

## Trinity Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting ♦ Tuesday, August 28, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by President Tim Gauerke.

**Attendees:**

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

**Prayer:** Pastor Dione**Devotions:** Diane Opperman**Future Devotions:** Sept. and Oct. - Yvonne

<b>Secretary's Report</b>	Report was distributed and reviewed. Motion to approve by Tim Gauerke, seconded by Yvonne Robbers, all approved.
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	Report was distributed by Nancy Johnson. No questions or concerns.

**Pastor's Reports:**► **Pastor Bryan:**

August has seen our staff busily preparing for the beginning of Fall programming.

As Jean Schwirtz has worked on curriculum, calendars, and securing volunteers for our Youth Education ministry on Sunday, Kim Miller has been doing the same in preparing for our Confirmation ministry beginning again in September. Members of our pastoral staff will once again teach Grades 6, 7, and 8, with seventh grade as my responsibility. For Adult Education on Sundays, I have been selecting curricula for the year.

I have also met with members of our Education Committee and Youth and Family Task Force to plan how we can move ahead with a pilot program for Sunday Youth Education. Our Congregation Council has approved our moving ahead to offer an alternative Youth Education program to take place in conjunction with our 8:00 a.m. worship service. We will make a public appeal, beginning Rally Sunday for parents to sign up their children and explore this new Sunday School option.

I have met with Nancy Ross to do some planning to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Our Savior's Lutheran Church and Holy Ghost Lutheran Church coming together in ministry and forming Trinity Lutheran Church. A special anniversary worship service is being planned.

Mission Stewardship is also planning to commemorate this anniversary during our yearly Stewardship emphasis. I have met with Camin Potts to work on weekly themes for use during our appeal and to develop graphics and publicity materials. Mission Stewardship is also planning to select a special 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary gift to commemorate our anniversary and to invite our members to contribute toward it. The committee also has suggestions for regular temple talks that highlight our ministry history over these 75 years.

On a local note, our local clergy and church workers will resume our meetings on the first Tuesday of the month. One of our first items is to decide who will host the community Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service. Also, while Pr. Mike Peuse was on sabbatical, I filled in for him on August 12 at his church's annual Drive Your Tractor to Church Sunday.

► **Pastor Andy:**

I apologize for missing another Church Council meeting. When you meet, I'll be back in St. Louis, where I was for much of the day that I filed my June Council report from the Faith Ventures trip—this time I'll be there in Missouri with my family. This has been a busy, demanding summer, and I'm thankful for the opportunity to take a bigger trip with Tracy and the boys after taking two big church trips with young people from Trinity.

One of those trips was atop the list of highlights of the past month. The fifth annual Young Adults Service Trip had our smallest turnout of the five adventures to date, but it was probably the most successful when it came to camaraderie among our participants. **Jake Foss, Maddy Frank, Alex Gotto, Jake Pankratz, and Alana Radley** were a great team and did fine work on the July 29-Aug. 5 trip to eastern Kentucky, in partnership with St. Vincent Mission. With heavy help from our solitary pro, **Bill Frank**, and some additional assistance from me and my minimal skills, our five young adults patched roofs, surgically strengthened floors, and fixed a ceiling for residents of Floyd and Pike counties. My personal highlight was installing a new toilet with the Jakes. Needs were greater, and life was simpler there in Appalachia, all of which put our own abundance (and in some cases, overabundance) into perspective. It was good to be back in Kentucky for Jake Foss and me, and a highlight for all of us was getting to (re)connect with a family we served in 2016 and seeing their rebuilt home. Likewise, it's always great to see how God has built up Trinity's former youths into adults. Alex, Alana, Jake, Jake, and Maddy were the tightest team we've had in our half-decade of young-adult trips even though several of them didn't know each other well before. They got along so well that they're all planning to be aboard in 2019, and **Mike Psenicka**, who started the trips, is looking to rejoin us after a couple of years off.

