

Trinity Lutheran Church

Church Council meeting, Tuesday, Nov. 22nd 2016

Trinity Lutheran Church: Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by President Tom Johnson.

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

Prayer: Pastor Dione

Devotions: Mark Harrington "The thanks we owe"

Secretary's Report: Report was distributed and reviewed. Motion to approve by Don H. second by Nancy Ross, Approved.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's report was distributed. Nancy J. reported that the income was up compared to last year. We currently have a -\$3,700 deficit. The mortgage fund is currently ahead in funding. Nancy reported there will be a Benevolence emphasis for giving in an upcoming newsletter to help reach our goals in our benevolence giving. Tom Johnson reminded all council members to please return their pledge cards.

Pastors Reports: Pastor Bryan, and Pastor Dione shared their reports. Pastor Andy's report distributed. These reports are attached. Pastor Andy also attached his sabbatical request for 2017. A motion to approve the sabbatical request was made by Marshall L. Second by Nancy J. Motion approved.

Council Reports:

Buildings and Grounds: Don H. reported that all was routine business, nothing for council approval.

Don reported the Critical Incident committee was progressing in its mission giving recognition to Marshall L for all his help. Chief of Police Brian H. committee member, shared his insights during a previous meeting and Firefighter Jim P. is scheduled to give his insights from a firefighter's perspective.

Personnel: Ruth T. reported Kim Miller has been hired to fill the Youth program & Communications Coordinator position. Ruth also reported the annual Staff evaluation and feedback meetings were complete and all went well.

Health: Jeff R. reported there were no items for council approval. There will be staff CPR training upcoming.

Membership & Evangelism: Pastor Dione reported that the committee participated in an asset mapping exercise and several good ideas were identified for further exploration.

Mission/Stewardship: Pastor B. reported that they were meeting next week with a guest speaker presenting the topic of individual planned giving. Stewardship emphasis will be ongoing to the end of the year. The committee hammered out their continuing resolution.

Parish education: Diane O. reported the committee is continuing to work on their revised continuing resolution. They are working on putting together information for end of life and human trafficking education topics for the congregation.

Worship & Music: Nancy R. reported tickets for the Dec 2nd Pedar Eide concert have gone on sale.

Family & Youth Team: Mike Claussen reported that Pastors Andy's report contains a good report of the happenings within the Family & youth team.

TLW: Pastor Dione reported they attended a human trafficking program.

Information & Technology: Pastor Bryan reported that Greg Lacy has been consulting with and helping put together a budget for not only this year but also upcoming year's budgets for retiring and replacing the computers within the church. They are waiting for a second bid for monitors in the Koinonia room

Future planning: No report

Old Business: President Tom J. Reported that all continuing resolutions will be distributed to council members by the end of the year for their review and for possible adoption recommendation during the January council meeting. Discussion was held on the structure of committees with regard to chairmanship and council reporting duties and responsibilities.

Nominations are being sought for the two upcoming council vacancies and for the President elect position. Don H. and Bonnie S. council terms are expiring. Nominations for these positions need to be posted by the end of the year.

New Business: Nancy Ross distributed a handout on suggested ideas and plans for Luther's 500th anniversary celebration. It is hoped that each committee and church organization can find members who can meet together and work out a rough plan for the upcoming year. Very Good ideas from Nancy Ross!

Nancy Johnson distributed the proposed budget for 2017. Nancy explained the budget and the process of how the proposed budget was formulated. Recommendations and changes were discussed with a final proposed budget agreed upon. Don H motioned for approval of the proposed budget, Nancy R. seconded the motion. Motion approved. Nancy will ready the proposed budget for the Annual Congregational meeting set for January 29th.

Marshall L. addressed the Building pledge awareness that is unfolding with the expiration of the 3 year congregation member building pledge commitments. Building fund pledges are down from previous pledge commitments. Stimulation and awareness of pledges is needed especially among our younger member giving units. Vanco online giving awareness would be beneficial for the congregation with a reminder of giving our first fruits to the Lord.

Adjournment: Motion by Marshall L. 2nd by Nancy J. to adjourn. Motion Approved (8:45pm)

Respectfully submitted, Tim Gauerke, Secretary,

Devotions for January 2017: Nancy Johnson * Next meeting January 24th, 2017 7:00 pm.

Pastor Bryan's report

Along with regular duties of pastoral care, worship, and teaching during the month of October, I had the opportunity to take part in some exciting activities and opportunities.

The Director of Pine Lake Bible Camp, Kelly Preboski, met with Pastor Andy and myself regarding the camp's internship program and our opportunity for camp interns to serve at Trinity Lutheran. This is an exciting opportunity for us to help those who are interning grow in their faith and in their experience working with youth, and for our youth to be served by them.

This is an example of a way that a church like ours, with many people and programs, can act as a resource for the larger church, and have an impact on ministries outside our walls. In that spirit, we are also working with Pine Lake camp to serve as a meeting and worship host for a regional gathering of Lutheran camp workers in November.

