

Trinity Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting, Tuesday, April 24, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by President Tim Gauerke

Attendees:

Pastor Andy X	Tim Gauerke X	Mark Harrington X	Neil Dunday X
Pastor Bryan X	Becky Liegl X	Ruth Trinrud X	Fred Kuenzi X
Pastor Dione X	Yvonne Robbers X	Don Morgan X	John Kunzman X
		Seth Rowland	Diane Opperman X
		Mya Berzsenyi	Nancy Johnson X
Present = X			

Prayer: Pastor Andy

Devotions: Don Morgan

Future Devotions: May: Ruth, June: Becky, July: No meeting, Aug.: Diane, and Sept. and Oct.: Yvonne

Secretary's Report	Report was distributed and reviewed. Motion to approve by Becky Liegl, second by Nancy Johnson, all approved.
Treasurer's Report	Report was distributed by Tim Gauerke. Nancy Johnson present. No questions by council.

Pastor's Reports:

► **Pastor Bryan:** Much of my work and that of our staff in the month of March focused on preparing for our Holy Week and Easter celebrations.

Along with our regular duties of providing pastoral care, confirmation teaching, and worship leadership, our pastoral staff continued its preaching series during March and the season of Lent. Working with the familiar devotional practice of letting go of a much loved item or habit during the season of Lent, the preaching series, "Letting Go of", highlighted those things that Jesus let go of on his way to the cross.

Our fifth-grade youth took part in preparations to receive their first communion, to which I was able to contribute. I was also able to participate in the human sexuality workshop, which our congregation offers to seventh graders and their families.

Along with visiting the Catalpa Health offices in Waupaca and learning more about their accessibility and services to youth in our community, I took part in a suicide prevention seminar hosted by our church, known by the acronym, QPR. QPR stands for the plan of action we can take when we believe someone is contemplating suicide: Question, Persuade, and Refer.

Looking ahead to April, I will attend an Embracing Stewardship event in New London with Tim Gauerke. I will also serve as on the Campaign Conference Committee for Crossways Camping Ministries as it begins a capital campaign to upgrade their facilities and winterize them for year-round programming.

Crossways Camping Ministry is requesting to speak about this campaign to our council and to have a member of our congregation serve as the head of their campaign in our congregation.

► **Pastor Andy:** Late in my first year here at Trinity, a camp director introduced me to an all-too-true aphorism; “We plan; God laughs.” While I have never been one to imagine God laughing in any malevolent way, the phrase does seem to sum up this Easter season. Here in the month that my front-page newsletter article ironically discussed humor being holy, a pair of spring snowstorms—late April Fools’ jokes, at best—caused us to cancel a loaded Wednesday of activities, an entire weekend of worship, and the Comedy Show and Pie Fundraiser for Faith Ventures (which provided the news element for the aforementioned article). Moreover, just after Easter, when the first of the two blizzards hit, my Meniere’s disease flared up to hamper my hearing significantly for the second time since my 2015 surgery; and, as the second and more severe storm was winding down, I suffered arguably my worst vertigo episode yet. We’re recovering from the senseless snowfall, but I’m still struggling to hear and once again leaning on the kindness and understanding of the congregation and staff.

This past weekend was a beautiful example of that—and then some—with my eighth-grade class heading up an exceptional weekend of Youth-Led Worship when my hearing was about as bad as it gets. Kylee Berzsenyi, Evan Bogard, Charlotte Buchman, Amelia Fischer, Katie Jenson, Chloe Marcom, Delaney Rowland, Shania Sopa, and Grace Wanty (with help from adult leaders Heidi Fischer, Jake Foss, and Patsy Hunter) crafted an extraordinary sermon video that delved deeply and honestly into how God is at work in young people’s lives amid the difficulties of divorce. Grant Abrahamson, Max Gusmer, Kaleb Mannel, Alex Pankratz, and Luke Schwenn provided a huge group of kids with a memorable children’s message at the 10:30 a.m. service when the older Sunday-schoolers were reciting their memory work. Ryan Ames, Natalie Berk, and Hannah Holterman provided some of the most beautiful music that our middle-schoolers have ever provided in our Youth-Led Worship’s five-year history, with assistance from Kim Miller, Wanda Eikenbary, Becca Mortensen, and Lexi Rabassa. And Brooke Peterson gave us professional-quality artwork for the bulletin and slides. I’ve never been so proud of or more thankful to a confirmation class, and I’m looking forward to this October when these young folks affirm their baptism and continue their leadership as adults!

