

Trinity Lutheran Church
Church Council meeting, Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by President Jeff Riddle.

Attendees: Jeff Riddle, Tim Gauerke, Becky Liegl, Pastor Bryan, Pastor Andy, Nancy Johnson, Charlene Kuenzi, Nancy Ross, Don Morgan, and Marshall Lysne

Prayer: Pastor Bryan

Devotions: Becky Liegl "Let Go and Let God"

Secretary's Report: The report was distributed and reviewed. Motion to approve the secretary's report by Char Kuenzi, seconded by Don Morgan, motion approved.

Treasurer's Report: The report was distributed and reviewed. Nancy Johnson noted that a combined January-April to January-April comparison from last year to this year shows we are about the same financially with the understanding that our payroll has greatly increased from this time last year with an additional associate pastor and youth & communication coordinator. Nancy J. also noted that the rummage sale proceeds went to cover camperships for our confirmation campers. The person willing to coordinate requested having one summer sale instead of a spring and fall sale with hope more people would be able to be involved due to less school year conflicts. Motion to approve the treasurer's report by Marshall Lysne, seconded by Tim Gauerke, motion approved.

Pastors Reports

Pastor Bryan

March was a normal month in the season of Lent for our pastoral staff: soup meals, noontime services, and soup meals; worship, hospital visits, and caring for the dying and grieving. It was a special treat and challenge to be a part of our preaching series, which let us explore some of Martin Luther's best work.

Our Executive Committee was presented with the possibility of engaging a church consultant to help us update and synchronize our staff's many duties and responsibilities. I made initial contact with one of them in the month of March.

He has since offered to help and has communicated the circumstances under which he would work for us. I am relaying that information to the Executive Committee and Personnel.

We have been through a period of staff members departing and new staff hired with new duties and responsibilities. We have put together job descriptions and duties in a piecemeal fashion, as new staff has been hired. As such, our present employees are doing jobs for which they were not originally hired, and they are assisting new employees whose jobs did not exist in the past.

A similar situation exists for long time employees who took on new duties with our new construction. We think it's time to step back and take a global look at the work our staff is doing as a whole: see how their jobs mesh with each other. We should assess the talents of each of our employees and look closely at how they match the duties that have shifted to them over time.

We would like to see if we can make better use of their talents. We would also like to intentionally craft their job descriptions to mesh with each other. We want a workplace with smooth collaboration and known expectations, and we want to do our part as employers to help make this happen. We believe that this effort is time and money well spent.

Along with regular duties of pastoral care, teaching and confirmation, I was able to attend an orientation meeting for pastors new to our synod. I have also been working to get the house I bought ready for occupancy.

Pr. Bryan

Pastor Andy, April 25, 2017

My sabbatical is less than two weeks away, and I'm pretty sure I'm going to go through with it this time! We made it through Lent, and things finally seem stable enough to take the three months of leave I've delayed twice. I'm deeply grateful for the opportunity, and I thank you for it. My focus for the leave will be family—both time with my own family and the development of family ministry at Trinity. I'll be almost entirely out of the loop from May 8 until my Aug. 15 return, but in the meantime my matters of ministry will be in good hands with Pastor Bryan, Pastor Dione, and Kim Miller.

The Family & Youth Team had an eventful meeting last week. The Team largely affirmed this year's schedule of Holy Week worship services for future years and signed off on an earlier time slot for the Affirmation of Baptism service each Reformation Sunday in October (more about this in the committee reports), and **Patsy Hunter** will be taking over as chairperson now that **Susan Elandt** has completed her year at the helm.

Hopefully you got a chance to attend one of this past weekend's worship services led by our eighth-graders—it was the fourth annual effort by the eighth-grade class and an especially memorable one. I'm thankful to **Becca Mortensen**, Nick Schoob, and Mike Hutsell with Crossways Camping Ministries; Kim; and Patsy and Susan and their fellow group leaders, **Jeff Riddle** and **Nate Ziemer**, for steering the soon-to-be confirmands in their big project. By Thursday night, I'll have had my final meetings with families of more than half the students in this exceptional eighth-grade class. Kim has done a great job lining up these meetings earlier than usual, due to my sabbatical, just as she's been masterful in coordinating the other aspects of the smooth confirmation year that finishes tomorrow night.

Likewise, high-schoolers' involvement in Crossover has stayed strong. Among April highlights, the youth group stuffed eggs on the Wednesday before the annual Easter Egg Hunt (which went typically terrifically with Kim assisting the **Sondrol family** on April 9), and **Tim Gauerke** will rejoin us for another of his trademark blindfold adventures tomorrow night. Kim will continue to host Wednesday-evening events during the first few weeks of my sabbatical before shifting to occasional gatherings.

