

# Trinity Lutheran Church

## Church Council meeting, Tuesday, August 23, 2016 (Amended @ Sept. council meeting)

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

**Attendees:** Tom Johnson, Jeff Riddle, Tim Gauerke, Pastor Bryan, Pastor Andy, Pastor Dione, Nancy Johnson, Charlene Kuenzi, Nancy Ross, Diane Opperman, Mark Harrington, Don Holtebeck, & Marshall Lysne.

**Prayer:** Pastor Dione

**Devotions:** Diane Opperman.

**Secretary's Report:** Report was distributed and reviewed. Moved by Charlene K. to approve report 2<sup>nd</sup> by Don H. Approved.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Treasure's report was distributed. Nancy reported the budget is \$1,200.00 in the red. Historically not bad. Nancy noted the Alter Guild has been added to the budget report. Moved by Don H. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff R. Approved

**Pastors Reports:** Pastor Bryan shared his report. Pastor Andy shared his report. These reports are attached. Pastor Dione gave a verbal report. She has been on board now for 2 months. She is very thankful for the members who attended her ordination service in Burlington IA. She was surprised by the helpers waiting for her when she arrived in Waupaca to help her unload the U-Haul. THANK YOU! Pastor Dione will be on the Membership and Evangelism committee, the Trinity Women committee and the Global Missions/ Social Justice Committee. She has begun shut in visits and was honored to have had Barb Hansen as her first visit.

### PASTOR BRYAN'S REPORT

My first experience of Trinity's summer ministry schedule occurred during the months of June and July:

Along with routine home and hospital visits, I took part in Chapel of the Lakes, and our 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Confirmation Camp at camp Imago Dei. During the month of July, preparations for our new year of Confirmation began shifting into full swing, where I began to learn more of the logistics involved in offering this ministry and the goals of this program.

July was a month of staff transition. Our longtime technology and communications worker, Sara Olsen, left our employ for another position. Working with our staff, Heartland Computers, our Personnel Committee, and Executive Committee, I took part in the process of identifying tasks that could be absorbed by our staff, and developing a job description to cover tasks that cannot be absorbed.

I was also included in the discussions and work that addressed deficiencies in our computer network system, its security, and our protocols for storing and securing our digital information.

July also saw us welcoming a new staff person, Pr. Dione Miller, who will serve us as an Associate Pastor. With Pastor Andy, we have engaged in continuing conversations about her ministry roles, smooth communication between staff members, and protocols for deciding who visits whom and when.

And Pr. Andy Behrendt took some vacation during the month of June, hopefully refreshed when he returned to us in July.

I took six week days of vacation in July, attending to the sale of my house in Decorah, and three days of continuing education time in a cabin near Rice Lake, taking part in a Martin Luther seminar. I also helped unload hay at a parishioners in June, and attended the local two cylinder tractor club.

## PASTOR ANDY'S REPORT

It's been an eventful summer, but no news is as big or as good as the completion of our pastoral lineup. While we still look forward to her formal installation on Sunday, Pastor Dione Miller has been an astounding addition to our team at Trinity. And I can't say enough about the teamwork that has already taken shape, thanks to both Pastor Dione and Pastor Bryan. Notably, we have had more extensive conversation about the big picture of Trinity's youth ministry than I've had at pastors' meetings in the prior six years, and that's testament to the genuine interest and investment that my colleagues (who *aren't* actually our youth-focused pastor) have in Trinity's young people, as is the presence of both Pastor Bryan and Pastor Dione at yesterday's annual Family & Youth Team cookout meeting. Many exciting changes have already taken shape, and I hope people who *don't* spend their days in our church office know just how blessed we are at this moment. Other summer highlights:

