

Trinity Lutheran Church Congregational Council
September 9, 2020

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by Saundy Solum at 6:30 pm on September 9, 2020, in the Fellowship Hall.

Members present: Barb Arnold, Milly Halverson, Janna Myrah, Saundy Solum, Jacque Wennes, Dean Wiste. Online participants were Willy Leafblad, Al Lochner, Lara Wold-Mendez, Jan Kraabel Dan Alstad.

Pastor Elizabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

Secretary's Report for August 12, 2020 was approved as corrected:

In the treasurer's report delete "No money was received from Beary Patch" since they pay only once a year.

MSP: (Dean/Barb)

Treasurer's Report: (placed on file). Highlights listed below.

MSP (Milly/Lara)

- Online/envelope offering down 3.3%.
- Balance \$18,214.
- Excluding PPP money, we have received \$830 less than last year at this time.
- Expenses are \$20,000 more than last year. We are behind \$764.
- The Synod has received \$10,791.31 from us.
- Question was raised concerning a designated donation on the balance sheet. Barb will follow up to determine the designee.

STAFF REPORTS

Pastor Elizabeth

- Our outdoor services continue to a tremendous blessing, but I must be honest: It was nice to have the service delivered by the Southeast Minnesota Synod last weekend. There's still a certain amount of behind-the-scenes technological work we have to do to those digital services, but it's worth it!

- I continue to have a LOT of Zoom meetings (as I'm sure you all have) with the Synod and Root River conference pastors, with my FTCE group, and with Faith + Lead cohorts. I also attended a Church Anew Zoom conference on August 17 that was very educational and enlightening. I have several more online conferences coming up in the next few months: Craft of Preaching in October, Fall Theological in November, and a Faith + Lead 4-week series on "Finding Hope in a Divided Country" surrounding the upcoming election.
- Bekah and I attended Kenadee Gerard's confirmation (Wilmington's only confirmand this year) on August 30. It was held outdoors at their place east of town, and Pr. Kris Fahey and I both assisted. It was a lovely service!
- We have confirmation orientation for 7th-9th graders and affirmation of baptism planning for our 10th graders this week and next. Confirmation classes begin October 7.
- The Facilities Planning Team met last week, and we will see a round #2 proposal for the church building renovation from Wieser/Cashman on September 24.
- Beginning today the office is open on Wednesdays again, but with 10-4 office hours like the rest of the week. Marlene and Stewart will take turns being here on Wednesdays in order to maintain distancing in the office. I think it's important to have someone here besides me to answer the phone and greet people.
- We've started recording "Telling the Trinity Stewardship Story" videos for posting on Facebook and our YouTube channel. So far Steve Nelson (Habitat House), and Judy Bratland and Carol Rustad (school kits, layettes and quilts for LWR) have recorded videos, and we record Jean Ellingson (the "81 over 80" calling tree) tomorrow. These videos post on "good news Monday" on our Facebook page.
- The Response Team continues to keep an eye on COVID numbers. We meet next week to assess whether we need to change any of our plans. According to MDH guidelines, some very limited singing will be allowed outside with masks.
- Pastoral acts: 1 wedding, 1 baptism upcoming on Saturday.

- We MIGHT have a “blessing of the animals” service on October 4. TBD with the Worship Team.
- On a couple of personal notes, my good friend Kyle was ordained on August 22 and I was able to attend via Facebook Live. Kyle had a long long journey to ordination. I am very happy for him. Also, my mom sold her house and bought a condo at Vennehjem in Decorah, and I have been helping her move and get settled in the last week and a half. My bathroom work continues: The bathtub arrived and most of the rough-in is complete. I’m also taking a few days off (but not a Sunday) at the end of September.

Pastor Lane submitted the following report for July and August :

- Home Communion: 19 visits, 22 hours
- Sunday services: 3 services, 31 hours/prep and such
- Hospital visits: 4 visits, 2 hours
- Manor/ Tweeten Apt./Assisted Living: 4 services, 4 hours
- Visits no communion: 3 visits, 4 hours
- Phone calls: 2 hours
- Driving time : 10 hours
- Total: 75 hours

BEKAH: CYF

Bible Stories With Bekah: Bekah continues to put out weekly YouTube videos of her reading a Bible story with a lesson, a song, or a challenge for our younger group.

Bonfires: Bonfires at Bekah’s house have been a success !

We had 10-12 youth at each bonfire. Our last bonfire of the summer was at Rob and Amy Gross’s backyard to use their movie theater. We watched *Holes*.

Sunday School: The Sunday school children have been split into two groups so that half will come the first two Sundays of the month and the other half will come the last two Sundays of the month.

Bekah is working on a curriculum that will work for ages 3 through 6th grade.

The Education Team sent out a survey to Sunday School parents to gauge their comfort levels with sending their children to Sunday School this fall.

Confirmation/Trinity U:

The Education Team sent out a survey to confirmation parent to gauge their comfort levels with sending their youth to confirmation this fall.

We will be offering four Trinity U classes this fall and require that confirmation youth sign up for one to reduce class sizes. The four electives being offered are Stars with Scott Bingham, Nine Square in the Air construction with Lee Hoekstra, Bird Trail with Laurie Moen, and Fall Clean-Up with Bekah.

We have 10 new 7th graders starting confirmation. Rachel Bjerke will be one of their mentors and we are still looking for one or two more.

Trinity Center Youth Room: Bekah and three youths are working on creating a youth room in Trinity Center. They have cleaned out the space, brainstormed what they want to put in it, and will begin painting on Saturday.

Release Time:

Bekah is still in conversation with the school about how Release Time will begin this fall.

