

Trinity Lutheran Church

Church Council meeting, Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Meeting was called to order at 7:01 pm by President Jeff Riddle.

Attendees: Jeff Riddle, Becky Liegl, Pastor Bryan, Pastor Dione, Charlene Kuenzi, Mike Claussen, Diane Opperman, Nancy Ross, Mark Harrington, Ruth Trinrud, Mya Berzsenyi, and Don Morgan.

Prayer: Pastor Dione

Devotions: Jeff Riddle

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

Treasurer's Report: The report was distributed and reviewed. Our summer giving has not kept up with the expenses and will need to be looked at in the coming months. Tim Gauerke's presentation to the congregation has helped to increase awareness of all Trinity does for our church and greater community.

Pastors' Reports:

Pastor Bryan:

My work in the month of June included providing pastoral care, visitation, and contact with those who are grieving, ill, or recovering from injury.

Along with leading and assisting in worship on the weekend, I provided care to the family of Lori Nabbefeld as they planned her funeral, and I led that worship service.

I also helped with the planning of Ethan Dayton and Tori Suhs' wedding, and led that worship service, along with the wedding of Anne Riddle and Jason Bourgere.

I was also able to visit two parishioners immediately after a local storm damaged their home and made it unlivable, and was able to have follow up visits with them, along with another visit at Bethany home.

A significant portion of my time was spent working with the Personnel and Building and Grounds Committees to assess and revise, where needed, the job descriptions for the Building and Grounds Supervisor position, and the Administrative Assistant position that would be posted in our congregational publications and in the local Buyer's Guide and County Post.

I also developed the Job Offering text that was advertised in these publications, and was the recipient of all inquiries and applications that resulted from them and from our in-house publicity; responded to

these communications and passed them on to their relevant committees; and took part in the committees' assessments of these applications.

Four applications were received for the position of Building and Grounds Supervisor, and thirty-two applications were received for the position of Administrative Assistant. Job offers for both positions will be extended soon.

On a personal note, I've dropped five pounds, without effort or planning.

Pastor Andy: sabbatical

Pastor Dione: Council Report for July 25, 2017
(including highlights from June as well)
Pastor Dione Miller

"[The Lord's] way is in the whirlwind." Nahum 1:3b

The past couple of months have really been quite the whirlwind, but it's often the case that God's way really is in the whirlwind.

Last month, I was not with you as I was returning from our South African partnership trip that day, along with Kerry Waitrovich and Barb and Terry Nellis. Months of planning and preparation went into this trip. It was important for us to be with our sister congregation, Saron Parish in Phokeng, South Africa, as they celebrated their 150th anniversary. During the three-day celebration weekend, we had 15 hours of worship which included lots of singing, dancing, patience, listening, and learning. I was honored to be able to serve communion alongside the bishop and other South Africa pastors during the celebration. The trip went quickly, but we made great connections and saw God in action every step of the way. We now look forward to a synod-wide trip to South Africa during the summer of 2018 and a return visit to Wisconsin in 2020. Jetlaggy whirlwind and all, God spoke and relationships were built.

Surrounding the trip was a great mix of things to keep me engaged in the community at large. Preaching for the inaugural service of the 41st season of Chapel on the Lakes was a blast. It has also been fun meeting to plan baptisms and with couples to help them prepare for their upcoming weddings and lives as married couples. As we celebrate new milestones in life, we also mark the end passages of life. After planning a funeral during and immediately following a short vacation trip to Nebraska, I presided at the funeral of Elizabeth Minton. While funerals are never looked forward to, I always find it an honor and privilege to journey with families and friends as we entrust their loved ones into God's care.

One of the most time and energy-consuming tasks recently has been preparing for the hiring of our new administrative assistant (and to a lesser degree on my part, property and building supervisor). Pastor Bryan and I have been working closely with personnel to develop job descriptions, review resumes of applicants, and interview candidates. I have also made a point to check in with our current staff regularly to hear their anxieties and make sure they are appropriately supported during this transition phase. One notable anxiety is the reality that Sue Bartel – who has graciously and wonderfully stepped in to help us in the interim – will be done at the end of July. However, our interviews have gone well and we have identified two great people to fill the positions. Of course, there will be bumps along the road during the transition, as is to be expected, but things are shaping up to put us in a really good place.

In the midst of the ambiguity and transition – each a whirlwind of sorts in their own right – I am always confident that God is speaking in and through our community. When we listen to what God is saying and stop to see what God is doing, we see grace abounding all around. Children learned about God’s love at day camp and VBS, relationships were built on trips to South Africa, Milwaukee, and Baton Rouge. Much needed rest has been granted during vacations (6 days for me this month). The Gospel has been proclaimed through lay preachers in worship and through caring relationships throughout our community.

Yes, God is speaking out of the whirlwind. It keeps life interesting and keeps us looking out for the excitement of God on the move. Would we really want it any other way?

In Christ, Pr. Dione

Committee Reports:

Buildings and Grounds: Don Morgan reported, every council and interested congregation member should take a tour of the church facilities. Pastor Bryan added, the Mission Stewardship committee is willing to help coordinate the tours. Don added, the candidates for the building and grounds position were promising but we need to act so we are able to have someone in the position as soon as possible. Pastor Bryan stated, he is in negotiations with the top candidate.

Personnel: Pastor Bryan noted, the interviews for the administrative assistant position have been completed and he is working on negotiations with the top candidate as well as the executive committee to finalize the hiring process. The adult choir director has resigned and the personnel committee will be working with Wanda and the Worship and Music committee to fill the position.

Health: No meeting

Mission Stewardship: Pastor Bryan noted the importance of transparency and will be adding a letter to the quarterly statements with regard to locating council members, information about the church, and current financial details. Communication is the key to ensuring the congregation runs smoothly. Mike Claussen suggested putting a list of all the volunteers in the bulletin to ensure members know how many people it takes to provide the wealth of services within and outside the congregation. Building and grounds could also compile a list of ways to facilitate our mission.

Parish education: Diane Opperman noted, there will be a service in October about their tour of Luther Land and Tom Johnson could present about Luther and his policies. Nancy is collecting congregational artifacts and other Lutheran items to display in the church during the month of October.

Worship & Music: No meeting

Family & Youth Team: Pastor Bryan noted, Kim has been hard at work to coordinate an amazing set of activities for families after the polka services on the 30th. It should be a GREAT time!

Information & Technology: No meeting but Pastor Bryan called Heartland to facilitate in the transition of the new hires and return of Pastor Andy from sabbatical.

Old Business: None

New Business: The resolution to acquire the seven acres of timber from Hansena Anderson's family is still a work in progress. The first weekend in August, there will be an interfaith gathering at the Fox Valley Islamic Center for anyone interested in sharing this experience. Trinity will be sending a bus. Please contact Pastor Dione if you are interested in attending.

Adjournment: Motion by Mike Claussen, 2nd by Don Morgan to adjourn. Motion Approved at 7:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Becky Liegl, Secretary