- We were also deeply blessed by the months we had with our summer interns, **Parker Kantos** and **Maddy Frank**. Parker finished up his three-plus months with us on Aug. 11, just a couple of days before moving to Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minn., and being formally approved for entrance into the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America's candidacy process for ordained ministry last week. He will be the recipient of the funds from our Education Endowment that are annually allotted for seminarians, and it will be a sound investment, especially considering the quality of the work that Parker did over the summer in a wide spectrum of ministries. Most notably, he did a phenomenal job as a leader on both Trinity's summer service trips for youth and young adults, during which his trademark character and responsibility clearly earned him the respect of his peers as well as the teens. Also this summer, Parker preached a powerful sermon for our congregation and another for the Scandinavia Corn Roast. He also shadowed our pastors in their duties, diligently coordinated Day Camp, prepared solid confirmation materials, guest-hosted Luther's Tap, and generated great ideas for multiple ministries. Focused specifically on youth, Maddy for her part also helped to oversee Day Camp; contributed to the planning for Crossover Bible studies; spruced up the Youth Room; and, as she wrapped up her internship this past weekend, coordinated the Faith Ventures presentations. She'll begin college at UW-Marathon County next month. Trinity can be immensely proud of both of these young ministers who grew up in our congregation—and immensely grateful to the generous donors who again anonymously sponsored the internships.
- Speaking of our pride in young ministers, our congregation was also very well represented by the participants on the aforementioned summer trips. Parker, **Hannah Johnson, Jake Foss, Carla Ikert, Emily Cummings, Mandy Tomlinson, Bobbi Sell, Macy Carlson**, and (non-member) **Raina Eddy** were every bit the all-star team I knew they would be in eastern Kentucky on June 4-11's third annual Young Adults Service Trip, accompanied by **Mike Psenicka, Terry Nellis, Denise Tomlinson**, and me. As you may have learned in the participants' presentations on July 9-10, we spent our week in the Appalachian Mountains re-roofing one house and gutting another home that had been nearly destroyed by fire, but the greater impact came in the relationships that the travelers formed with folks in the community, as well as with each other.
- And, as you likely heard over the past weekend at worship, we had a great group of 23 teenage travelers on the July 16-23 Faith Ventures trip to Nashville: Maddy, **Alex Gotto, Kenzie Corbett, Micah Meza, Shasi Pierotti, Leah Piotter, Lily Sletten, Peter Stratton, Jensen Trinrud, Mya Berzsenyi, Kara Kohuttek, Josh Peglow, Desi Pierotti, Trae Claussen, Chloe Genske, Morgan Johnson, Taylor Corbett, Jesse Heinz, Kalyn Klug, Haleigh Smith, Abby Stumke, Tyler Tischendorf**, and **Allie Waite**, along with hard-working trip coordinators **Kim Miller** and **Yvonne Robbers**, as well as Lina Mohr, Parker, and me. The high-schoolers spent the unforgettable week working alongside peers from other churches in Wisconsin, North Dakota, Missouri, and Florida in partnership with a multitude of Nashville-area organizations serving children, senior citizens, refugees, and homeowners in need. We were once again blessed by the financial and prayerful support of so many here in our congregation.

- I'll say more about the coming year of confirmation once it has kicked off next month, but I'm grateful to be headed into another year of youth ministry with the support of so many great leaders, most notably the members of our Family & Youth Team, and now with Pastor Bryan and Pastor Dione beginning their first full year of youth programs. The confirmation pre-programming so far has included the introductory meetings with the incoming sixth-graders that Pastor Dione (their sixth-grade confirmation teacher) and I will complete tomorrow, as well as the families of the 22 freshman confirmands with whom I've been meeting this summer in preparation for the ninth-graders' affirmation of baptism on Oct. 30.
- Lina Mohr is also rounding out her initial year as our youth program coordinator, and she has an exciting opportunity ahead of her this year, beginning tomorrow. Sponsored by our congregation, she begins a youth-ministry certification program offered by Tiger McLuen (last year's keynote confirmation speaker) and his Minnesota-based Youth Leadership organization.
- To conclude this month with notes of gratitude and prayers, I want to thank the congregation once again for allowing me the month of June away from the office—mostly on vacation as well as on the young adults' trip—in lieu of the sabbatical I have again delayed to next summer. The period of renewal was just what I needed, and taking a few weeks of my vacation continuously, as predicted by Council Vice President **Jeff Riddle**, allowed me a level of relaxation that I've never had on previous periods of vacation. I'm thankful to Pastor Bryan and the church staff who made that possible. Which brings me to the bittersweet thankfulness I have to Sara Olsen for the exceptional work she did at Trinity over the past 14 years, six of which I was blessed to share with her here prior to her departure for a new job at UW-Stevens Point at the start of July. And I want to note my prayers—and ask for yours—for our tremendous facilities chief, George Neubauer, as he recovers through his current physical health concern, which we are praying will be remedied soon.