TEAM REPORTS

Mission In the World (Dean): The team met on September 3 at the City Park Gazebo. They discussed the following: 2021 mission budget request which the team would like to keep at 7% due to the constraints of Covid-19. The team guidelines were agreed upon by the group. They will be transporting quilts and layettes to LaCrosse on Saturday, October 10, 2020. Stewart Storlie and Roxie Finnesgard have tentatively agreed to take care of this project.

Education (Jacque):

There will be 10 new 7th graders stating confirmation along with our twenty 8th graders and five 9th graders.

Bekah and three youth started working on the room a Trinity Center for a Youth Room with couch, ping pong table, movie screen, and other activities for youth.

Bekah will put out surveys to parents of Sunday School and Confirmation students to explore their comfort levels attending upcoming classes and activities.

The Education Team submitted their 2021 budget to Finance, presented their 2021 events and calendar, and developed their Education Team Guidelines.

Jacque distributed the following Beary Patch report to council:

The Board of Directors for Beary Patch voted that Beary Patch would follow the Spring Grove School District on matters related to Covid-19, i.e. attendance and schedules.

Beary Patch has a written Covid-19 preparedness plan following the CDC and MN Department of Health guidelines.

This year's enrollment in PreK is 8 and Early Preschool is 7. Bethany Bergsgaard, as the teacher director/teacher of Beary Patch, continues her certification as a 4-star rating under the Parent Award Program through the state of MN.

Care Team (Milly) :

The food items for the HIP program were moved from the school to the furnace room at Trinity Center.

Milly was able to purchase items from the Channel One Food Shelf.

Outreach (Lara):

The team is contacting Spring Grove graduates from the last five years.

Worship (Willy):

The team will meet on the first Sunday of each month.

The Handbells will have their fall retreat on Saturday from 9-12.

They plan to ring in smaller groups and hope to ring at all services starting in October. They have obtained new music for 3-6 ringers.

Support (Al):

The Communications Team requests the same budget as last year.

Jan Kraabel reported that the Staffing Team met via Zoom and is looking at custodial and bookkeeping positions.

The Finance Team needs budget requests sent to Lorilyn by the end of the month.

The Finance Team will present items related to the constitution under continuing business.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

2021 preliminary budget discussion :

MSP (Jan/Milly):

To suspend the Choir Conductor's contract due to the inability of the conductor to comply with the contract terms and responsibilities for reasons beyond his control.

Al amended the motion to add " as of 9/4/2020". **Motion passed as amended.**

MSP (Al/Jacque):

To hire Scott Solberg effective 9/5/2020 as a temporary employee to provide individual and group music as well as audiovisual support for worship services with periodic review of responsibilities. (Al/Jacque)
(Note: Position compensation- \$60.00 per service: \$20.00 for music responsibilities and \$40.00 for AV responsibilities.)

Property :

Dan Alstad presented needs at Trinity Center which include a new keycard system, removal and replacement of concrete slabs, new cement, and excavating and leveling outside.

MSP (Milly/ Barb):

To authorize \$6,000.00 for improvements at Trinity Center including keycard system, locks, handles, and cement as well as leveling of cement slab leading to stairs.

Continuing business was suspended for fifteen minutes for a discussion of the book *Dear Church: A Love Letter from a Black Preacher to the Whitest Denomination in the US*.

Constitution and Bylaws :

The Council made the following revisions:

Pg.37 C12.05 should read “The council shall review and approve for adoption the annual budget prepared by the Finance Team.”

Pg. 38 C12.07- Change to “may provide”

Pg. 39 C13.02.04 3rd line should read “non-voting member and attends finance team meetings.”

Pg..40 C13.03.A – Change “not eligible for consecutive re-election” to “may succeed themselves one time.”

Pg. 40 C13.04 – Change from three people auditing to two people auditing.

MSP (Al/Dean):

To accept the constitution with changes as presented with the exception of Endowments.

Team Guidelines:

Each team leader should go through the guidelines with the team.

Trinity As Temporary Shelter for Assisted Living Evacuation:

MSP (Dean/Jacque)

To allow the Spring Grove Assisted Living Facility to use Trinity Lutheran as a temporary evacuation space.

Facility Planning Team update:

The team will meet on September 24 to review a second proposal from Wieser-Cashman.

NEW BUSINESS

Trinity Center –Rent to Little Gnomes:

1. One room, \$5 per day. They supervise and clean (0-20 children \$5 /day, 21-30 children \$8/day, and over 30 children \$10/day.)
2. Need a floor plan of Room A and fire inspection.
3. Need a letter to City Hall saying we approve.
4. Want to start September 14.
5. Need to install keycard system, upgrade locks and handles on the upstairs doors, enclose stairway railings on fire escape and railing on outside stairway.

MSP (Barb/Willy):

To rent one room at Trinity Center to Little Gnomes and to comply with their list of items required.

Giants Parade on Sunday:

MSP (Barb/Pr. Elizabeth) :

Not to participate in the parade on Sunday.

Education Team Fundraisers:

The Education team proposes the following fundraisers (The amount they hope to raise is in parentheses). All will depend on Covid-19 constraints.

November – Thanksgiving pies (\$750)

January – Stock Sales (\$3500)

Lenten Suppers (\$300 per meal)

April – Easter Breakfast (\$500)

Syttende Mai Dinner (\$3000)

September-November – 144-Envelope challenge (\$10,00)

MSP (Jacque/Barb):

To accept the Fundraiser schedule as presented.

Pastor Elizabeth closed the meeting with a prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 pm.

Upcoming Dates:

The next council meeting will be on Wednesday, October 14 at 7pm.

Newsletter articles due September 18.

Submitted by

Janna Myrah, Acting Secretary