Maundy Thursday, March 29, was a milestone for our fifth-graders who received their first communion. My first first-communion class from the spring of 2011 (and the class that later inaugurated our Youth-Led Worship in 2014) will become our latest graduating class, which we’ll recognize with a blessing at the 10:30 a.m. service on May 6. Tomorrow night is the finale of Wednesday activities (aside from Crossover, which will continue into the summer), ending the confirmation year with a “Wednesday Sundaes” celebration. FeFiFoFUN sadly got snowed out of its own Wednesday year-ender on April 4; Katy Johnson nevertheless did another fine job in her eighth year at

the helm (though she noted at last night's Family & Youth Team meeting that her daughter, Morgan, has been the main mind behind the programming this year).

Thankfully, the Comedy Night & Pie Fundraiser will still happen, with pies for sale between services this Sunday and before ComedyCity De Pere's rescheduled show on Wednesday, May 2, at 6:30 p.m. It will be the last big fundraiser for Faith Ventures, thanks to all the work from trip coordinator Susan Elandt and Kim Miller to get our high-schoolers to Houston at the end of June. Tomorrow, Jake Foss and I will formally announce that our young adults will be heading back to Kentucky to work with St. Vincent Mission for this year's service trip on July 29, with Jake and several other 18-and-up travelers already onboard.

News from the Family & Youth Team: I'm thankful that Kyle Mannel and Sarah Highlander, both active teachers, joined us for the first time last night and immediately offered great insight, and that Rena Klug, another newer member of the committee, has stepped forward to succeed Patsy Hunter as chairperson for the coming year. While Pastor Bryan will be heading up an effort to gather feedback about Trinity's worship life this summer, I'll be convening members of the Family & Youth, Parish Education, and Membership & Evangelism committees, among others, to glean thoughts from Trinity's families about Family Life programming.

Finally, for your community calendar, Trinity will officially host a new support group for parents of adult children, which community member Kimberly Zanzarov and I have already convened twice in pilot sessions, on Thursday, May 10, at 7 p.m. Also, please note two events this week: the Waupaca School District's #WaupacaWay2K30 follow-up conversation on Thursday night at the high school and the Waupaca County Suicide Prevention Coalition's second annual Walk for Hope at Swan Park on Saturday.

► **Pastor Dione:** *Alleluia! Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!*

We are now smack dab in the middle of the season of Easter, a time where we are reminded over and over again of the Good News that Christ is Risen indeed and sin and death no longer have the final say. Alleluia! Alleluia again!

I was reminded of the importance and real impact of this promise just as a group of people was gathering here in the snow on Holy Saturday morning (the morning before Easter) when I found out that a tragedy had occurred in my seminary friend's family as her 19-year-old nephew had been in a serious – and ultimately fatal - car accident. I am extremely thankful for this community and my pastor colleagues for making it easy to offer to lead my friend's Easter worship services at Norway Grove Memorial Lutheran Church in Norway Grove, Wisconsin, where she is called as their pastor. I greatly missed being able to worship with everyone here at Trinity, but was immensely thankful to be able to proclaim the promise that Christ is surely risen indeed to a community in which their pastor was grieving so deeply. Thank you to this community and thanks be to God for making that possible.

After Easter, I have been privileged to accompany people through and on their way to other important life passages and help to bring attention to God's involvement in these important times. I was

privileged to proclaim Christ’s promises of victory over death as I presided at the funeral of Robert Miller, Jr., discussed and rejoiced with a family at the planning of a baptism, and met with two couples who are preparing for marriage.

On April 19, we hosted our semi-annual new member orientation class. Eight new members will be welcomed through affirmation of baptism during our worship services on May 5 and 6. I always enjoy the conversations and the joy our newest members bring to these gatherings. It helps me, and should help all of us, to build on that excitement for our community. Our Membership & Evangelism committee is looking at ways to do just that, which I am quite excited about.

Several months ago, I decided to start a Hobby Tour. I have been meeting with members so that they can show me their hobbies. I have learned about quite a few interesting hobbies so far – scrapbooking, maple tree tapping, apple tree pruning, and woodworking to name a few (I also made a picnic table for staff and others to enjoy in the grass across from Dairy Queen). More importantly, I also have had the chance to get to know people more personally in the informal conversation that happens during those meet-ups. I plan to continue this as long as people have hobbies and stories they’d like to share with me.

I continue to attend first-call pastor gatherings monthly. I recently attended my first meeting of the Crossways Camping Ministries Endowment Committee to which I was elected to serve a two-year term at their annual meeting in January. Crossways is a great asset for the church, and I’m happy to be able to help support their ministries for our community.

