

Trinity Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting, Tuesday February 27, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by President Tim Gauerke

Attendees:

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

Prayer: Pastor Bryan**Devotions:** Tim Gauerke

Secretary's Report	Report was distributed and reviewed. Motion to approve by Mark Harrington, second by Fred Kuenzi, all approved.
Treasurer's Report	Report was distributed by Tim Gauerke. Nancy Johnson was absent. Budget presently in good shape. Clarification from Pastor Bryan on what clearing income is. Simply, the bills that come in and go out. Clarification that the designated savings is not part of the budget.

Pastor's Reports:

Pastor Bryan: The month of January saw all of our staff taking a deep breath following a busy Christmas season and a push to complete our end of year 2017 and beginning of year 2018 tasks.

I was one of many staff and ministry committee people spending time to reflect on the work of ministries in 2017, and submit reports for our annual meeting at the end of the month. I was further engaged in the process of finding candidates who would be willing to serve on our church council and its associated ministry committees. As our treasurer closed the financial books for 2017, I also made myself available for any questions or needs for consultation that she might have.

Our congregation council was committed to setting up a working nominating committee and audit committee for 2018, and to have a functioning audit committee as we closed our books for 2017. I am pleased to say that these priorities were accomplished. I am also

thankful for the hard work of those who have served on the council and those who have completed the terms of their offices: Char Kuenzi, Nancy Ross, Mike Claussen, and Marshall Lysne. I am also grateful to Jeff Riddle for his work as council president as he served his final year on the council.

My work has included my regular duties of pastoral care, education, confirmation ministry, worship leadership, and serving alongside members of our Building and Grounds, Technology, and Mission and Stewardship ministry committees. I also worked closely with pastors Dione and Andy as we planned our Lenten preaching and worship offerings.

In the larger church, I have served on the synod's Pastoral Advisory Cabinet as it has planned the East Central Wisconsin Synod's upcoming capital campaign. I also made a commitment this month to be a part of our synod's congregational visits to companion churches in South Africa in July 2018.

Pastor Andy: Upon returning from sabbatical last fall, I described how I envisioned my pastoral role focusing more specifically on pastoral care to youth and families and less on youth programming or overall pastoral care, given the needs of the congregation and the capable hands of our youth program coordinator and my fellow pastors. This has felt like the month when that vision became a reality, as the amount of pastoral care to youth and their families reached a point where it demanded almost all of my time and attention for the month. I see very clearly now that our younger families absolutely, positively have more than enough serious needs to warrant the allocation of roles that we have reached.

Amid all this, I'm grateful to God and the people of our area that we as a larger community are also allocating more resources to address these needs. Just today, Pastor Bryan, Pastor Dione, Kim, and I got a tour of the new Catalpa Health clinic at the Waupaca Woods Mall, which also provides a new office for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI). It's a great facility with even greater people—we got to meet several of the counselors who work with young people and their families, including Elissa Stults, who gave us the tour. We also saw Ann Jadin from NAMI, who spoke to our middle-schoolers as part of this year's confirmation speaker series and who, along with Sandi Moore, will be one of the presenters for the QPR suicide-prevention training that Trinity is hosting Tuesday, March 6, at 6:30 p.m. Sandi and Elissa are on the Waupaca County Suicide Prevention Coalition that meets earlier that morning. And, that afternoon, Elissa will be speaking on behalf of Catalpa to our local Ministerial Association, which last month learned from Waupaca Police Chief Brian Hoelzel and Amanda Ayala from the Department of Corrections about all that's being done to address opioid issues in our area. I think you can see in that meandering list of recent happenings just how interconnected Trinity's efforts are with the much-needed work that's being done across the community.

As for youth ministry, the big event of the past month was Feb. 17-18's synod Junior Youth Gathering, and it was probably the best one we've ever attended. Besides the great location at the Manitowoc Holiday Inn and the excellent speaker and music, our 14 sixth-graders who

attended all chose to take part in the same activity during the evening free time—I've never seen a class in its entirety choose to do the same thing together like that, and it was awesome! Kim once again did a masterful job coordinating our involvement, and I'm thankful to Pastor Dione and our other fantastic fellow chaperones: Wendy Danielson, Jake Foss, Katy Johnson, Al Kjelland, Nick Reinke, Mandi Salter, and Amy Spadoni.

The silent auction that's under way to benefit Faith Ventures is also probably the best yet, thanks to all those who have contributed as well as the many bidders. And the Houston trip itself just got better, with two student travelers jumping into one vacated spot, bringing us to 23 high-schoolers and five adults heading to the ELCA Youth Gathering. (Two of the 23 youth travelers are now Church Council members—Mya Berzsenyi and Seth Rowland. Welcome aboard the Council, Seth!) Mark your calendars: My friends from ComedyCity will be back for a Faith Ventures fundraiser show on Sunday, April 15.

On another note, my biggest thanks of the month goes to Mark Harrington for his countless hours of work to get Trinity into the future with our technology—including setting up my new computer! I'm thankful to have the extra speed in doing my work.

Pastor Dione: It's hard to believe, but we are already firmly in the middle of the Lenten season. With the call to slow down and reflect more intentionally on ways that we are called to let go of certain things, we also see Lenten programming ramping up and keeping us on our toes. Somehow, adding in that busyness actually seems to help slow things down and prioritize things to reflect a bit more intentionally on the season. It's a bit of a paradox, but as Lutherans, we're good with holding that tension.

