

Trinity Lutheran Church

REVISED MINUTES

Church Council Meeting, Tuesday, June 26, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 7:03 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	Fred Kuenzi X
Pastor Dione	Yvonne Robbers X	Don Morgan X	John Kunzman
		Seth Rowland	Diane Opperman X
		Mya Berzsenyi	Nancy Johnson
X = In Attendance.			

Prayer: Pastor Bryan

Devotions: Becky Liegl

Future Devotions: July - TBD, Aug. - Diane, Sept. and Oct. - Yvonne

Secretary's Report	Report was distributed and reviewed. Motion to approve by Becky Liegl, seconded by Don Morgan, all approved.
Treasurer's Report	Report was distributed by Tim Gauerke in Nancy's absence. No questions or concerns. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Don Morgan and Mark Harrington are going to meet and do a deep dive into the budget/finances to hopefully find some cost savings. (Circle back on this)

Pastor's Reports:

► **Pastor Bryan:** Over the month, I have continued to serve in our ministries of worship, preaching, and visitation. I assisted two families plan memorial services for their loved ones, and also led and preached at those services.

Along with members of our pastoral staff and our youth and family and communications coordinator, Kim Miller, I met with representatives of local churches and our school district regarding the schedule changes being proposed for Wednesdays throughout the school year. The school district is considering ending instruction at 2:00 p.m. and offering weekly professional development time for staff following this.

The district is seeking input from local congregations on how this will affect church programming, and is seeking ways to partner with local churches and community organizations who would like to offer programming to youth after 2:00 p.m. I have been a part of our staff discussions on the plusses, minuses, and possibilities this change in schedule could mean for our programming. Our Youth and Family Task Force, led by Pastor Andy, will take these matters into account as they move forward with their work.

I have been a liaison between our Church Directory Committee, office staff, and the photography studio. I have assisted with producing and processing our marketing materials for our congregation. A first-class postcard was

sent out with information on photo session times and how to make appointments. The studio has noted that there was an immediate and positive uptick in appointments. We also have experienced the added benefit of having postcards returned indicating incorrect or no forwarding addresses.

Mission Stewardship sent out a survey asking a segment of our members if they are keeping in touch with our church through our newsletter and through electronic means. Their responses included their use of these means, their wish to continue receiving our newsletter, and their wish to continue receiving offering envelopes.

Following up on a council action to scrutinize our budget and budget process, Kerry Lee Blanke has agreed to assist us.

In the area of personnel, I have assisted with evaluations of our office staff.

I have met with those from our Synod who are visiting our companion churches in South Africa during the month of July. I have spent a fair amount of time and thought arranging matters to account for my absence at home and at work, and planning my 40-pound packing inventory.

► **Pastor Andy:** Greetings from Arkansas! I'm writing this on Monday, the second day of the Faith Ventures trip to the 2018 ELCA Youth Gathering. Tomorrow we'll arrive in the host city of Houston. Our 22 teenage travelers (including two of my fellow Church Council members) have done us proud so far. Please keep **Chloe Abrahamson, Cadie Ash, Mya Berzsenyi, Lizzy Boehnlein, Taylor Corbett, Chloe Genske, Anya Harrington, Morgan Johnson, Kara Kohutek, Nate Minton, Emma Pagel, Justine Panzenhagen, Desi Pierotti, Lexi Rabassa, Alana Radley, Seth Rowland, Anamarie Schell, Haleigh Smith, Lylli Sondrol, Sydni Sondrol, Allie Waite, and Savannah Wehmeyer** in your prayers, along with accompanying adults **Susan Elandt** (coordinating the Youth Gathering trip for her third time with Trinity), **McKenna Meza, Pastor Dione Miller, Dean Sondrol,** and me. We're blessed to have Pastor Dione aboard as a late addition in place of Youth Program Coordinator Kim Miller, who had to attend to a family need; please keep Kim and her family in your prayers, too. The other travelers and I are looking forward to presenting about our experiences in worship on July 21-22.

I myself deeply appreciate your prayers. Gradually since you prayed for me at the end of our last Church Council meeting, my hearing has pretty well returned to the level I was at before the downswing, which is precisely what I was praying would happen before embarking on this trip. (Thank you, God!)

Also in the past month, Kim led this year's 23 incoming eighth-graders in a memorable week of Confirmation Camp at Imago Dei Village on June 10-15, and Jean Schwirtz oversaw another great week of Vacation Bible School for the past year's 3-year-olds through kindergartners June 18-21. Plus, **Jake Foss** made a noble effort representing Trinity in this year's Strawberry Shortcake Eating Contest on June 17.

More good news: As promised, Trinity's Family Task Force is now hard at work. Composed of representatives from the Parish Education Committee, Membership & Evangelism Committee, and Family & Youth Team, plus church members not already serving on a parish panel—namely **Neil Dunday, Heidi Fischer, Sarah Highlander, Yvonne Robbers,** and **Nicole Sherf**—the task force is collecting input in order to make Trinity more inviting, involving, and engaging for children from infancy through high school and their families.

Making worship more relevant for families and making Trinity's weekly schedule more accommodating (especially with Waupaca Schools' Wednesday schedule change looming) are top priorities for the task force, which had its first meeting June 12 and meets again Thursday, June 28. I'm assisting the task force in this effort

as a follow-up to the focus on family ministry in my sabbatical studies last summer—my resulting report was among existing information that the task force reviewed, along with recent confirmation surveys and 2014’s Town Hall Meeting Report. First attending to Sunday-school families and then addressing older kids and their parents, the Family Task Force is conducting in-person interviews between Sunday worship services and gathering feedback by phone. Online surveys are also available, and listening sessions are on the horizon.