Alleluia! Christ is Risen. Christ has been with us through it all and continues to call us forward in the world, and we go, trusting that the glimpses we catch in the daily lives of the people we encounter all the time are only just a foretaste of the feast to come. He is Risen Indeed! Alleluia!

Council Reports:

<p>Buildings and Grounds: Pastor Bryan Don Morgan, Fred Kuenzi Bill Frank, Deb Kinison, Ken Claussen, Dan Tischendorf</p>	<p>Presenter: Pastor Bryan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Freezing up of sprinkler system – This is an ongoing issue and Miron continues to work with us. The multipurpose room will be getting carpet, new windows, blinds, and paint with a budget of \$15,000 coming out of the special project category. Possible centralized base communication station to be based out of the office that would include all speakers as some of them are presently not working. Need an update on this. Per Fire Marshall and PERMA:
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need new fire escape maps (done) and signage. Did the signage get completed? • AED needs sturdy shelf to be placed on. Is this completed? • Some fire pull stations need to be more visible. Is this completed?
Personnel: Pastor Bryan Ruth Trinrud Rich Rasmussen, Steve Johnson, Jim Stoltenberg, Terri Lick, Penney Frank	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No meeting. 2. Bill Frank looking for real quotes for new bus. How long of a time frame will this be?
Health: Pastor Dione John Kunzman Carol Gehrke, Paul Sletten, Julie Hagen-Coenen	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Audiologists do take old hearing aids. Hopefully, we can find out how to donate and spread the word to the congregation.
Membership & Evangelism: Pastor Dione Yvonne Robbers Matt Lick, Rita Harris, Amy Spadoni, Vicki Groth, Molly Reinke	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Will be observing the May 8, Bread Basket event at the Methodist Church to learn about what needs to be done and moving forward have Trinity members sponsor this event on possibly a monthly basis. More to come after this event takes place. Looking for volunteers for May 8 event. Participants need to be there at 1:30 p.m. 2. New membership class went well.
Mission Stewardship: Pastor Bryan Tim Gauerke, Nancy Johnson Marshall Lysne, Dave Leder	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PA and Tim will be attending a seminar in New London, "Embracing Stewardship." 2. Bulletin insert was created for texting offerings. Need update on how this went and usage of it. 3. A survey will be distributed to members to get feedback on commitment to serving/attending worship and offerings. (Note: All service attendance numbers are consistently lower than previous years.)
Parish Education: Pastor Bryan Neil Dunday, Diane Opperman,	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Day Camp will be in the afternoons after summer school at Trinity. Kim Miller will be handling this.

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Worship & Music: Pastor Bryan Becky Liegl Charlene Kuenzi, Nancy Ross, Wanda Eikenbary, Joni Radley, Pam Lysne, Be Parker, Shana Rogney	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. New Eternal candle, no fuel needed. 2. Selling geraniums for Pentecost. 3. Bells on the Bluff in April, open to the public.
Family & Youth Team: Pastor Andy Seth Rowland, Yvonne Robbers Patsy Hunter, Susan Elandt, Kim Rowland, Nancy Ross, Katy Johnson, Mya Berzsenyi, Kim Miller, Rena Klimke-Klug, Kyle Mannel, Sara Hilander	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pastor Andy continues to work on the focus group idea and what that will all be. 2. Trinity will be handling its own inclement weather cancellations verses following the school, which is what has been done in the past. 3. Two new members have joined this team, Kyle Mannel and Sara Hilander 4. Rena Klimke-Klug will be new chairperson.
Information & Technology: Pastor Bryan Mark Harrington, Nancy Johnson Greg Lacey-Heartland rep., Marty Miller, Pastor Dione	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. See Mark Harrington's notes from 4/21/2018 that were handed out at meeting.
Future Planning	No report.
Old Business	See items is red.
New Business	Resolutions need to be voted on at May meeting.
Adjournment: 8:20 p.m.	Motion by Yvonne Robbers, seconded by Nancy Johnson.
Devotions for May	Ruth Trinrud
Next meeting: Tuesday, May 22, 2018, at 7 p.m.	

April Financial Report Snapshot	
Ministry Expenses and Gifts	Building Debt Reduction
Apr. Begin Ministry Balance: \$7,174.80	Begin Mortgage Principal: \$1,671,638.69
Apr. Gifts: \$61,181.95	Debt Reduction Gifts: \$10,222.02
Apr. Clearing: +\$174.11	Debt Monthly Payment: \$11,344.00
Apr. Expenses: -\$63,787.12	Principal Reduction: \$5,842.48
Apr. End Ministry Balance: \$4,743.74	End Mortgage Principal: \$1,665,796.21