

Trinity Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting + Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 6:59 p.m. by President Jeff Riddle.

Attendees: Jeff Riddle, Tim Gauerke, Becky Liegl, Nancy Johnson, Pastor Bryan, Pastor Andy, Pastor Dione, Charlene Kuenzi, Marshall Lysne, Diane Opperman, Mark Harrington, Nancy Ross, and Don Morgan.

Prayer: Pastor

Devotions: Marshall Lysne, "Teamwork"

Secretary's Report: The report was distributed and reviewed. Mark Harrington suggested changing the minutes to for the Information & Technology report by removing "the battery backup of" and adding "'s BIOS battery" after server and removing the last sentence. Motion was made by Tim Gauerke, seconded by Nancy Johnson, and the motion was carried. A motion to approve the secretary's report was made by Mark Harrington and seconded by Marshall Lysne, motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy Johnson shared there was nothing outstanding for this month. Expenses increased due to the start of fall programming, and there was a large check written to Heartland to cover the expenses from the server going down. There has been increased giving, and there will be a reduction in costs when we transfer our data over to the Cloud. We will save 50 hours of tech support due to parishioners providing their time and talent to transfer the data. Committee budgets are due.

Pastors' Reports:

► **Pastor Bryan:** After all the work and planning in August to prepare for our fall programming to begin, September once again saw our Education and Confirmation ministries beginning a new year of service, Wednesday WOW worship commencing, and the music of rehearsing choirs filling our halls.

September also saw two new staff members continuing to learn the "ins" and "outs" of their jobs, and building good relationships with their co-workers. Looking to our current and future work environment, I spent a lot of time working with our Personnel Committee, drafting updates to our Employee Manual, and exploring how we might transition from awarding vacation and sick day time to a simpler system of paid time off.

I also worked with the Personnel Committee to update the job description for a new, part-time administrative assistant position in our office, and am currently publicizing and receiving applications for this position.

Regarding other personnel matters, one of our part-time maintenance workers, Colleen Murphy, is leaving her position. I am also currently working to update the job descriptions for

our part-time maintenance positions, with the intention to seek applicants for the position she is leaving.

Along with being a part of the Worship and Music, and Building and Grounds committees, I have developed materials for our Mission and Stewardship ministry. We are beginning a preaching series on the different ministries of our church and their biblical foundations. I have developed letters and pledging aids with our October and November stewardship emphasis.

Along with my regular duties of pastoral care and worship, I began meeting with my seventh-grade Confirmation class and their guides. It's a good group with great guides, and there is a good atmosphere in the room. So far, so good. I have also led a class for our adult education hour on Sunday, using curriculum titled "The American Protestant Experience." Likewise, a fun group of people have gathered in that class.

October will find me attending to a hiring process for a new maintenance worker, generating and distributing new materials with our stewardship emphasis, and attending to the work of pastoral care, preaching, and teaching.

Our pastoral and support staff have put in their time preparing for our fall ministries to begin, and warrant our thanks and praise, along with Jesus, who makes this all possible.

Regards,
Pr. Bryan Robertson
Trinity Lutheran Church

► **Pastor Andy:** Oct. 24, 2017 - There's a widespread assumption that Christmas and Easter are the busiest times of the year for churches, but I'm pretty well convinced that October is actually our busiest month at Trinity. The fall rummage sale (which I was so thankful to see make a return this month), the always-inspiring array of quilts on the pews before shipment, and the Affirmation of Baptism service make this an extra-busy place. Add in some fall weddings, the unending stream of 2017 funerals, openings on the church staff, the kickoff to a national Youth Gathering trip, and the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, and we've had one monolithic month.

For family and youth ministries, the aforementioned Affirmation of Baptism service this coming Sunday at 10:30 a.m. is the biggest event. Kim Miller is rounding out her fantastic first year as our youth coordinator by facilitating this major milestone for our confirmation kids—who won't be kids, in the eyes of the church, in a few days. For the second straight year, we have 22 freshman confirmands, and, while this is the fifth year that we've held the service on Reformation Sunday, this is the first time in five years that we've had it during a regular worship service to involve more members in this moment. Tomorrow night's Service of the Cross at Wednesday worship will also involve the freshmen and their families in a ritual marking the completion of baptismal promises. Kim did typically tremendous work

accompanying the confirmands to this point, and I'm thankful to her, **Tim Gauerke**, and so many others for being there for these young people along the way.

Many of the freshmen have thankfully been among the steadily strong turnout of high-schoolers at Crossover so far this year, and four of them are among the 22 (the magic number for the month) who are now registered for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering trip, led by **Susan Elandt**. We'll wrap up the confirmation journey for our incoming adult members just in time to hit high gear on the journey to Houston. Meanwhile, several high-schoolers are seriously mulling the coming summer's even bigger trip to South Africa, which is awesome. Speaking of global-mindedness, **Patsy Hunter** has rallied the eighth graders to raise the overdue funds that the youth owe the church for our sponsored Compassion child, Geoffrey in Kenya, and they're off to a great start.

On the family-ministry front, the **Sondrol** family gets another big thank you for hosting another great Fall Hayride that drew more than 100 people on Oct. 8. In follow-up from my recent recommendations for family ministry, Sunday's Affirmation of Baptism service will kick off a trend of more contemporary music at the 10:30 worship service—you can expect to hear at least one contemporary song on several of the late-Sunday services in November.

