

Trinity Lutheran Church

Church Council meeting, Tuesday, Jan. 24th 2017

Joint meeting of Old & New Council members; Meeting held at Simpsons Restaurant.

Meeting was called to order at 6:17 pm by President Tom Johnson.

Attendees: Tom Johnson, Jeff Riddle, Tim Gauerke, Nancy Johnson, Pastor Bryan, Pastor Andy, Pastor Dione, Charlene Kuenzi, Nancy Ross, Diane Opperman, Mark Harrington, Don Holtebeck, Ruth Trinrud, Marshall Lysne & New members Don Morgan & Becky Liegl

Prayer: Pastor Bryan.

Devotions: Nancy Johnson.

Secretary's Report: Report was distributed and reviewed. Motion to approve the Secretary's report by Nancy Ross, second by Marshall Lysne, Approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was distributed. Nancy J. reported that year end we are minus \$1,900.00 for the year of 2016. Nancy felt that all things considered with our \$92,244.01 in benevolence giving this is a manageable amount. Nancy Johnson asked for any questions. No questions. Nancy Johnson encouraged the new members to ask any questions as time goes on and would be happy to sit down with them to explain the different aspects of the report.

Pastors Reports: Pastor Bryan, Pastor Andy and Pastor Dione shared their reports. These reports are attached.

Pastor Bryan:

December: blasts of arctic cold; music in abundance; the celebration of Jesus' birth.

December was indeed the month that winter arrived in east central Wisconsin. Arctic chill put a damper, not only on the everyday routines of school, work, grocery shopping, and commuting, but interfered mightily with Christmas celebrations and events. An ecumenical caroling event was canceled, as was Trinity's participation in community caroling. Our youth led Christmas programs had to be canceled for the first time in the thirty plus years Jean Schwirtz has been working here.

The days leading up to and following December 21st were very dark. But the times we could get together— for Peter Eide's concert, for our choir cantata, for our Confirmation classes and Youth and Family events, and for Christmas worship-- were warm and bright.

Winter checked its coat at the door and found a place filled with music, hospitality, love and service, and meaningful worship.

My service included pastoral care and visitation, collaborating with staff in planning and leading worship, and work with our committees.

Of special note, our Personnel Committee began to see a need to reevaluate the job descriptions of our support staff to better reflect and serve our ministries now, and our ministries in the future.

Our staff has performed admirably, supporting the work of our ministries during these past years of new building construction, and two of our long term pastors leaving. Our staff has also changed a great deal, with familiar faces moving on, and new workers joining us in our ministries.

So it's time ask the questions: what are the tasks our staff is doing now; what are the tasks that need to be done as we move forward; what are the tasks that had to be done for our new building and pastoral transitions; and what are the tasks and responsibilities of each individual worker that are no longer required.

Along with my service in pastoral care and worship, being a part of asking and answering these questions is where I will be putting a lot of my energy and focus. And it's all about how we can serve you and God better and smarter, and doing this for the long haul.

Peace, Pr. Bryan

Pastor Andy: Jan. 24, 2017

I'll keep this report shorter, per the final wishes of our outgoing president not to get long-winded.

First, a word of welcome to Becky and Don (Morgan) as they join the Council and a word of sincere thanks to Don (Holtebeck), Bonnie, and especially the aforementioned Tom as they finish their term.

As promised in November, the biggest news of the past two months—for family and youth ministries, at least, if not for the entire congregation—has been the arrival of Kim Miller as Trinity's new, full-time youth program and communications coordinator. I told you in my last report about Kim's extraordinary background and gifts for this position, and she has been off to a predictably phenomenal start. Due to the tricky weather, she has led only two Crossover Bible studies for high-schoolers since her Dec. 12 start, but they have been great with both the strong content and turnout that we would expect.

While quickly getting acclimated to the wild world of confirmation, Kim also survived her first Middle School Lock-In this past weekend, Jan. 20-21, which she masterfully orchestrated. Turnout was on the lower end, dropping a bit further from last year to the mid-20s, but the quality more than made up for quantity in what was the overall smoothest and most substantive lock-in I've seen at Trinity. Plus the participants skewed *very* young, with only a couple of eighth-graders, which bodes well for the future; and the strong relationships that Kim has already built as a volunteer drew more than a dozen high-school volunteers as well as a few youth-group alums now in college, making for an approximate 2-to-1 ratio of middle schoolers to volunteers and leaving the high-schoolers clamoring for their own lock-in this spring. Kim also secured a great group of "grown-up" leaders, most notably all-night ironman **Dean Sondrol**, as well as incoming Council Vice President **Tim Gauerke**, who came in on the night of his birthday to continue the fabled tradition of playing "Romans & Christians" in the wee hours of the morning. And a trio of leaders from Crossways Camps helped out while Heidi Fischer took the late shift and did a stunning job in leading the kids in clean-up before a funeral visitation. Plus the worship music that Kim led along with **Eric Hendrickson** and **Hank Holterman** was awesome.

Kim now gets to undergo the ordeal of watching me lead the sixth-annual Christianity and Sexuality class for seventh-graders and coordinate the Feb. 18-19 synodical Junior Youth Gathering, Trinity's fourth since requiring sixth-graders to attend, this year in Appleton. And she continues to round up participants for the June 2017 Faith Ventures trip to Milwaukee.

