

# Trinity Lutheran Church

## Church Council meeting, Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016

Trinity Lutheran Church: Meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by President Tom Johnson.

**Attendees:** Tom Johnson, Jeff Riddle, Tim Gauerke, Pastor Bryan, Pastor Andy, Nancy Johnson, Charlene Kuenzi, Nancy Ross, Mike Claussen, , Diane Opperman & Mark Harrington

Excused: Don Holtebeck & Marshall Lysne.

**Prayer:** Pastor Bryan

**Devotions:** Charlene Kuenzi

**Secretary's Report:** Report was reviewed without omissions or additions. Moved by Mike C. to approve report 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy Ross. Approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** Nancy reported the budget is in the black with one more Sunday in May to go. Nancy pointed out that we are on good ground with Pastor Dione Miller starting sometime in July. Nancy is anticipating adding some expected additional expenses with Dione arrival and start.

The Executive committee recommended helping the Synod with their budget challenges by sending the Synod \$3,000.00 from the Charlotte Sawyer Memorial account.

**Pastors Reports:** The Pastors reports were shared and presented by PB and PA who were present at the meeting.

### **Pastor Bryan's report:**

April was a month of welcome introductions.

Our call committee began its acquaintance with two very qualified candidates for our call of Associate Pastor. Along with regular committee meetings and pastoral care visits, I was able to meet with our call committee, synod staff, and speak with each of our candidates during this month.

I was thankful for the quality of our candidates, the smooth working relationships between the members of our committee, and in the following month of May, the ease with which they were able to arrange our candidates' interviews and their own individual schedules.

When the Holy Spirit is at work, things don't always proceed as smoothly as they did while carrying out all the necessary work and arrangements in this call process. Special thanks to God are in order for this, as well as for the trust our congregation placed in our call committee's recommendation, and the overwhelming support Dione Miller would receive in May, as our congregation voted to extend a call to her.

I was able to meet with some of our committees during the month: Technology, Mission and Stewardship, Membership and Evangelism, and Worship and Music. I have offered to help both Membership and Evangelism and Mission and Stewardship develop a Spiritual Gift Inventory for our new members to help them identify some of their gifts and talents, and help them put these gifts to good use.

My pastoral visits included eight home communions, four phone contacts, and two lunch meetings. Confirmation for the current school year ended on April 27<sup>th</sup>, and I think I taught my final class to this year's 7<sup>th</sup> graders with them not hating me.

I took one day of vacation, April 8<sup>th</sup>, with more to come in May as I prepare my house in Decorah for listing in June.

Regards, Pr. Bryan Robertson

## Pastor Andy's report, May 26, 2016:

Oh, what a month it's been. We thankfully have a new pastor on her way, and I've been trying to get things in order for my month of renewal away from active ministry that begins a week from tomorrow while also focusing on some big-picture things that we will be blessed to consider with the formation of a new team of pastors, two of whom will have arrived within the past year.

- We're all looking forward to soon-to-be-Pastor Dione Miller's arrival, and we're already benefiting immensely from the arrival of **Parker Kantos**, who joined us as our first intern for this summer on May 3, two days after graduating from Waynesburg University in Pennsylvania. Parker is learning a lot about church leadership before beginning his studies at Luther Seminary at the end of the summer, and he's meanwhile doing a LOT for our ministries. He has already hit stride leading the Crossover Bible studies along with Lina Mohr, he has had some great input for the Family & Youth Team and the confirmation roundtable group that met May 11 to wrap up the confirmation year and look forward, and he's actively planning a whole slate of summer youth events, including a high-school trip to tour colleges of the Midwest. He's also planning Bible studies for the upcoming young-adult trip, and he'll be preaching one weekend next month. And that's just the tip of the iceberg. Both Parker and **Maddy Frank**, who will join him as our other summer intern one week from today, will be contributing more of their time to Trinity than any other interns to date, thanks to an increase in funding from the members who have anonymously sponsored this program. We are deeply, deeply blessed to have Parker and Maddy with us this summer, especially with me about to step back for a month. What's even better is that one of last year's interns, **McKenna Meza**, is also slated to preach again in July, and she's helping to organize the June 25 outing to a Timber Rattlers game voluntarily.
- The first big piece of that month of June when I'll be away will be Trinity's third annual mission trip for young adults. I've never been more excited or less anxious about a church trip. We've got an absolute all-star team of college students and recent graduates, representing every summer youth trip that Trinity has had since 2009: Parker, **Hannah Johnson**, **Jake Foss**, **Carla Ikert**, **Emily Cummings**, **Raina Eddy**, **Macy Carlson**, **Bobbie Sell**, and **Mandy Tomlinson**. And a terrific trio of older adults—**Mike Psenicka**, **Terry Nellis**, and **Denise Tomlinson**—will be joining me on the trip to improve the homes of folks in the Appalachian Mountains of Kentucky in partnership with St. Vincent Mission. This biggest young adults' trip yet is thanks largely in part to Trinity's Mission Endowment and the Richard and Ione Clapp estate. Please keep us in your prayers during our journey from Saturday, July 4, through Saturday, July 11. I'll then be on vacation through the end of the month of June, though I'll be helping with the events at and around Strawberry Fest that our Faith Ventures travelers will be taking part in on June 18 for our final fundraisers before the July trip to Nashville.
- In what was pretty easily the most memorable Crossover Bible study we've ever had, Pastor Bryan and I lost our hair for a very good cause, and that very good cause, **Taylor Vaughn**, just happened to be able to join us on her first Wednesday at home since beginning treatment for lymphoma on April 1. Lina and Heidi Fischer also had their hair dyed green. All this was part of the "FundRazor" for Taylor's family, whom we'll soon send a check for almost \$4,800, which has come in from generous folks of the Trinity community since the kickoff of the campaign on the morning of May 1, when Taylor joined us via FaceTime from Children's Hospital in Milwaukee for the worship service when we recognized her, Maddy, and their fellow graduating seniors. This was a really fantastic class of young people, most of whom will graduate from Waupaca High School on Sunday; please pray that Taylor will remain healthy enough to be there!
- Lina, Parker, Heidi, and I will attend a Youth Mental Health First Aid training session tomorrow at Pine Lake Camp, which should be helpful. I also want to note, upon being prompted after giving this report orally at tonight's meeting, that my eyes were opened to the problems of human trafficking for youth in Wisconsin at last weekend's East Central Synod of Wisconsin Assembly in Green Bay. That topic of human trafficking, which was the subject of an astonishing breakout session I attended, will be one that we'll consider for the purposes of educating our community, and it's yet another case where we're thankful to have the resource of the new SafeGuarding Youth Fund that was made possible by the Knoepfel estate.