Upon gathering this input, the task force will present recommendations to the Council on July 24. Hopes are high that the task force’s work will result in a fuller sanctuary on Wednesdays and weekends, improved intergenerational integration, and better connection between church life and daily life for Trinity’s families.

► **Pastor Dione:** *“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.” Ephesians 2:8*

Greetings from Houston! Yes, once again, I am submitting my report in absentia, this time from the ELCA Youth Gathering. While I was not originally scheduled to attend this amazing event, the last-minute need for another female adult leader came up, and I enthusiastically jumped in. Since I did not have any of the high schoolers in confirmation, I’m really looking forward to getting to know them and building relationships with them. The theme of the Youth Gathering is “This Changes Everything,” based on Ephesians 2:8. What better reminder for all who attend the gathering, and for all Christians living out their baptismal vocation, that God’s grace has already saved us. That work is done and because of that, we are set free to share our faith with others.

Last month, I had the incredible opportunity to attend the Festival of Homiletics in Washington, D.C. It is hard to describe how powerful that experience was. I returned from the festival inspired, challenged, empowered, and spiritually renewed. It was truly a wonderful experience. I thank Trinity for encouraging and supporting continuing education for all the pastors. It makes a huge impact.

This month, I had the fun privilege to kick off the 42nd season of Chapel on the Lakes. I also visited our confirmation campers at Imago Dei Village where I spent the day with them in worship, Bible study, playing games, and canoeing the Little Wolf River. It was great to spend time and reconnect with kids I had in confirmation class during my first year at Trinity.

I also had the honor to celebrate several big transition points in different people’s lives, including celebrating with several of our graduating high school seniors, preparing a family for the baptism of their middle school aged children, and presiding at the wedding of Brad Abrahamson and Nicole Jacowski. It was a good month for bringing attention to God’s continued presence at all phases of our lives.

While the pattern of ministries change during the summer with the end of confirmation and a different worship schedule, we are trying to make sure that we don’t communicate that it’s time to take a vacation from church, so we have started up some new things. Kim Miller and I worked together to make Trinity To-Go boxes to keep people connected with the church while they are traveling. I have started an online book study on Brene Brown’s *Braving the Wilderness*, which is in full swing with 24 participants. In addition to our annual jazz and polka worship services, we are also planning a Worship in the Park with a potluck on Sunday, August 19, at Rotary Park.

As you can see, there is a lot going on! Again, we are reminded that the things we do are in response to what God has and continues to do for us. All these activities are not merely to say that we are doing stuff, but they are expressions of God’s grace lived out in community, and God’s grace changes everything.

Council Reports:

<p><u>Buildings and Grounds: Pastor Bryan</u> Don Morgan, Fred Kuenzi Bill Frank, Deb Kinison, Ken Claussen, Dan Tischendorf</p>	<p>Presenter: Fred Kuenzi</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. PA/Communication center; ongoing 2. Miron and roof issues/ice issues; ongoing 3. Bus quotes; ongoing - Don requested approval by council to fund raise for new bus. Motion for approval by Don Morgan, seconded by Fred Kuenzi, all present approved. 4. Quote from Johnson Control to fix some condenser issues. Don submitted detailed invoice. Estimate \$1290.00. Motion approved by all present to have work done. 5. FYI only – Don shared with us the sand outside in preschool area is going to be removed.
<p>Personnel: Pastor Bryan Ruth Trinrud Rich Rasmussen, Steve Johnson, Jim Stoltenberg, Terri Lick, Penney Frank</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No meeting. Update: Cindy had her employee six-month review, and Lori had her one year. 2. Circle back to Ruth for PTO policy (she was going to present at June meeting) to be voted on.
<p>Health: Pastor Dione John Kunzman Carol Gehrke, Paul Sletten, Julie Hagen-Coenen,</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No meeting.
<p>Membership & Evangelism: Pastor Dione Yvonne Robbers Rita Harris, Amy Spadoni, Vicki Groth, Molly Reinke</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No meeting until September.
<p>Mission Stewardship: Pastor Bryan Tim Gauerke, Nancy Johnson Marshal Lysne, Dave Leder</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update on letter being mailed out; ongoing.
<p>Parish Education: Pastor Bryan Neil Dunday, Diane Opperman, Suse Opperman, Jean Schwirtz, Carmen Sondrol</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No meeting – Presently Neil is representing this committee on the Family & Worship Task Force.
<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. No meeting.
<p>Family & Youth Team: Pastor Andy Seth Rowland, Yvonne Robbers</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No meeting – Presently Yvonne is representing this committee on the Family & Worship Task Force.

Patsy Hunter, Susan Elandt, Kim Rowland, Nancy Ross, Katy Johnson, Mya Berzsenyi, Kim Miller, Rena Klimke-Klug, Kyle Mannel, Sara Hilander	
Information & Technology: Pastor Bryan Mark Harrington, Nancy Johnson Greg Lacey-Heartland Rep, Marty Miller, Pastor Dione	1. No meeting – FYI: Seven new desktop computers approved for purchase by council.
Future Planning	No report.
Old Business	Nothing reported.
New Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A Crossway representative has been invited to our October meeting to update us on the changes happening with them. Motion approved for this by Tim Gauerke, seconded by Yvonne Robbers, all present approved. 2. Recently, there has been numerous issues brought forth to the Executive Committee. Due to no minutes or lack of follow through on issues, it was passed by council that each committee should be taking some kind of minutes at their meetings. This will provide some form of documentation, and the ability to circle back on concerns and issues as they arise.
Adjournment: 7:52 p.m.	Motion by Becky Liegl, seconded by Yvonne Robbers
Next meeting: Tuesday, July 24, 2018, at 7 p.m.	