity. One is a family gathering, the other a wedding. Council discussed options, initial response was to follow guidelines and no non-essential church activities until September due to COVID-19. Further discussion concluded that due to constantly changing state guidelines, this topic will be discussed and by the Trinity COVID-19 Response Team and they will finalize Trinity guidelines for non-essential events this summer. MSP (Milly, Pr. Elizabeth)

SEMN Synod

- Trinity received a correspondence from SEMN Synod and there is a discrepancy between what they have listed for Trinity annual mission support and what Trinity has on the books. Barb will follow-up with Lorilyn and review mission support amounts sent to SEMN Synod. Barb will bring information to the June council meeting.

Rockfilter Public Hearing

- In accordance with City of Spring Grove Zoning Code, Christian Myrah/RockFilter Distillery (neighboring property to Trinity) has requested an amendment to modify operation from current hours of 9am-10pm to 9am-1am in the Downtown Commercial District. There will be a Public Hearing conducted by Spring Grove City Council on May 19, 2020 at 6pm. Trinity council agreed that we have no concerns regarding the new hours and will not be attending the public hearing.

Recording Equipment

- Currently, Trinity is renting Rick's equipment for all social media needs (Facebook/YouTube). Trinity would like to purchase their own equipment. Purchase would include 1. Laptop 2. OBS (Open Broadcaster Software) 3. Camera at an estimated cost of \$2,091.00. Rick will continue to support the new hardware/software package with additional support provided by confirmation students. Also, possible new screens and monitors for paperless services will be addressed in the future. At this time, council approved the hardware and software estimated at \$2,091.00. MSP (Milly, AI)

Pr. Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15pm. MSP (Dean, Jacque)

Next Meeting: June 10, 2020 at 7:00pm via Zoom.

In HIS Service,

Sheri Allen