I spent much of the remainder of my month focusing on two big undertakings: (1) conducting the annual pre-Affirmation meetings with the families of our incoming freshman confirmands, and (2) implementing the changes recommended by the Family Task Force and approved by the Council last month. Kim Miller and I, with considerable help from Pastor Dione, Wanda Eikenbary, and Task Force Chair **Heidi Fischer**, have been carrying out and communicating the changes to the Wednesday night schedule and 10:30 a.m. Sunday music. On Aug. 20, Heidi met with **Neil Dunday** and **Diane Opperman**

of the Parish Education Committee, along with Jean Schwirtz and Pastor Bryan, to roll out the 8 a.m. Sunday School option, which will welcome commitments on Rally Sunday, Sept. 9. Elsewhere on the night of the 20th (in my backyard, precisely), a fully attended Family and Youth Team meeting focused largely on booting up the Wednesday meals that thankfully received immediate financial support from a generous donor after last month's Council meeting. I couldn't be more excited about these family-focused tweaks to Trinity's ministries, and the freshmen meetings have convinced me that many others will embrace them, too. The 2018 confirmands and their parents were very positive about the new Wednesday schedule, especially as it is more convenient for high-schoolers in the long run. With all the planning coming together nicely so far, the new year of Confirmation, Worship on Wednesday, and Crossover begins Sept. 12.

The past month was momentous for other reasons, with a variety of emotions: Our high-schoolers gathered for a pancake breakfast in heartfelt memory of Jake Peglow on July 26, the first anniversary of his death. Our first outdoor Sunday worship service in five years was blessed by beautiful weather and was smooth altogether on Aug. 19. And, on a personal note, I was blessed to guest preach at Lyndale Lutheran Church in Independence, Minn., Aug. 12, for the occasion of my Grandma Alice's 100th birthday.

I'll make one last note as a member of the Waupaca County Suicide Prevention Coalition, whose annual fall event is coming up Monday, Sept. 17, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Waupaca High School Performing Arts Center. Waupaca Police Officer Wes Zube, a fellow coalition member, will be the featured speaker.

► **Pastor Dione:**

*For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.” – Ecclesiastes 3:1*

Often, summer is thought of as the downtime season of the church with a slower pace, and while we do change during this season we do not stop the ministries to which God has called us in those seasons. Summer has proven to be as full of life and the movement of God as ever, though with a different feel than the other seasons. We are now in the in between time where the summer ministries are behind us and fall ministries are knocking at our door. It is a busy time, but it is a time filled with possibilities to see God in action in new and exciting ways.

In the final month of the summer programming, we had two special services – starting out the month with Polka Worship with a guest preacher, Gene Gauerke, and ending it with our Worship and Potluck in the Park service – both went well with great music and fellowship. We could not have asked for more beautiful weather during our outdoor worship service, and those who attended enjoyed the relaxed atmosphere and time of fellowship.

Marty Miller, with some help from his wife, Kim, helped to migrate our email service to the Cloud for better security and dependability. Both Kim and I were involved in helping prepare the staff for that change. We are VERY grateful for Marty's gift of his technological knowledge and expertise! Our data is also now stored more securely, and we are less dependent on our ever-aging server.

Throughout the summer, we have welcomed several visitors to the area as well as quite a few returning visitors from the local area. I have been setting up coffee meetings with them to get to know them better and welcome them, which is always a lot of fun.

I also had the opportunity to participate in a few special events in the community on behalf of Trinity. I led a chapel worship service at Bethany, attended and presided over communion at Grandparent-Kid Camp's closing worship service at Pine Lake Camp, and served as a guest speaker at the Fox Valley Islamic Society's 19<sup>th</sup> annual Interfaith Gathering in Neenah.

We have received some helpful feedback from several of our volunteers regarding the way in which we schedule people who serve in various worship roles. In response to that, I have been working with Cindy Enyart to change our scheduling process. Volunteers will now have two weeks to sign themselves up for available dates and positions. After that time period, the remaining slots will be filled on a pre-scheduled basis. This is an attempt to balance people's desire to self-select (i.e. volunteer) when they serve while also helping to make sure our worship assistant needs are met. We will try this out and reevaluate.