This year we are trying out a new Morning Prayer liturgy for our 12:15 p.m. midweek Lenten service while keeping the tried-and-true Holden Evening Prayer liturgy for our 6:15 p.m. service. I'm finding that marking the unfolding of the day that way helps to keep us present to the day around me, which is helpful on such busy days. I'm also leading a bible study titled "Making Sense of the Cross" that I am thoroughly enjoying so far. I enjoy teaching and thinking deeply with others in conversation, so I welcome the added opportunity to lead that group.

I have also continued to be involved in several committee meetings, including Technology and Membership and Evangelism. Special thanks go out to Mark Harrington for his many hours put in helping to set up new computers and to make sure they are all in good working order. We also transitioned to hosting our church database software in the Cloud, which Nancy Johnson played a big part in facilitating. We're on the way toward more secure and easier-to-use technology, which is welcomed by all the staff. The Membership and Evangelism committee is starting to get some traction after newly forming and will be present at the WDUX Home Show representing Trinity in the community.

A few weeks ago, I accompanied our sixth graders to the synod Junior Youth Gathering (JYG) along with Pastor Andy, Kim Miller, and several awesome volunteer chaperones. It

was really great to get to spend more time with my confirmation students outside of the confirmation hour and to see them bond with each other.

There were several outside opportunities to get involved in the community at large that I had the chance to take a part of. The ECSW hosted an Advocacy Training Event at two locations in February, one of which was held at Trinity. I, along with five other Trinity members and 14 people from surrounding churches, had a daylong conversation about ways our faith can lead and guide us to advocate for people in various circumstances. While faith communities cannot (and should not) tell you who to vote for, our faith should always inform our decisions and work on behalf of people in need. I was asked to share some of my experiences working with people who were refugees in Thailand during the event and learned a lot from others myself.

Trinity also was represented in force at the Fox Valley's Interfaith Harmony Week Celebration in Neenah on February 8. Nine people from Trinity attended, and we had great discussion. That was a significant increase from last year, and several attendees had never been to a discussion like that before. It was great to see and great to be a part of. In addition to normal worship responsibilities, I had the privilege to preside at three baptisms and two funerals in the past month. For all the ministries God continues call us to be involved in in our community of faith, I give immeasurable thanks.

Council Reports:

<p>Buildings and Grounds: Pastor Bryan Don Morgan, Fred Kuenzi Bill Frank, Deb Kinison, Ken Claussen, Dan Tischendorf</p>	<p>Presenter: Don Morgan</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Freezing up of sprinkler system – Bill Frank met with Miron construction. Presently 3 possible options. More information to come. 2. Multipurpose room – Tiles are popping up and asbestos needs to be removed. Presently looking at carpet. The estimate ranges are \$12000-\$14000. 3. Windows on south side – Should be replaced in the future.
<p>Personnel: Pastor Bryan Ruth Trinrud Rich Rasmussen, Steve Johnson, Jim Stoltenberg, Terri Lick, Penney Frank</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Julie Behm has been hired as part-time custodial. 2. Cindy Enyart has joined the office staff.
<p>Health: Pastor Dione John Kunzman Carol Gehrke, Paul Sletten, Julie Hagen-Coenen</p>	<p>No report</p>

<p>Membership & Evangelism: Pastor Dione Yvonne Robbers Matt Lick, Rita Harris, Amy Spadoni, Vicki Groth, Molly Reinke</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looking into tactful way to reach out to member's that haven't used the stewardship envelopes in 2017 and inquire what their church status is.
<p>Mission Stewardship: Pastor Bryan Tim Gauerke, Nancy Johnson Marshal Lysne, Dave Leder</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looking at a possible app that could be used on member's cell phone for e-giving. Allows you to text your offering amount to phone number.
<p>Parish Education: Pastor Bryan Neil Dunday, Diane Opperman Diane Opperman, Suse Riddle, Jean Schwirtz, Carmen Sondrol</p>	<p>No report. Jean Schwirtz did suggest the group meet on an as needed basis.</p>
<p>Worship & Music: Pastor Bryan Becky Liegl Charlene Kuenzi, Nancy Ross, Wanda Eikenbary, Joni Radley, Pam Lysne, Be Parker, Shana Rogney</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Planning going on for Lent services 2. Bells on the Bluff concert taking place at Trinity. Open to the public.
<p>Family & Youth Team: Pastor Andy Seth Rowland, Yvonne Robbers Patsy Hunter, Susan Elandt, Kim Rowland, Nancy Ross, Katy Johnson, Mya Berzsenyi, Kim Miller</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The team submitted their wish list for a new van. Try and keep the van capacity below the need for a CDL license.
<p>Future Planning & Technology: Pastor Bryan Mark Harrington, Nancy Johnson Greg Lacey-Heartland Rep, Marty Miller, Pastor Dione</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Four new Dell PCs (with Windows 10) were received and installed. By 2020 new server will need to be replaced. 2. We made a move from a local installation of Church Windows to web hosted provided via Citrix. 3. In April, we intend to move our exchange email server and network domain control to Microsoft Office 365 and Azure Active Directory Domain Services (Azure AD DS). 4. Also coming up, mostly independent of the above transition, we plan to move our tlcwaupaca.org website to a remote hosting service.
<p>Future Planning</p>	<p>No report</p>
<p>Old Business</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Resolutions need to be completed and finalized.

	2. Binders and copies of the Church Constitution need to be made and handed out to new council members.
New Business	
Adjournment: 8:37 p.m.	Motion by Mark Harrington, seconded by Ruth Trinrud
Devotions for March 2018	
Next meeting: Tuesday, March 27, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.	