

Trinity Lutheran Church
Special Congregational Meeting
July 14, 2019

A Special Congregational Meeting to discuss how our existing space (fellowship, education, and office areas) may be limiting us from performing our ministries to their fullest, was called to order by President Mary Deters at 10:30 am in the sanctuary of Trinity Lutheran Church.

Pastor Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer.

President Mary Deters reminded all present that the purpose of today's meeting is informational only. She gave a brief history of the project and how we got here:

- Through the Mission Investment Fund, a building consultant, on the staff of the ELCA, toured our building and made suggestions. This information was given to the congregation in July 2017.
- We responded by making small changes, but delayed any large considerations until we called a pastor.
- Last summer, we formed a Visioning & Planning Team (Steve Kemp, Bev Nelson, Nolie Kapplinger). They presented their findings to the Congregation Council and congregation in May 2019.
- A Facilities Planning Team Chairperson was appointed at the June 2019 Congregation Council meeting. The next step is to form a Facilities Planning Team.

Len Myrah, who will serve as the Facilities Planning Team chairperson, addressed the congregation about the benefits and challenges of enhancing our space. He reminded us that we have a heritage -- when the first church burned down, our ancestors rebuilt this church in eleven months. Today, we have professionals who will help us make decisions that fit our needs and fit our budget. He has already contacted the Mission Investment Fund, who gave him the names of architectural firms who assist churches with developing a plan and names of churches that have enhanced their church facility.

Representing the Trinity Heritage Endowment Fund, Jim Gray explained that the fund was established for upkeep and repairs, not for building projects. However, the Anna Rosendahl bequest (approx. \$114k) was designated for a ground level addition (for education).

Barb Arnold, treasurer, gave a financial update, emphasizing that the general fund cash flow is not conducive to making loan payments. She also shared that a copy of the Property Team "walk-through" list will be available in the church office.

Understanding that we do not make changes just for the sake of doing it, but because there is a reason and/or a ministry need, a time for questions and comments was facilitated by President Mary Deters. In summary:

- The recently updated Gifts & Memorial policy addresses the statute of limitations on bequests and how to legally free up bequest monies and use them.
- If Trinity is committed to growing the faith of young people in our congregation and we want them to worship, come to Sunday School, attend VBS and Day Camp, we are currently challenged by lack of space.

- Seek donations for the project.
- Professionals can help us look at the “big picture” and help us prioritize so that we are proactive, not reactive.
- If we chose not to change and grow, it will impact who chooses to worship at Trinity.
- The church is the people, not the building.

Pastor Elizabeth concluded the question and comment time by reminding us that a lot of change has already been done over the years. As she thinks about our ministries: worship, education, care, outreach, mission, and the support teams, she has asked herself, “Are we limiting our ministries and mission because of our facility?” She believes with all her heart, soul, and mind that we can do our ministries better by enhancing our building; we can do it better with change.

The duties of the Facilities Planning Team (6-8 members) was provided and an invitation to volunteer for the team was extended. Team members will be chosen at the August Congregation Council meeting.

Pastor Elizabeth closed the meeting in prayer.