

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

**Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council**

November 13, 2019

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Steve Nelson at 7:45 pm on November 13, 2019 in the Gathering Room.

**Members Present:** Steve Nelson, Barb Arnold, Jacque Wennes, Steve Kemp, Willy Leafblad, Janna Myrah ( for Karen Bingham),and Lara Wold Mendez. **Absent:** Mary Deters, Milly Halverson, Karen Bingham.

Pr Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer.

**Secretary's Report** for October 9, 2019 was approved as corrected. ( Pastor Elizabeth presented an oral report . Cross out "full report placed on file." Under continuing business, the section on Facilities Planning Team update, should read "A third architectural firm, CRW from Rochester, is scheduled for October 30.")

**Treasurer's Report** (placed on file)

- Income for the first 10 months is 4.3% lower than for the same period last year. Online income is up and offering received on Sundays is down.
- We owe ourselves \$14,000 and the bank \$25,000. Our budget-based offering is \$5100 per Sunday. We are averaging \$4512 weekly.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Pastor Elizabeth (full report placed on file)

- In the past month we have had three services with more than 200 in attendance.
- Bekah and Pr. Elizabeth participated in confirmation at Wilmington.
- Trinity U classes have been going well.
- There have been several losses in our community: Kari Schultz, David Severson, and Stan and Donna Guberud
- She participated in the Habitat for Humanity "Women Build" in October.
- She did a number of shut-in visits while Pastor Lane was on vacation.
- She has attended four meetings with potential design/build and architectural/build firms.
- Last week she attended the Southeast Minnesota Synod's Fall Theological retreat in New Ulm.
- She will attend the Farmer Roundtable at Giants tomorrow.
- She has been elected to serve on the Synod's nominating committee.
- Thirst Day attendance was down in September and October.
- We will be introducing a new evening prayer service for Advent called "Joyous Light."
- She affirmed the selection of our newly-elected bishop who intends to meet with every pastor and congregation and has already met with 43 of them.

Pastor Lane

Report included the following:

- Home visits with Holy Communion - 4@ 4 hours
- Visits without Holy Communion – 2 @ 2 hours
- Services at Tweeten Apartments, Assisted Living and Manor – 1@ 1hour
- Services at Nursing Home -1 @ 1 hour
- Staff meetings – 3 at 2 hours
- Office time- 3 hours
- Sunday Sermon Prep and Service – 2@ 21 hours
- Hospital visits – 2 @ 1 hour
- Road time – 4 hour

- Newsletter 1 hour

### Bekah (full report placed on file)

- Sunday School is wrapping up its second rotation, teaching John the Baptist for the pre-kindergarteners, kindergarteners, and grades 1 through 4.
- Release Time program has gone through two rotations, focusing on Bible verses every Christian should know.
- Trinity U had second core class.
- Elective classes included Making a Mala and Sticking To It, God Speaks, TED talks, Thirst Day, and Thanksgiving pie-making.
- 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders come to Bekah's house every other Friday night for fellowship and games.
- 3:16s have discussed issues such as school troubles, racism, sexism, politics, and what happens for these youth after high school
- 8 students confirmed their faith on Sunday, October 27
- 8 students and 6 adults have signed up to go to Puerto Rico.
- Youth will be making pies this year on Wednesday, November 27 with the help of Peggy Landsom.

### **TEAM REPORTS:**

#### **Care Ministry**

- November 17 will be the "Bag A Buck" offering for the benefit of the Houston County Food Shelf.
- The team is preparing for the Christmas Cheer food deliveries.

#### **Education** (Jacque)

- Rehearsals for the Christmas program have begun. The Christmas program will be during the December 15 service.
- Release Time classes are going well with the help of Calvary's leaders Kimberly and Jan. There are almost 100 children in attendance.
- Eight Trinity students affirmed their faith on October 14<sup>th</sup>.
- We currently have 8 youths and 6 adults signed up to go to Puerto Rico during the summer of 2020,
- A reminder that Trinity U classes are for adults also. Get a schedule from Bekah and enlighten your life!

#### **Mission in the World** (Steve N)

- Their next project is the Alternative Giving Fair, beginning on December 1 and running until December 22.
- Trinity has contributed \$4000 over the last three years to Good Earth Village.
- The Habitat workers are struggling to get the house enclosed before winter.

#### **Outreach** (Lara)

- They are finalizing the new member activities.
- Cards have been sent to the nursing home and to recent graduates.
- They are working on procedures for coffee hour hosting after church.

#### **Support** (Steve K)

##### Property

- The team is looking for a new snow removal contractor.
- The chimney is starting to deteriorate and needs to be taken down. Andy Allen has submitted the lowest bid of \$3450. It will be taken down in January.

##### Stewardship

- The team is putting something together along with Communications for the end of the year..

##### Communications

- This team is working with Stewardship on an end-of-the year project.

##### Finance

- (see New Business)

## Staffing

- (See Continuing Business)

## Worship (Willy)

- A team meeting is scheduled for next week.

## Nominating Committee (Steve N.)

- Most of the slots have been filled, but they still need a Support Team Leader and a Council Secretary.

## **CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

### 2020 budget second reading ( Barbara Arnold)

- Benevolence payment to the Synod increased by 1% .
- Staff increase is 2.7%.
- Noisy offering will show up as outlay from Mission In the World Team.
- There will be one more reading of the proposed budget in December.

### D&O Insurance update

- D&O policy added to current insurance policy at cost of \$280.

### Update from Trinity Center Ad Hoc Committee (Steve Kemp)

- The committee met on October 23 with the following members present: Lee Hoekstra, Kris Rud, Lonny Tweeten, Dana Kjome, Andy Allen, Bev Nelson, Jacque Wennes, Steve Kemp. After conversation with all in attendance , the unanimous recommendation was that Trinity should sell the Trinity Center property. The storage building on the north side of the property was not discussed. Those not in attendance, Lorilyn and Nolie, were briefed on the meeting and expressed agreement with the recommendation. Support was expressed for Beary Patch Preschool and Release Time as both being important parts of Trinity's mission. Should Trinity Center be sold, alternative locations for these programs would need to be secured.

**MSC** (Steve K., Barb) to recommend to the congregation that the Council put up for sale the Trinity Center building and its storage facility .

### PTO Policy (PTO and Holiday Policy for Part-Time Hourly Employees placed on file)

**MSC** (Steve K., Lara) to accept the PTO policy and the addendum as presented in the written document.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### By-laws change for Treasurer's term of office

- After discussion, it was decided to list this item under continuing business until a decision is made.

### Lutheran Campus Center Request

- Mission Endowment and WELCA have contributed this year.
- Our congregation also presented them with a box of bibles.

### Fall Theological Conference offering goes to SEMN Candidacy program

- Pastor Elizabeth paid out of pocket and will be reimbursed.

### Church and parsonage plowing contract

- The property team is working on securing a contract.

### Alternative Giving Opportunity

**MSC** ( Janna, Willy) to allow the Mission in the World Team to conduct alternative giving sales for four Sundays in December.

All-church open house baby shower for Bekah and Willy during fellowship December 22

Thanksgiving offering

**MSC** ( Pr. Elizabeth, Willy) to designate the Thanksgiving offering for support of Christmas Cheer.

Advent services

- There will be three advent services on Wednesdays December 4, 11, and 18 at 7:45 focusing on psalms 141, 16, and 62.

The meet closed with a prayer and adjourned at 9:05.

**Next meeting will be Wednesday, December 10 at 7:45 pm in the Gathering Room.**

Submitted by

Janna Myrah, Acting Secretary