## **Council Reports:**

**Buildings and Grounds:** Don H. was excused. He shared with President Tom Johnson beforehand that there was no action needing council approval.

**Personnel:** Pastor Bryan distributed a copy of the new employee hand book last month for the council to read and report back with any changes they felt necessary. Hearing no response for revisions the handbook will be put in place. Angie Decker's position and adjusted hours will be discussed and reviewed in August.

**Health:** Jeff R. reported the committee did not meet.

**Membership & Evangelism:** Tom J. reported the committee is reading a book titled *Dangerous. With humbleness and even some humor, Caleb inspires readers to step out of their comfort zones and take godly risks wherever they are.*

*Rounding out the book are appendixes of organizations to join or support and specific prayer needs around the world.*

The committee is re-doing the new member video and volunteer opportunity gift inventory handbook.

The committee is exploring a possible head usher position.

Nancy brought back from an ELCA congregation in Cincinnati some examples of single card volunteer handouts that she found helpful. She will forward these on to the committee for review.

**Mission Stewardship:** Pastor Bryan reported they are exploring touch screen kiosks. They are still working on the revised new member spiritual gift inventory. They will be looking at the committees continuing resolution to make sure it is current with there mission.

**Parish education:** Diane O. reported they are discussing where the committee is heading. The committee is exploring more Global awareness and working on re-constituting the committee.

**Worship & Music:** Charlene K. and Nancy R. reported the committee has no council action at this time.

The Jazz service is scheduled for June 5<sup>th</sup>. The Polka service is scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup>. with Smokey Express. The Peder Eide Christmas concert is scheduled for Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>. Fundraising for the Peder Eide concert will begin throughout the summer months.

**Family & Youth Team:** Mike C. reported the committee was in discussion on accommodating special need members.

The first step is to determine the need. Possible training may be needed to address the specific needs identified.

Discussion was conducted on increasing the utilization and partnership with Pine Lake. Parker Kantos the intern will be exploring Pine Lake's needs. The committee was anticipating synod direction for new Youth safety guidelines. The synod delayed any action for another year, so Trinity will be following the current guidelines.

**TLW:** No report

**Information & Technology:** Pastor Bryan reported they are working on documenting the "how to" procedures for the individual staff duties and responsibilities. PB reported external storage has been increased. The committee forwarded to the property and Grounds committee to explore video screen placement in the Koinonia room to better accommodate the overflow attendance during peak service times.

**Future planning:** No Report

**Old Business:** Diane O. asked why the South African Delegation was not coming. It was reported that Apartheid is not completely extinct in South Africa. The miners are on strike due to disparage of wages, so funds are limited on their end to send a delegation at this time. We still plan to travel to South Africa in 2017 and hopefully they can be back on track for a 2018 visit.

Pastor Andy highlighted the Synod gathering with his attendance at a human trafficking breakout session. He plans to reach out to local Professionals to see how we can address the issue in a thoughtful manner without harming the youth with fear while at the same time giving them useful tools to combat this increasing trend.

**New Business:** Pastor Bryan charged all committees to review their respective continuing resolutions. He would like ALL committees to see where they are now in junction with their continuing resolutions. For the June Council meeting, committees should come with a rough draft with recommendations and changes to get their committees in line with what they are tasked with and what they are actually doing. The August Council meeting has been set as a goal to provide a revised finished product.

Pastor Bryan would like to see each committee take ownership of the respective committees with congregational leadership. Pastoral staff will continue to provide the support and guidance as needed and requested.

President Tom Johnson addressed the council with some thoughts. It seems we have been focused on our internal needs for many years. Now, with the years of building plans and facility discussions behind us and, after years of staffing transition coming to a conclusion with the addition of Dione Miller, Tom feels now time to look outward to see where we can stretch out and make a difference within the community.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Charlene K. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Diane O. Motion Approved

Respectfully submitted, Tim Gauerke, Secretary,

**Devotions for June:** Marshall Lysne.