

Trinity Lutheran Church

Church Council meeting, Tuesday, Sept. 27th 2016

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, Charlene Kuenzi, Nancy Ross, Diane Opperman, Mark Harrington, Don Holtebeck, Mike Claussen, Ruth Trinrud & Marshall Lysne.

Prayer: Pastor Dione

Devotions: Ruth Trinrud. "The Season of Fall"

Secretary's Report: Report was distributed and reviewed. Pastor Dione noted that her Sept. report was accidentally included in the Aug Minutes. Moved by Don H. to approve the amended report, 2nd by Mike C. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasure's report was distributed. Nancy J. had an excused absence. President Tom Johnson highlighted the report and asked for any questions that he would forward to Nancy. No questions asked.

Pastors Reports: Pastor Bryan, Pastor Andy and Pastor Dione shared their reports. These reports are attached. Pastor Bryan handed out to each committee their budget worksheets for 2017.

Pastor Bryan's Report:

The month of August saw our Education, Youth and Family, and Worship and Music Ministries ramping up for our fall ministry schedule.

Along with my routine service in visitation, worship, and planning, I was able to serve in a parishioner's wedding, and attend an Elder appreciation dinner at a local restaurant.

My work with our ministries also included and will continue to include a special focus: finding ways for our different ministries to work together and support each other. I am encouraging our ministries to seek help as they carry out their mission.

For example, our Education Ministry is working to sponsor a one hour presentation on Planned Giving. This is an opportunity where our Education Ministry can work hand in hand with our Mission and Stewardship Ministry. Our Education Committee is also working to sponsor a one hour presentation on Pain Management in partnership with Pine Lake camp. This is an opportunity for our Education Ministry to work hand in hand with our Health Ministry.

Finally, our Education Ministry is sponsoring a cooking presentation for anyone interested in eating and making Scandinavian delicacies. This kind of fun, group activity is something that can enhance the work of our Membership and Evangelism Ministry.

I am encouraging all of our ministries to ask each other for help in carrying out their mission, and consider each other as resources in our service.

And I have budget sheets for each committee as we begin our work in planning our ministries for next year.

Regards, Pr. Bryan Robertson, Trinity Lutheran Church

Pastor Andy's Report: Sept. 27, 2016

I'll start with the freshest and best news of the month: Yesterday, Trinity member **Taylor Vaughn** received word that, after six months of chemotherapy treatments since being diagnosed with lymphoma, her results show no remaining signs of cancer! At 18, Taylor can now fully move forward just weeks after beginning her college career as a student at UW-Stevens Point. I'm deeply thankful for God's response to the countless prayers that have been lifted up for Taylor through the work of her amazing medical team. I know the Vaughns deeply appreciate the prayerful and financial support from Trinity within the larger outpouring they've experienced from the community. In other news ...

- Trinity is once again without a youth program coordinator. Lina Mohr left her position after 10 months on our staff on Sept. 1 in consultation with the Personnel and Executive committees. While we're unable to discuss the circumstances in detail, we wish Lina the best and invite your prayers for her and her family. As one can only imagine, the timing of Lina's departure was not ideal at the start of a new school year. But the Personnel and Executive committees have been discussing the creation of a new position that includes elements of the positions vacated by both Lina and Sara Olsen, and a job description is near completion.
- I can't say enough about the groundswell of support from folks in our congregation in this latest interim, this one again in the area of youth ministry. Naturally, Heidi Fischer has had to resume much of her work with youth coordination as we neared kickoff of the confirmation and Crossover year, but countless others have helped us in the past weeks, from the fantastic turnout at an additional, emergency Family & Youth Team meeting on Sept. 7 (including Pastor Bryan and Pastor Dione) to the crew of **Cheryl Sletten**, **Michelle Bolen**, and **Steph Conley**, who voluntarily assembled the confirmation binders. Jean Schwirtz (who even came in to help with binders beyond her scheduled days) and Angie Decker also stepped up big time as staff members. I've never been able to lead as a youth minister without plenty of help, and I can never be grateful enough for the help that has always been here at Trinity.
- **Tim Gauerke** has always been one of the folks who have stepped in when help was needed in Trinity's youth programs, and he is once again going above and beyond the call of duty by both leading the 22 freshman confirmands in their final weeks of lessons and assisting Heidi, **Kim Miller**, and me with the Crossover Bible studies, which picked up where we left off last year with a strong turnout of 20 to 30 high-schoolers. **Dean Sondrol** (who also helped with our kindergarten-themed Crossover night last week) and **Candy Hansen** are assisting Tim with the freshman lessons. The 22 confirmands who will affirm their baptism on Oct. 30 give us 92 total students in confirmation at this point. We'll have our first lesson of the school year tomorrow after the past two Wednesdays of orientation and "*Ship training*," and 15 adult confirmation small-group leaders and nine high-school peer leaders are ready to roll, with another four freshmen looking forward to stepping in as peer leaders once they're confirmed.
- A couple additional notes of gratitude to the larger Lutheran landscape in this "all hands on deck" month in which we've been blessed by so much willingness to help: We've started conversations with **Kelly Preboski** as director of Pine Lake Camp about how Crossways Camping Ministries' interns for the coming year can help lead middle- and high-school ministries at Trinity; and Todd Lewis, the longtime youth director at Trinity Lutheran Church in Stevens Point, is kindly feeding us some great ideas for a short-term, short-distance trip for Faith Ventures in 2017.
- And a final note, on the family front: The annual fall hayride and picnic will be Sunday, Oct. 23, from noon to 3 in Rural, thanks to the members of the **Sondrol family** who are once again hosting the event.

