

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

Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council

January 8, 2020

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Mary Deters at 7:45 pm on January 8, 2020 in the Middle Room.

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

Also Present: Lorilyn Dehning

Pr Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report for December 11, 2019 was approved

Treasurer's Report (placed on file)

- End of year net income was \$12,269.
- Bank note has been paid in full; still owe ourselves \$14k.
- Christmas offering was \$16k plus \$10k online.
- Spent \$187 for Release Time program in 2019.
- Recommends trying to avoid borrowing in 2020.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth

- She is feeling 85% better and plans to gradually resume her responsibilities.
- She will be reimbursed for the Luther Seminary class she was unable to attend due to illness.
- She plans to take her vacation in February.

Pastor Lane

- Report to the Council included 76 ½ hours of ministry:
 - 8 Home Visits with Holy Communion (10 hours)
 - 3 Visits without Holy Communion (5 ½ hours)
 - 3 Services at Tweeten Apts, Assisted Living, and Manor (4 hours)
 - 2 Staff Meetings (1 hour)
 - Office Time (6 hours)
 - 4 Sunday Sermon Prep and Service; Saturday included (32 hours)
 - 1 Advent Service, Psalm Prep (3 hours)
 - 2 Hospital Visits (2 hours)
 - Road Time (9 hours)
 - Confirmation Class: Paul's Letter Class and prep (3 hours)
 - Newsletter (1 hour)
- Lucille Wilhelmson funeral

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.
- Youth will be selling shares of stock, for the benefit of the youth program, in January.
- Registration for Trinity U electives, for the Spring Trimester, are available.

Care Ministry (Milly)

- The Team delivered 23 Christmas Cheer packages to the Spring Grove area in December; plus 9 -\$10 gift certificates to HIP, 13-\$20 gift certificates to halfway houses, 43 pairs of socks, Live Generously t-shirts, quilts to the Habitat House family, and a gift to Rachel Krenzke. *Monetary gifts helped make this important ministry possible.*

Education (Jacque)

- Rotational Sunday School is thriving with 40-50 students attending each Sunday. The curriculum change for 5-6th graders is more age appropriate.
- Students in Kindergarten and Grades 1-3 meet once a month for Release Time. Of the 96 students that attend, 30 have memberships with Trinity. The remainder are from Calvary, Wilmington Lutheran, Faith Lutheran, and the community.
- The focus of the Confirmation program is to develop faith formation in our youth. Currently, there are 37 confirmation students (20 - 7th Graders, 5 - 8th Graders, and 12 - 9th Graders).
- VBS and Day Camp will be June 22-25, 2020.
- Currently, 7 youth and 8 adults have signed up for the Puerto Rico Trip, July 25-August 1, 2020.

Mission in the World (Steve N)

- Thankful for all who shopped for “gifts that change the world” through Trinity’s Thankful Gifts catalog. Gifts totaled \$5,595!
- Contract subs (plumbers, electricians, etc) will begin work shortly in the Habitat house.

Outreach (Lara)

- Thankful for all who participated in Trinity’s Reverse Advent Calendars ministry. These gifts of LOVE make a difference to all who receive.
- The Empty Bowls event will be held on Sunday, February 23 from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm. 100% of the money gathered at the meal will go directly to the Houston County Food Shelf and the ELCA World Hunger Fund.
- Finalizing the Fellowship List of coffee hour servers.

Support (Steve K)

Steve gathered together all Support Teams, current and new members, on January 7, 2020.

Property

- No report.

Stewardship

- Everyone on the membership list was sent a Christmas card.

Communications

- The “Let There Be Light” postcard, inviting all to join us at Trinity during the Christmas season, was beautiful. Thank you Marlene, Karen, and Bill Fried!

Finance

- (See Continuing Business)

Staffing

- Focused on custodian position(s) and duties.

Worship (Willy)

- Met on January 10, 2020 to do a recap of Advent and Christmas worship. Attendance for Christmas Eve services: 325 at 3pm, 144 at 8pm; for Christmas Day: 92.
- Inquiries were made regarding two of Trinity's pianos: Bethany (Beary Patch Preschool) does not use the piano; Habitat Restore does not accept used pianos; several individuals have expressed an interest.

Willy will ask Jean Ellingson if the piano at Trinity Center was a memorial gift. If so, the Gifts & Memorial policy would need to be followed before donating or selling it.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Update from Facilities Planning Committee

From August to December, the Facilities Planning Committee has interviewed four architectural firms, all of which have vast experience designing, building, and remodeling churches. These firms were: VanMan from Plymouth MN, Rivers from La Crosse WI, CRW from Rochester MN, and Wieser Construction of La Crescent MN working with Cashman architectural firm from Sun Prairie WI. The first three firms are design/bid firms: the architect designs and if approved, puts the plan out for bids to construction companies. Wieser/Cashman is a design/build firm: the architect comes under the umbrella of the construction firm.

- After much discussion by all committee members, they voted to chose Wieser/Cashman.
- Next step: To meet with the architect and builder and present to them the Visioning & Planning team results concerning our needs, in order to come up with a plan to remodel our church structure to meet those needs, *with the goal of enhancing our ministry and mission.*
- Len will make this public at the informational meeting on Sunday, January 12th.
- President Mary Deters clarified that any unbudgeted expenditure cannot exceed 10% of the annual budget and must be presented at a congregational meeting. (The estimated cost of the architect plan is approximately \$10-12k).

Update from Nominating Committee

- Two positions remain open: Council Secretary, Education team member

Little Gnomes request to use Trinity Center (Lorilyn)

The after-school program currently has 26 - 1st-3rd graders in the program, plus a waiting list. Little Gnomes does not have the space and needs a short term solution. They are interested in renting an upstairs room at Trinity Center, weekdays from 3-6pm (all day if a snow day). They agree to:

- provide their own insurance and janitor
- leave all their toys in the room
- clean the bathroom areas

MSC (Milly, Barb) to rent an upstairs room at Trinity Center (first room to the left of the stairs) to the Little Gnome Preschool for \$15/day for their after school program for 1-3rd graders from 3-6pm. Little Gnomes's insurance and janitor follows them.

Pr Elizabeth and Lorilyn will complete a Facilities Use Agreement.

Approval of Amended Budget (Lorilyn)

MSC (Barbara, Steve N) to accept the budget as amended.

NEW BUSINESS:

Rosendahl Fund (Mary D)

After attending the Heritage Endowment meeting on Sunday, January 5th, she shared that some clarification may be needed regarding the Rosendahl Fund. These monies can be accessed at any time, however, it seems unclear who decides.

Pr Elizabeth will plan to attend the next meeting of the Heritage Endowment Fund committee on February 2nd.

Pr Elizabeth, Lorilyn, and Scott Bingham will meet to discuss and seek clarification regarding the Rosendahl Fund.

Appoint Finance Team

- Tabled until we know the scope of the project.

Money Owed to Ourselves (Pr Elizabeth)

In thankfulness for the gifts received year end, Pr Elizabeth recommended to the Council that when we receive abundantly, we have an obligation to give benevolently; at minimum, an offering of 10% or \$1,200.

MS (Milly, Steve N) to give a First Fruits offering of 10% from our excess monies in 2019 (\$12,269) to mission, to be designated by the Mission in the World Team. **Motion passed** by paper ballot: 9 Yes 1 No

Pastor Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Upcoming Events:

- Annual Meeting Reports due Friday, January 10th.
- Informational Meeting regarding Trinity Center: Sunday, January 12th

Next Meeting: February 12, 2020 at 7:45 pm in the Gathering Room.

In HIS Service,

Karen Bingham