The big high-school event of the summer will be the Faith Ventures trip to Milwaukee on June 21-25, with Kim and Tim joining **Heidi Fischer** in leading a young crew of eight freshmen and sophomores (**Kevin Ames, Taylor Corbett, Morgan Johnson, Kalyn Klug, Nate Minton, Jake Peglow, Alexis Rabassa, and Haleigh Smith**) on a rare summer trip to serve folks in our own state. I'm grateful for the travelers and many other generous folks in our congregation who helped the annual silent auction during Lent raise \$2,000 for the trip—an especially strong total for a small trip. Next year's trip—to Houston for the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering—will be much bigger, and Susan Elandt, as our trip coordinator for the third straight gathering, will kick off planning with a first meeting on May 3.

My one exception of parish leadership during my sabbatical will be accompanying this year's young adults to Baton Rouge along with **Terry Nellis** and **Marty Miller** on July 8-16. **Jake Foss, Maddy Frank, Alex Gotto, Parker Kantos, Paige Kempf, and Hannah Sprenger** are on board to help rebuild homes for folks impacted by last summer's flooding. Fun to note: seven of the nine of us were together in New Orleans for the 2012 Youth Gathering, and it will also be a reunion of all four travelers on 2013's backpacking trip to the Porcupine Mountains.

It's great to look at all this and see the spectrum of ongoing ministry to and through our young people. On that note, I'm excited that our blessing of high-school graduates will be May 7 at my last worship service before my sabbatical. We have a huge group of 17 from the graduating class confirmed to be there, which is thanks to Kim's diligence and relationship-building but also thanks, I'm quite certain, to 2011's decision, led by Tim, to extend confirmation into ninth grade. This year's graduates were the first to be confirmed in the fall of their freshman year, and they continue to be an exceptionally active and all-around astounding group of young people.

God bless you all this summer!

Pastor Dione, Council Report for April 25, 2017

Mary Magdalene when and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord." -John 20:18

Our Lenten pilgrimage is over and we're smack dab in the middle of Easter and the joy of the resurrection. As Mary left the tomb on that first Easter morning proclaiming, "I have seen the Lord," I am reminded of all the ways that we see the Lord in our midst today.

Our midweek Lenten services continually reminded me of this as we came together for worship to let our songs and prayers raise to God as incense. It was fun to preach a team sermon series with Pastors Andy and Bryan as we made our way through some of the Lutheran theological mainstays. By preaching in that series in tandem together, we built off each other's proclamations to help give shape and dimension to the faith and the Lutheran lens through which we look at the world and our relationship with God.

Holy Week was yet another chance to "see the Lord" at work. It was a joy to celebrate Holy Communion with 15 of our young people for the first time on Maundy Thursday. The Good Friday Cantata told the Passion of Christ in a moving and visceral way. Then, on Easter morning we were greeted with the joy of the resurrection starting with a candle-lit vigil at dawn and ending with a sunrise and shouts of "Alleluia! Christ is risen!" It was a privilege to journey through Holy Week with Trinity as a pastor for my first time.

Terry & Barb Nellis, Kerry Waitrovich, and I are getting deeper in the planning and traveling mode as we prepare to visit our sister congregation, Saron Parish, in South Africa in June. On Palm Sunday, we took group pictures of the two services to present to the congregation as we bring our greetings and congratulations on the celebration of their 150th anniversary. Congregation members will be invited to sign the mat that will surround these pictures as part of that gift.

As the Spirit continues to move in the midst of our congregation, we have a number of people who will be joining as new members in May. New member orientation will be on May 10th. The people will then be welcomed into the congregational membership through an affirmation of baptism service on May 20th & 21st. I have also been keeping my eyes open to seeing who may have the spiritual gifts of radical welcome and inclusion for all members. I have several people I'm in conversation with about their readiness to help us form a new Membership and Evangelism committee.

At the end of March, I attended the synod's welcome-to-the-synod event this month, where we talked about what was going on in the synod and had the chance to meet other clergy in the area who are in new calls. Then on April 6th, Trinity served as host to the synod Chrism Mass where clergy and deacons were invited to participate in a pre-Holy Week Sabbath time and the renewal of our ordination vows. It was a nice event where once again, we were reminded of the Lord in our midst.

Earlier in the month, I went to Luther College in Decorah, IA for two days of continuing education at a conference entitled *Liberating Grace: The Power of the Reformation in the World Today*. It was a powerful conference. I am also taking six days of vacation time, including one Sunday, which I will be traveling back from at the time of this council meeting.

Yes, we have seen the Lord in our midst. Alleluia! Christ is Risen.

