

Trinity Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting, Tuesday, May 22, 2018
Meeting was called to order at 7:02 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
		Mya Berzsenyi	Nancy Johnson X
X = Attended Meeting			

Prayer: Pastor Dione

Devotions: Ruth Trinrud

Future Devotions: June - Beck, July - TBD, August - Diane, September and October – Yvonne.

Secretary's Report	Report was distributed and reviewed. Motion to approve by Nancy Johnson, seconded by Fred Kuenzi, all approved.
Treasurer's Report	Report was distributed by Tim Gauerke. Nancy Johnson present, but council had no questions. <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.

Pastor's Reports:

► **Pastor Bryan:** The month of April began with the celebration of our Lord's resurrection. Following weeks of preparing for this day, families came together, musicians and vocalists sang and played the joy of this day, and the Good News of Easter itself was heard loudly and clearly.

We were and are a people gathered around the risen Jesus, equipped to share his love, and sent out to be his hands and heart in this world.

The last weeks of Confirmation classes passed quickly throughout the month, with our last night of class on April 25. Final preparations were completed for a special handbell concert on April 29, performed by Bells of the Bluff from Redwing, Minnesota. New member orientation was offered on April 19, with new members to be welcomed on the weekend of May 6-7.

A record snowstorm established what may well have been a first in the worship life of this congregation. The weekend of April 14-15, brought sufficient snow to bury local roads, sidewalks, and homes, and caused what may have been the first complete weekend cancellation of worship at Trinity. The resulting snow pile from the parking lot plowings would not fully melt until the middle of the following month.

The comedy club show that was scheduled at Trinity for that afternoon was rescheduled for May 2. It would prove to be a great show, with a pie sale attached, all of which provided funds for our Faith Ventures group attending the National Youth Gathering in Houston during the summer.

Trinity hosted an orientation for visitors from the East Central Wisconsin Synod to our companion churches in South Africa. I am accompanying these visitors on this trip, along with Terry Nellis and Deb Ostrander from our parish.

I have served as a recruiter for volunteers who will visit our Tomorrow River Conference churches and invite their participation in the Crossways Camping Ministries Capital Campaign. Each of our conference churches has been asked to invite a visitor to its church council meeting to publicize this campaign and to learn how each church can participate in it.

As time flies, summer will soon arrive, summer ministries get in gear, and fall planning will begin.

► **Pastor Andy:** This month has been another rough one as my hearing difficulties and other symptoms of Meniere's disease have continued to limit my ability to serve (as well as perform in a comedy show). I'm deeply grateful to God for the patience of my colleagues, an immense amount of understanding and support from the congregation, and the prayers that I know are being said for me. I've been doing my best to do what I can while seeking help from several doctors, as well as a counselor that I'll see for the first time next week.

Though our youth activities have mostly wrapped up for the year, we're looking ahead to next year, especially as the Waupaca School District is changing its Wednesday schedule to provide for staff development time at the end of each school day on Wednesdays in 2018-19. Superintendent Greg Nyen and Athletic/Activities Director Aaron Jensen met with our pastors and Kim Miller on May 9, to talk through how we might be able to work together amid this change, and we'll bring more churches in on the conversation with them at a meeting we're hosting this coming Thursday. At the least, we will probably start Children's Choir and FeFiFoFUN an hour earlier next year, but we are also considering whether to rearrange Trinity's Wednesday night schedule.

These considerations will be among the matters that the members of the promised Family Ministry Task Force will have before them when they assemble in the next two months to determine how Trinity can better serve families of children ages 0-18. I'm providing you with a statement of my vision for the task force at tonight's meeting, but, in summary, the (suggested) seven of us will review existing feedback from church members (especially in 2014's Town Hall Meeting Report, along with answers to questions from year-end surveys that confirmation participants and their families recently completed) and gather new input from families, especially on the subjects of current educational opportunities, potential programs, Wednesday activities, and worship. We will present the Church Council with recommendations for specific action steps and necessary resources at a July 24 Council meeting—an additional meeting beyond the traditional Council meetings in June and August of each summer. Last night, Sarah Highlander stepped forward from the Family & Youth Team to serve on the task force, and I have asked for a member of both the Parish Education and Membership & Evangelism committees to join Sarah and me, as well as other Trinity members to be determined by the committee delegates. (Meanwhile, the Family & Youth Team, led for the first time by new chairwoman Rena Klug, determined last night to suspend its meetings until the task force's work is complete.)

This summer will be busy beyond the task force's work. Confirmation Camp will immediately follow the end of the Waupaca school year on June 10-15. Vacation Bible School will run June 18-21. The big Faith Ventures trip to Houston for the ELCA Youth Gathering (for which the aforementioned comedy show and pie sale finished fundraising with \$1,712 generously contributed April 29 - May 2, plus additional dollars from some gracious folks who couldn't take part) will be June 24 - July 2, with our 28 travelers presenting at worship services on July 21-22. Day Camp will be July 9-12. The fifth annual Young Adults Service Trip, to Kentucky, will be July 29-Aug. 5.