There are also some things in the church that remain constant no matter the time of year. I had the joy of baptizing Olin James Bank and Olivia Isabelle Genske this month. I also had the privilege of presiding at the funeral of Nona Hagen, who was 100 and held the title of the oldest member of the congregation.

I have also continued to work on confirmation planning that we will soon find ourselves in the middle of again. I look forward to teaching and learning from the sixth graders as I have done the past two years.

The seasons change and with it, so do our activities, but God's presence sustains us and keeps us looking forward to what God has in store for us next. To God be the Glory.

**Council Reports:**

<p><b>Buildings and Grounds: Pastor Bryan Don Morgan, Fred Kuenzi</b>          Bill Frank, Deb Kinison, Ken Claussen, Dan Tischendorf</p>	<p>Presenter: Mike Steuerwald</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New bus, <b>ongoing</b>; Advertisement is completed. A poster has been made and will be up in the Koinonia room to track progress. We have a benefactor who will match the funds we raise. The benefactor would like the committee to consider a van that runs on diesel.</li> <li>2. Mike Steuerwald, Buildings and Grounds supervisor, was present to give the Council a better understanding of issues that continued to be presented to council, i.e.:</li> </ol>
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	Communication center, Fire pull stations, Johnson Control and Miron Construction.
<b>Personnel: Pastor Bryan Ruth Trinrud</b> Rich Rasmussen, Steve Johnson, Jim Stoltenberg, Terri Lick, Penney Frank	1. PTO policy - ongoing. Updates to the present policy were handed out, and Council will vote on these changes at September meeting.
<b>Health: Pastor Dione John Kunzman</b> Carol Gehrke, Paul Sletten, Julie Hagen-Coenen	1. No meeting.
<b>Membership &amp; Evangelism: Pastor Dione Yvonne Robbers</b> Rita Harris, Amy Spadoni, Vicki Groth, Molly Reinke	1. No meeting. 2. New membership orientation will be September 13.
<b>Mission Stewardship: Pastor Bryan Tim Gauerke, Nancy Johnson</b> Marshall Lysne, Dave Leder	1. 75 <sup>th</sup> anniversary for Trinity is approaching. A marketing campaign has been started. Camin Potts who has helped with other events has agreed to help with promotional things including the design.
<b>Parish Education: Pastor Bryan Neil Dunday, Diane Opperman,</b> Suse Riddle, Jean Schwirtz, Carmen Sondrol	1. No meeting.
<b>Worship &amp; Music: Pastor Bryan Becky Liegl</b> Charlene Kuenzi, Nancy Ross, Wanda Eikenbary, Joni Radley, Pam Lysne, Be Parker, Shana Roney	1. Per task force results, more contemporary music will be performed at the 10:30 a.m. service. 2. Children's choir will be performing more frequently at services.
<b>Family &amp; Youth Team: Pastor Andy Seth Rowland, Yvonne Robbers</b> Patsy Hunter, Susan Elandt, Kim Rowland, Nancy Ross, Katy Johnson, Mya Berzsenyi, Kim Miller, Rena Klimke-Klug, Kyle Mannel, Sara Hilander	1. Kick-off meeting was held at Pastor Andy's house. 2. New WOW will start in September. A simple meal will be offered from 5:30-6:15 p.m. A \$200 donation was given toward the meals. Meal plans were made for the next six weeks.
<b>Information &amp; Technology: Pastor Bryan Mark Harrington, Nancy Johnson</b> Greg Lacey-Heartland Rep, Marty Miller, Pastor Dione	1. No meeting.
<b>Future Planning</b>	No report.
<b>Old Business</b>	No old business was presented.
<b>New Business</b>	No new business was presented.

<b>Adjournment:</b> 7:59 p.m.	Motioned made by Becky Liegl, and seconded by Ruth Trinrud.
Next meeting: Tuesday, September 25, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.	