In Christ,

Pr. Dione

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds: Don Morgan noted the committee was currently securing bids for a new Ansul fire suppression system. The potholes in the parking lot will be fixed when it is resealed in the coming months. Nancy Johnson asked about the Iola Car Show fundraiser. Don wasn't aware of any mention at the committee meeting. The money raised has gone into the garage and/capital fund. Marshall Lysne will connect with those involved with the car show to see if Trinity can still work to raise funds this close to the show.

Personnel: called off the meeting, no quorum in attendance.

Health: Jeff Riddle shared that the bone marrow drive is set for Saturday, April 29th, from 8-12 noon. WDUX radio will provide a radio spot giving more details about the event. The defibrulators were purchased and are in the church. They are looking at getting monthly inserts into the newsletter again with new health information each month.

Mission/Stewardship: Marshall Lysne discussed the need for stimulating electronic giving by members before the summer months. Nancy Johnson added, there is an app for both Android and Apple devices. You can search "Give Plus Church" in the app store to locate and download the app. Nancy Johnson is currently trialing the app to see how it works. The app puts your giving at the touch of a finger. The church can also send alerts if there is an emergency in need of quick funding. We should look into having a clinic between services where members can receive assistance getting the app installed on their phone or discuss electronic giving. Marshall will create a newsletter insert with more details and facts about electronic giving and our current mortgage expenses.

Parish Education: None

Worship & Music: Nancy Ross reported they are winding down after a busy Lent and Easter season, but are currently looking for summer performers. If anyone is interested or knows someone who may be interested, please contact Wanda Eikenbary. There will be a jazz service in July and a polka service in August. Some questions were raised with regard to the emergency preparedness response packet each committee was given. Making sure the guides for confirmation, groups who use the building after hours, Sunday school teachers, and anyone involved in the building know the emergency response procedures. Pastor Bryan will connect with Wanda to discuss their concerns and questions such as more signage, ensuring all those involved outside of the council and employees know the plan, and ensuring the diagrams of the upper and lower levels are accurate.

Family & Youth Team: Pastor Andy shared, Patsy Hunter will be the new committee chair, replacing Susan Elandt. The team discussed possible times for the affirmation of baptism this fall and first communion next spring. Having the fifth graders first communion on Maundy Thursday worked very well for parents, students, and pastoral staff. Having an evening Good Friday service was well received and attended. The Affirmation of Baptism, planned last year in the afternoon, would best fit during the 10:30 service which will be planned and lead by the confirmands. This year, it will be on the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. It will be noted that the primary focus for this service will be confirmation.

Information & Technology: There was a walk-through of the Koinonia room with regard to the sound system used for overflow seating during special services. Also, we will need to update the current cables to HDMI.

Old Business: Nancy Johnson discussed the need for an audit committee to more closely align our practice with our constitution. There was one correction noted with regard to the timing of the audit committee

meeting, they will meet in the month of January, not December as previously noted. Jeff Riddle added, the committee will consist of 3-5 people with a financial background. Jeff and Ruth Trinrud will collaborate this spring/summer and connect with those individuals best suited for the committee. Those interested in serving on the committee will be asked to make a three year commitment with the understanding that no more than one or two members going off the committee each year.

Don Morgan noted that George N. gave him a tour of the bowels of the church and believed more members would be interested in seeing just what goes into ensuring a church our size runs as efficiently and effectively as possible, from a building and grounds perspective. Those taking the tour might have a greater appreciation for what it takes to run the church from the inside out.

Marshall Lysne reminded the council of the "Did you know?" push we had many months ago. Slides were created to show data and statistics with regard to the monthly expenses for electricity, water, and other utilities, and then displayed on the screens in the sanctuary and Koinonia room. These slides shed more light on the scale of expenses to keep the church building an inviting place for members and visitors alike. Maybe an open house and/or building tour would be appropriate.

New Business: Pastor Bryan shared a request by a parishioner on behalf of the Secret Service group with members in the eighth and fourth grades. The Secret Service would like to take residence under the Trinity "umbrella" through a sponsorship, which would make them eligible for grants. Numerous questions were raised about insurance, taxes, laws, liability, and the Secret Service's board or committee structure. We could steer them in the direction to become their own 5013.C but, more information is needed before we can consider sponsoring them under our 5013.C status. Pastor Bryan will find out more about this and report back at our next meeting.

Jeff Riddle discussed the need for a nominating committee so our practices align with our constitution. The nominating committee will consist of outgoing council members, however, we will need to discuss this further when more council members are present.

Adjournment: Motion by Marshall Lysne, 2nd by Char Kuenzi to adjourn. Motion Approved (8:05 pm)

Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Liegl, Secretary

Next Meeting: May 23, 2017 @ 7:00 p.m.

Devotions: Char Kuenzi