#### **PASTOR DIONE'S REPORT: Given verbally**

##### **Council Reports:**

**Buildings and Grounds:** Don H. reported that George N. has some significant health issues he is dealing with. Don pointed out that the Building and Grounds committee purpose is to get projects completed that they are tasked with. The decision has been made to install new blinds on the remaining sanctuary windows. They are researching the best solution. They are also addressing the protocol for when the blinds are to be up or down. The committee is working towards a final plan for the re-vamping of the pre-school entrance to make it more energy efficient. The committee is also working on an active shooter plan.

**Personnel:** Pastor Bryan reported that the committee had distributed Sara Olsen's work duties with remaining staff and have developed a job description to address the remaining duties.

**Health:** Jeff R. reported the committee is updating the shut in list. Jeff further reported the Health newsletter is on a hiatus until the office staff are better equipped to handle the work load that the report entails to get it in the newsletter.

**Membership & Evangelism:** Pastor Dione reported that the committee is analyzing the signage around the building to make sure it is helpful to visitors. Once completed they will get with building and grounds committee to address any possible revisions.

**Mission Stewardship:** Marshall L. handed out the list of memorial fund designations and remaining requests. He asked each committee to review and add any suggestions of their needs for consideration by the Stewardship committee. The Stewardships task is to prioritize each request for use of any undesignated memorial funds when they become available. They would like any suggestions returned to them by the October 2016 council meeting. Marshall also pointed out the 3 year Building Pledge Commitments are ending in January 2017. He suggested we begin formulating a new pledge drive to ensure funds keep flowing un-interrupted for the building debt retirement. A very important consideration.

**Parish education:** Pastor Bryan reported that the committee met at the Harbor to discuss idea's for one shot educational ideas. Jean S. was given the brainstorming ideas to explore possible events in the future.

**Worship & Music:** Charlene K. reported there was no July meeting. Nancy gave us an update on the Peder Eide Concert in December.

**Family & Youth Team:** Pastor Andy reported the committee had worked on the final draft of the continuing resolution. The annual cookout was held on Monday night at Pastor Andy's house and was attended by members of the committee, Pastor Bryan and Pastor Dione. Discussion was held on working towards a possible earlier start time for the High School Bible Study, one shot generational events and progress on the upcoming confirmation year. The committee recommended the Scripts sales location be moved for greater visibility.

**TLW:** Pastor Dione met with Bonnie Pagel to discuss the committee workings.

**Information & Technology:** Pastor Bryan reported that Heartland and the current staff had met to discuss what remaining tasks need to be addressed. Good business technologies were also discussed.

**Future planning:** No report

**Old Business:** None.

**New Business:** Nancy asked if any activities are in the works to celebrate Martin Luther's anniversary. Pastor Bryan reported there has been some preliminary thoughts but at this time the slate is clean any suggestions are welcomed.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Don H. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Nancy J. Motion Approved (7:56pm)

Respectfully submitted, Tim Gauerke, Secretary,

**Devotions for September:** Ruth Trinrud