Which probably leaves a question of what I myself am actually doing. Well, in addition to breathing a lot easier (and hearing a lot better—Kim's arrival less-than-coincidentally coincided with a sudden end of my vertigo symptoms and a return of my hearing to normal for which I thank God), I've been doing a little to guide Kim in these introductory weeks. And I've been preaching quite a bit. Along with the homiletical holiday hustle and bustle of Christmastime, I also guest-preached at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stevens Point on Jan. 8 as a returned favor to its youth director, Todd Lewis, while Trinity-Point neared the end of its pastoral transition. And, frankly, all three of us as pastors at Trinity-Waupaca have been very, very busy with the unfortunate uptick in deaths in the congregation—we're very sadly going on our eighth funeral since Christmas. We've said goodbye to some extraordinary saints, and I also need to note in particular my thanks for Dave Forsberg, a past council president and the chairman of my 2010 call committee, who died earlier in December. I wouldn't be the pastor I am today if it weren't for Dave.

Pastor Dione: Council Report for January 24, 2017

“And they will call him Immanuel, which means, ‘God is with us.’ Matthew 1:23

A lot has gone on since we last convened our council. We picked up right away with Advent and all of the excitement, expectation, and keep-you-on-your-toes events the season implies. A few new additions to Trinity’s Advent preparations included a giant congregation-wide coloring project and the selling of ELCA Good Gifts ornaments – both of which turned out to be a lot of fun. Of course there were many repeat traditions that I enjoyed getting up to speed on so I can now enjoy them as new traditions myself. I also got a chance to have a bit of fun on a Sunday when Pastors Bryan and Andy were leading worship and play in a brass quartet.

The marathon of Christmas Eve services was an experience to be had, but one that I felt quite fortunate being a part of. As the Apostle Paul models for us, I give thanks to God always for our staff, volunteers, and fellow pastors for all that they do in service to the church and God’s people. At the end of December, I was able to take my remaining week of vacation and got back to Iowa to see my extended family. It was a welcome break and a good chance to catch up with family.

Throughout December and January, I’ve continued to participate in various groups and committees throughout the church and the community. I am facilitating a Saturday women’s bible study and am leading an adult ed series on migration through the lens of scripture (which I love). We had an initial Global Mission interest group meet-up to gauge levels of interest in that ministry area which I will be following up on in the coming months. I also attended and participated in the TLW annual meeting where we had good conversation which led to the decision to take a sabbatical year to reflect and regroup. I have also been involved in conversations with staff about organizational structure and clarity of roles along with the other pastors and personnel committee.

I have continued to stay engaged in the community at-large as an individual and representative of Trinity. At the tail end of November, I planned and led a worship service for the region 5 Lutheran Outdoor Ministry staff retreat, which was a nice way to connect our church further with Pine Lake Camp. I participated in synod racial justice task force and global mission team meetings, and currently chair the global service task force within the global mission team. I volunteer at the Foundations for Living warming center most weeks and have been delighted to run into more and more Trinity members volunteering there too. In January, I began serving on the Foundations for Living board as a ministerial rep. In addition to the daily pastoral duties of preaching, leading worship, and teaching confirmation, I presided at one funeral and have two more ahead for the upcoming week.

Throughout this all, we have been continually reminded the promise first said to Mary and reiterated to us throughout the Advent and Christmas seasons we have just journeyed through – the promise that that God surely is with us.

In Christ,

Pastor Dione

Council Reports:

In light of the new council members, President Tom Johnson requested that each committee give a brief explanation of their specific committees function in lieu of their monthly reports.

Buildings and Grounds: Don Holtebeck explained the building and grounds committee is just as it sounds. They are tasked with maintaining the building and property.

Personnel: Ruth Trinrud explained that the personnel committee is the Human Resource committee for the church staff.

Health: Jeff Riddle explained the health committee primary focus is working with the shut-ins to ensure their needs are being met at home and supporting the general health of the congregation and staff.

Membership & Evangelism: Pastor Dione explained that the committee oversees the new member classes and helps plan new member welcoming functions. The Evangelism component works with the congregation on fostering community involvement.

Mission Stewardship: Marshall Lysne explained that this committee deals with the finances / business of the church, keeping the doors open and the bills paid.

Parish education: Pastor Bryan explained that this committee works to integrate education into all aspects of the church. How can we help?

Worship & Music: Nancy Ross explained that the committee oversees the worship services and alter guild working with staff and Pastors on worship service planning and execution.

Family & Youth Team: Pastor Andy and Tim Gauerke explained that the committee helps plan youth events and helping to find volunteers to help in the events.

TLW: Pastor Dione reported the committee is taking a year-long sabbatical to re-group.

Information & Technology: Pastor Bryan explained that this committee assists with anything that has video, computers or digital components.

Future planning: No report.

Old Business: none

New Business: Marshall Lysne from the Mission Stewardship committee recommended that they would like to seek approval to use undesignated gift funds distributed with a formula of first 10% of the gifts going for benevolence purposes and 30% of the undesignated funds going to the building fund. A motion was made by Nancy Ross and a 2nd by Mark Harrington to approve these recommendations. Motion passed.

Marshall Lysne also reported the committee has a goal to increase the online giving. There are currently approx. 80 members using this Vanco electronic giving method. The goal will be to enroll 110 by the end of the year. They are working on implementing a phone app for this process.

Adjournment: Motion by Don Holtebeck 2nd by Nancy Ross to adjourn. Motion Approved (7:45pm)

Respectfully submitted, Tim Gauerke, Secretary,