Pastor Dione's Report: Council Report for September 27, 2016

It seems like God is really up to a lot here at Trinity. It's been exciting to see where and how God is moving and acting in our congregation and community already and to vision and wonder how and where God may be calling us to new things going forward.

August was an exciting and busy time for me as I got more settled in my role as associate pastor here and continued making connections and building relationships with people who attend Trinity, as well as people in surrounding community and synod.

On August 2nd I attended the synod Global Mission Task force meeting at Imago Dei Village. I then ran into a number of people I met there two weeks later at an Interfaith Conversation event in Neenah that was put on by the Fox Valley Islamic Center and hosted by 1st Presbyterian Church. That was a great experience and I look forward to working more with this interfaith group, especially as we plan for a Faith Walk for our confirmation students.

During the month of August I did 11 home & hospital visits in addition to lunch meetings with a number of Trinity members to get to know people in the congregation more. I also presided over one funeral and one baptism and have been getting more used to singing the liturgy in worship (all of which are firsts for me).

One of the biggest and most time-consuming things I have been working on has been preparing for confirmation classes, including putting together a curriculum, familiarizing myself with the program already in place, and leading small group orientation sessions for the beginning confirmation students and their parent. I know the year will be a big challenge, but I'm also excited to talk with the kids about how God's story and our stories are intertwined. Since I am teaching Old Testament to the 6th graders, I made the decision to preach (mostly) on the Old Testament readings in worship to help tie us all together a bit more cohesively as a church journeying forward together.

The end of August was capped off by my installation service which Bishop Jerry Mansholt presided over. I was humbled and felt quite blessed to have such support from the congregation. The reception after the service was wonderful and I thank everyone for making it such a special day. My installation came exactly three months after my installation which is hard to believe. Time flies when you're busy and having fun!

Council Reports:

Buildings and Grounds: Don H. reported that the new shades are ordered for the north windows. The color will be Tan, a compromise for those opposed to blinds. Don reported that the new safety committee is taking shape.

Personnel: Pastor Bryan and Ruth reported that the committee has been working on distributing Lina's work load in conjunction with working on the Youth Program & Communication Coordinator position.

Health: Jeff R. reported the committee has completed revisions on their continuing resolution and have passed the document on to the Executive committee for review. The committee is also working on putting together a Flu Clinic in Oct.

Membership & Evangelism: Pastor Dione reported that the committee has a new member class scheduled for Oct. 11th. Council members are invited to attend to help welcome the prospective new members. Hearing some constructive feedback the committee is looking for an approach to make sure new members feel welcomed without an immediate recruitment for committee or volunteer expectation.

Mission Stewardship: Marshall L. shared the new theme of "Possibilities" This highlight will spotlight what members have shared through their Time & Talents contributions to the congregation. This will correspond with a component of how members themselves can share their own individual Time & Talents. More to come.

Parish education: Diane O. reported the committee is working their revised continuing resolution. Tom Johnson reminded all committees to have their respective continuing resolutions handed in by the Nov. council meeting.

Worship & Music: Charlene K. reported they were working on their continuing resolution. Nancy R. reported the committee is looking for new members. Nancy also reported the \$5,000.00 mark has been reached for the Peder Eide concert in December. Thank you to Julie Neubauer for all of her efforts.

Family & Youth Team: Mike Claussen reported the committee has begun looking at their budget. Mike reported the Scrips sales fundraiser for the youth will kick off this weekend. Mike C. volunteered to serve on the newly formed safety committee. The Family & Youth team committee is searching for contacts to present a possible Community wide Human Trafficking presentation. The committee also reviewed the Youth Program & Communication Coordinator position job description. The silent auction will be held during Lent again this cycle as a fundraiser. The committee is exploring a more local mission trip this year possibly to Milwaukee, partnering with our sister congregation, All Peoples.

TLW: Ruth and Pastor Dione reported a fall event is in the works with a Craft sale in November.

Information & Technology: Pastor Bryan reported that Heartland is helping out as issues arise. They are carrying on.

Future planning: No report

Old Business: Plans for the 500 year Martin Luther celebration are percolating. Marshall L. brought up the discussion on better usage of the Koinonia room for sign ups, fundraisers and volunteer opportunities. There was also a very good discussion on volunteer sign up procedures.

New Business: Pastor Andy reported that at the conference meeting of Rostered clergy there is a modified constitution in the works. Stay tuned.

Adjournment: Motion by Marshall L. 2nd by Don H. to adjourn. Motion Approved (7:55pm)

Respectfully submitted, Tim Gauerke, Secretary,

Devotions for September: Don H.

Next meeting October 25th, 2016 7:00 pm.