I was also able to be a part of the production of a new video that can be adapted to website and video outlets. Also, in our Evangelism ministry, I was able to be a part of our new member orientation and welcoming.

October saw our Stewardship Emphasis begin. I was able to work closely with one of our members with whom we have contracted, Camin Potts, on weekly stewardship themes, graphics, and content. So far, our pledging feedback includes:

2017 - General

124 Pledges

Total Pledged \$333,172.50

2017 Building

49 Pledges

Total Pledged \$ 74,096

Finally, I was able to meet with our Education Committee. We discussed some new additions to our Education offerings-- our "one and done" events-- and revamped our committee's mission statement, found in our Continuing Resolutions.

Regards,

Pr. Bryan Robertson

Pastor Andy's report: Nov. 22, 2016

I'm sorry to miss this last Church Council meeting of 2016 and to offer only a skeletal report in my absence, but, as many of you know, my 15-year battle with Meniere's disease entered a two-week downswing that on Sunday morning culminated in my first heavy-duty vertigo episode in two years, preventing me from preaching. I'm thankful for the ability to take most of this week off to rest—with almost everything regarding my condition rendered uncertain after a blessed year in which my September 2015 ear surgery seemed to have alleviated my vertigo spells if not also my hearing problems, rest is the best I can do to prevent further attacks and additional hearing loss. Your prayers are deeply appreciated. Here again this Thanksgiving, I'm grateful to God for the blessing of serving here at Trinity, with its always-accommodating staff and membership of ministers who have ministered to me just as much as I have to them.

And, in the same spirit of gratitude, I'll offer one update from the past month of ministry, especially as I feel it is the best news that Trinity's youth ministry has had all year—if not the best news I've had to share with respect to youth ministry in all of my years here: Beginning on Dec. 12, Trinity will be blessed to have one of our many existing youth leaders, **Kim Miller**, as our new, full-time Youth Program & Communications Coordinator. As I mentioned in last month's report, we were blessed to have a great slate of applicants for the position, which completes our staff with elements of two past positions. But I can say with no exaggeration whatsoever that Kim is one of the most innately gifted youth ministers I've ever met. I have come short of begging her to apply for our youth position in its various forms on multiple occasions in the past two years, and I'm so deeply grateful to Kim and to God that this worked out. And I know I'm not alone—from my fellow staff members to parents of our congregation's kids and the students themselves who already know and love Kim from her extensive leadership to date, the reaction to the announcement of Kim's hiring has been one of genuine joy. She will serve us very, very well—and not just in her tremendous relational skills but also with her gifts in organization and communication. Among so many other people to whom I'm so grateful for allowing this to happen, I need especially to thank both Heidi Fischer for all that she's done to build and nourish our youth programs, again and again, and **Tim Gauerke**, who, along with pouring his heart into our young people's lives voluntarily for so many years, has so dutifully led us to believe, as I also do, that a full-time staff position was exactly what our youth need.

One last thing, timed conveniently alongside all this: I have given you yet another proposal for a sabbatical leave, which I hope to take at long last beginning in May 2017. I apologize that I didn't have this revised proposal for you six full months in advance, as called for in Continuing Resolution No. 2, but I hope that you'll nevertheless find it acceptable.

Thanks again for all you do as leaders of our congregation. God bless you and your families this Thanksgiving, in the coming celebration of Christmas, and into the new year that God has already abundantly blessed.

Pastor Dione Miller: Council Report for November 22, 2016

It has been a great month for ministry in and around the Trinity community. The Holy Spirit is always hopping and keeping things interesting and lively.

Since we met last month, I've participated in a number of activities in the surrounding community both as a representative of the Trinity congregation and to educate myself on how we can engage in various ministries that affect our community more fully as a congregation. These activities included attending a Human Trafficking Awareness event hosted by the East Central Synod of Wisconsin in Green Bay along with four members of the Trinity Lutheran Women group. It was an eye opening experience and I was glad to be in the company of several hundred others who took time to learn about this devastating problem in our area and ways we can get involved in anti-trafficking work. I also met with interfaith partners and attended the ESTHER interfaith social action group banquet to see how we can mutually support each other in our various faith communities as we seek to live out faiths of mutual respect and concern for each other's wellbeing. I sit on the Synod's Global Mission team and had a great meeting with them this past month which Trinity hosted. I've also continued volunteering at the warming shelter and have had the chance to meet a number of great people in the community through that ministry.

I also attended a three-day First Call Theological Conference in Marathon, WI which brought together all first-call pastors in Wisconsin and the UP who are serving in the first three years of ordained ministry. It was a great event filled with renewal, challenge, and fellowship, but I was disappointed that it conflicted with the annual pancake supper. It looked like a good time was had by all at the event though, for that I am thankful.

In addition to the weekly pastoral duties of leading worship, preaching, and teaching confirmation, I presided at two baptisms and made a number of pastoral calls and visits. I was happy to attend two separate women's Bible study groups and to help them select new resources for further study and spiritual growth. I've also enjoyed continuing to get to know members of the congregation in less formal settings and building relationships throughout. It's really a joy to be together.

In Christ,

Pastor Dione