

Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council
November 14, 2018

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Mary Deters at 7:45 pm on November 14, 2018 in the Middle Room at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Members Present: Mary Deters, Milly Halverson, Steve Nelson, Barb Arnold, Jacque Wennes, Steve Kemp, Willy Leafblad, and Mary Zaffke.

Also Present: Lorilyn Dehning (Finance), Lee Hoekstra (Property)

Pr Elizabeth opened the meeting with prayer.

Secretary's Report for October 10, 2018 was approved as corrected.

Treasurer's Report (placed on file)

- Offering shows a 7.8% increase as compared to the same time last year.
- Expenses are up 28% as compared to the same time last year.
- \$10k was borrowed from line of credit. We owe ourselves \$14k and another \$12k is needed before the end of the month (behind \$36k).

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth

- Looking forward to Advent Vesper services.
- Celebrating her 7-month anniversary at Trinity on November 15th.

Pastor Lane

- Report to the Council included 41 hours of ministry:
 - 1 Saturday Service and prep (8 hours)
 - Confirmation Service help (1 ½ hours) with practice
 - 11 Home Visits with Communion (15 hours)
 - 2 Hospital visits (6 hours)
 - 2 Staff meetings (2 hours)
 - 1 Staff review (1/2 hour)
 - 1 Newsletter article (3 hours)
 - Services for Tweeten Apt, Asstd Living, Manor with prep (5 hours)
 - Office (1 hour)

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.
- Since January, Bekah has participated monthly in the ELCA Youth Ministry Network's Discipling Cohort Initiative, with a goal of creating a 3-year ministry plan. It will be presented to the Education Team once it is completed.

TEAM REPORTS:

Care Ministry (Milly)

- Bag a Buck fundraiser, to benefit the Houston County food shelf, will be on Sunday, November 18th.
- Books have been ordered for the grief packets.
- Thanksgiving offering, plus a Thrivent grant, will be used for Christmas Cheer.

Education (Jacque)

- Eight youth joined Bekah to help TaskTakers complete the fall clean up in Spring Grove.
- Bekah shared the survey she sent via email to parents of Sunday School students asking for their preferred location for Sunday School (Church or Trinity Center). The majority wanted Sunday School to return to the church as soon as possible. In December, the children will be preparing for the Christmas program at church. We will await Property's direction as to when Sunday School can return to church on a regular basis. Bekah and Jacque will meet with Lee to explore ideas for Sunday School rooms.
- The Education Team is excited about "Thirst Day" which will be hosted by Pr Elizabeth in her home beginning January 17th. Love Wins by Rob Bell will be discussed and all are welcome.

Mission in the World (Steve N)

- Their next project is the Alternative Giving Fair, to begin November 25th. A Thrivent grant will cover the cost of the catalog.
- Steve attended the Habitat for Humanity meeting held in Spring Grove on November 7th. They discussed forming 4 sub-groups: fundraising, family selection, core volunteers, and supply/contractor. A lot has been purchased and Habitat is interested in 2 more lots. They hope to build one home each year for 3 years in Spring Grove. The fundraising goal is \$50-75k and the timeline: February – family is selected; Spring – break ground; September – complete house build

Steve N will share in a newsletter article the Habitat for Humanity project and how Trinity members can be involved.

Outreach (Mary Z)

- Team will meet on November 15th.
- We will be welcoming new members on Sunday, November 18th.
- Reverse Advent Calendars are being prepared.

Support (Steve K)

Property (full report placed on file)

- Some parsonage projects will be postponed to Spring. Special thanks to: JC Nerstad for removing the excess dirt and rock and Steve Nelson for putting up a more secure “Greta” fence.
- Andy Allen, Dana Kjome and Lonny Tweeten have agreed to have their names on the ballot to serve for an additional 2 years on the Property Team. Thanks to Rick Sundet for his six years of service on Property.

Stewardship / Communications

- Working with the Communications Team to create a Christmas card – thanking Trinity members for their gifts and asking for their continued support of Trinity’s mission and ministry.

Mary D will talk to Stewardship about updating the list for offering envelopes so that online givers do not receive them.

Finance (full report placed on file)

- Discussion of the 2019 Budget.
- Seeking any suggestions for decreasing expenses.

Staffing (full report placed on file)

- 2018 Annual reviews have been completed.
- Budget recommendation: 2% raise for all staff, if possible; recommend for all or none.
- Property Team is reviewing the janitorial duty list to determine what needs to be in the job description to make it more workable.

Mary D will discuss with Staffing the budget recommendation to change mileage to a flat monthly rate.

Worship (Willy)

- To help us prepare for Christmas, Advent Vesper services are being planned at 7 pm on December 5, 12, and 19.
- Christmas Eve Services will be at 3 pm and 8 pm. Christmas Day service will be at 10 am.
- Worship Team is working on volunteer lists.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

Update on Boiler Installation (Property)

- The insulation of all the piping is complete. Univents will be installed when they arrive. Projects related to the boiler replacement will be planned in the next few months (painting, repair, etc).

Update on Boiler Fundraiser (Finance)

- Total to date: \$191k
- Only 9 more names are needed for the “blue hair” challenge!
- The Finance Team would like to serve coffee fellowship as a thank you to all of the generous givers.

Second Reading of 2019 Budget (Lorilyn)

- The budget presented is currently in the black; to accomplish this, the benevolence was raised from 5% to 6%. However, Lorilyn compiled a list of all mission giving in 2018 to show how close to 10% we give benevolently.
- The 2% increase for salaries for all staff, recommended by Staffing Team is reflected in the budget.
- Budget will be presented for approval to the Congregation Council in December.

Jacque will contact our insurer to inquire if the landline phone at Trinity Center can be removed.

Update on By-Laws (Jacque)

- A forum was held on Sunday, November 11th to discuss changes made to the By-Laws.

Jacque will change wording for Property Support Team Committee (B12.05 Teams) per request from Property.

MSC (Steve K, Steve N) to recommend the changes to the By-Laws, as presented to the Congregation Council, at the annual meeting.

Facilities Use Policy (Jacque)

- The policy is up-to-date and in the approved policy binder in the church office.

Pr Elizabeth will make sure the Facilities Use Policy is online.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting Date

- A date will be decided at the December Congregation Council meeting. The 2nd Sunday in January was suggested; however, year end information for the endowments would not be available.

Empty Bowls

- An Empty Bowls event is scheduled for January 20, 2019 with proceeds to benefit ELCA World Hunger and the Houston County Food Shelf.

MSC (Mary Z, Steve N) to hold an Empty Bowls fundraiser on January 20th with monies to be given equally to ELCA World Hunger and the Houston County Food Shelf.

Bookkeeper Position

- Pr Elizabeth requested approval to begin the formal process.

MSC (Steve K, Milly) to proceed with securing and hiring a bookkeeper position.

Approval to Pay Boiler Bill #2 (Lorilyn)

MSC (Jacque, Steve K) to approve paying the second boiler bill of \$87,195.

Pastor Elizabeth closed the meeting with prayer at 9:45pm

Meeting adjourned at

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 12th at 7:45 pm at the parsonage.

In HIS Service,

Karen Bingham