Now that I've completed my term on Crossways Camping Ministries' Endowment Committee (with Pastor Dione thankfully willing to succeed me), this month I redirected my time to join Trinity members **Trisha Taber**, **Barry Tomaras**, and **Sue Woodliff**, along with retired **Pastor Chuck Tews** on the Waupaca County Suicide Prevention Coalition, which hosted speaker Chester Marcol at Waupaca High School yesterday. Thoughts of suicide have been incredibly common in our county, as I've seen firsthand in recent months that have been loaded with pastoral care needs. Meanwhile, I'm grateful to God that **Chris Boehnlein** will help to address another widespread need by starting up a weekly Al-Anon group for folks dealing with another person's addiction on Mondays at 6 p.m. beginning Nov. 6 in Trinity's Room 203.

► **Pastor Dione:** Council Report for October 24, 2017 - *"¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."* – Matthew 28:16-20

This month we kicked off our stewardship emphasis grounding ourselves in the Great Commission to be reminded of the reality that all we do and proclaim as the church is linked to the call to share and be a part of the Good News of Jesus. As pastors, we have reflected on this while preparing for our stewardship preaching series during which we have been highlighting the different ways we live out our baptismal calls to be engaged in the various ministries of the church as stewards of time, talents, and resources. We have also included stewardship inventories in our bulletins throughout the stewardship season to give people a chance to claim different ways they feel to serve and to help give a picture of the various ways stewardship is embodied. I have been collecting and compiling the responses and will

help make the connections between the leaders of the ministries and the people who feel called to those areas. It's been fun to read through them and see what people are passionate about and what new things they would like to try.

One thing I have wanted to try for a few months has been TED Talks and Faith. The first monthly third-Thursday meeting was on October 19 during which we watched "The Danger of a Single Story" and had great discussion afterward. The group was made up of mostly young and younger middle-aged adults, which was part of the intent, though it has potential for an excellent intergenerational event, too. I'm really looking forward to our next gathering as we open up conversations about things we might not otherwise have the chance to in the church.

In addition to continuing to help with things in the office as we look for our new part-time administrative assistant, I have also been cognizant of a need to get outside the office and see more people where they are. I have been making home visits to people who are shut-in, those who are ill or recuperating from surgeries, and those who are in their last days. Additionally, I had the opportunity to lead worship at Bethany Home. I have also been preparing to preside at a wedding this weekend, which I found out this morning will be preceded by a funeral. It will be a weekend of holy times as we recognize and celebrate both beginnings and endings, and it's an honor to be part of both.

Confirmation continues and is now in full swing. I admit that it is a welcomed change of pace from last year since I can open my files and find ready-made lessons waiting for me rather than making them from scratch every week. It has been fun getting to know my new class and hearing the awesome questions and insight they have. We have a good time (at least I think so!).

One week of the last month was spent at two back-to-back continuing education events – first at the Craft of Preaching conference at Luther Seminary and then at a Transforming White Privilege training seminar in Chicago as part of a synod task force. A special thank you goes out to Nancy Schanke for teaching the sixth-grade confirmation class in my absence. I also took one vacation day to attend and participate in the ordination of one of my best friends from seminary down in Waunakee. As is always true, seeing my seminary friends is a special joy and participating in her ordination was an honor.

While lots has been going on and there's no shortage of activity at Trinity, it's comforting and encouraging to take that step back and recognize all the ways Jesus is with us as we carry out the Great Commission in and through the hustle and bustle. Now to be good stewards of that awareness and keep it at the helm.

Peace, Pr. Dione

Committee Reports:

Buildings and Grounds: Don Morgan reported, he had an insurance conversation with Don Holtebeck and will provide the committee with more of an explanation. Dave Milbrandt, from Reliable Builders, will meet the committee to discuss the north entrance. The committee would like to have a secretary for their meetings so there is a reference point to refer back to. In the meantime, a digital recorder can be used. The workman's comp rate was not correct, so it will be updated.

Personnel: Pastor Bryan noted, the employee manual is being worked on. There are six applicants for the administrative position. They are reworking the job descriptions for the maintenance assistants and will hire a gap person. The committee also completed their yearly check-in with full- and part-time employees.

Health: No meeting

Mission Stewardship: Marshall Lysne noted, no council action needed, reviewed the stewardship information and possibility of a council bulletin board.

Parish education: Diane Opperman reported that the presentation, display, and book sale were a success thanks to the many people who helped. Mary Plautz and Diane Opperman presented information about Martin Luther and a video about being Lutheran to the Sunday school students.

Worship & Music: Nancy Ross reported, they are gearing up for Thanksgiving Eve and Advent services.

Family & Youth Team: Pastor Andy shared that they are looking at traffic for the Wednesday service and the committees need for more male and younger members.

Information & Technology: Mark Harrington reported there was no meeting. Pastor Bryan requested the authorization to migrate the data for free.

Old Business: Pastor Bryan reported the land proposal has had no change in status. Jeff Riddle added, the audit committee is set and ready to go. The nominating committee has one confirmed person, and four others to ask. The committees' continuing resolutions are all in and the council will need to vote on them at the next meeting. We will need to find the protocol for absentee voting as not all of the members will be at the next meeting to approve the continuing resolutions. Marshall Lysne asked if there was a monetary limit for purchases that do not need to be signed off by the council. The limit is 2% of that committee's budget. Marshall also asked if there was a policy for monies gifted to the church as far as designations and distributions. Nancy Johnson said the executive committee determines where the undesignated funds go, and the council has to approve those designations. There are currently procedures for distributing undesignated funds. Marshall asked if there was any movement on getting nametags or the bulletin board set up for members to see council members. In addition, he reminded the council of our previous

decision to provide monthly synopses of the financial report in the bulletin. The bulletin boards could also be used to showcase what is currently going on within the church.

New Business: Budget reports are needed from Building and Grounds, Information and Technology, and Mission Stewardship.

Adjournment: Motion by Marshall Lysne, seconded by Nancy Johnson, to adjourn. Motion approved at 8:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Liegl, Secretary