Finally, I have to note my joy that I was able (in the dual sense of being both invited and physically able) to officiate the wedding for Parker Kantos and his wife, Gina, this past weekend in Pennsylvania. This was a tremendous blessing. I'm so happy for Gina and Parker, whom is, of course, the seminarian we're currently supporting, and this was also a milestone for me, as it was the first wedding I've done for someone who was part of Trinity's youth group during my time as a pastor. Please keep Parker and Gina in your prayers; Gina graduates at the top of her class from Duquesne University's School of Law this coming Friday and will begin a clerkship while Parker joins her in Pittsburgh to intern at St. Andrew Lutheran Church for the coming year.

► **Pastor Dione:** Greetings from Washington, D.C.! This report comes to you all in absentia while I participate in the Festival of Homiletics along with 1,200-plus other preachers from around the United States and the world. There is a stellar lineup of preachers and speakers slated to preach and present who will no doubt be preaching boldly to proclaim the Gospel and challenge us all to continue to follow the Holy Spirit's guidance in preaching in our places of ministry. I'm very thankful to have the opportunity to participate as a significant part of my continuing education for the year. I hope and anticipate returning with new ideas for preaching boldly, led by the Holy Spirit. Prayers for me and for all participants in the Festival of Homiletics are much appreciated. I will certainly be praying for you all as well.

The last month has been one in which we begin to see the changing of the seasons. As Ecclesiastes 3 reminds us, "For everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under heaven." This is the season on one hand, to mark times of rest with the closing of the WOW, confirmation, and Sunday school years. It is also the season to switch to summer hours on Sundays as well (don't forget that the late service will now be at 9:30 a.m.). However, on the other hand, this does not mean that it is simply a time to stop witnessing and participating in God's activity for three months. It is a summer to try some new things and see where God may be leading us at this time and in this place. I, along with Pastor Andy and Bryan, have been working on planning summer activities and trying to see what the needs of our congregation and community are at the moment. I'm excited about much of what I have been working on and will share more about those activities that build community and faith as they come together.

With the completion of the 2017-2018 confirmation year, I was able to find some time to take a week of vacation to return to Iowa and visit family. It was a great week, and am thankful for the time it gave me to reconnect with family members and friends who I haven't been able to see in a while. At the end of that time, I hopped in the car and drove straight back to Trinity to make sure I didn't miss out on the Faith Ventures Comedy Show put on by Pastor Andy and his friends of Comedy City. It was a great evening that ended with us all getting pies in our faces – a sure sign of love!

Last weekend, I attend the East Central Synod of Wisconsin Synod assembly, along with Fred and Char Kuenzi, Becca Mortensen, and Nancy Ross. During this meeting, which is the main business meeting of the synod, we gathered in worship, heard updates from partners in the church, and were challenged to consider ways to better and more holistically make faith formation a lifelong process. We also voted on new synod council members, which included the election of one of our members, Nancy Schanke. Nancy will be a great addition to the synod leadership. We also voted to pass two resolutions: a resolution to educate ourselves about ELCA World Hunger and another to become educated about the connections we have with the worldwide church through ELCA Global Mission, the Lutheran World Federation, Wisconsin Council of Churches, and the World Council of Churches. A special part of synod assembly for Trinity this year was the synod's recognition of our 75th anniversary during the assembly banquet. For all that God has done in and through Trinity Lutheran Church in the past 75 years and for all that God will continue to do in the next 75 years, we give thanks.

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.
<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.
<p>Health: Pastor Dione John Kunzman Carol Gehrke, Paul Sletten, Julie Hagen-Coenen</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looking at a possibility of need a cane/take a cane. 2. Looking to a possible class-like event on making funeral personal pre-arranged funeral arrangements.
<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.
<p>Worship & Music: Pastor Bryan Becky Liegl Charlene Kuenzi, Nancy Ross, Wanda Eikenbary, Joni Radley, Pam Lysne, Be Parker, Shana Roney</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No meeting.

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. Will focus these next few months on family task force. 2. No meeting until August.
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 5/21/2018 that were handed out at meeting.
Future Planning	No report.
Old Business	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Personnel will present PTO options for staff at next meeting. 2. Resolutions presented and approved by Becky Liegl, seconded by Yvonne Robbers.
New Business	Anderson family donated a piece of land for Trinity to do as it wills.
Adjournment: 8:26 p.m.	Motion by Becky Liegl, seconded by Ruth Trinrud.
Devotions for June	Becky Liegl
Next meeting: Tuesday, June 26, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.	

MAY Financial Report Snapshot	
Ministry Expenses and Gifts	Building Debt Reduction
May Begin Ministry Balance: \$4,743.74	Mortgage Principal: \$1,665,796.21
May Gifts: \$48,553.54	Debt Reduction Gifts: \$10,653.45
May Expenses: \$56,834.02	Debt Monthly Payment: \$11,344.00
May Clearing Income: \$3,397.50	Principal Reduction: \$6,039.79
May Clearing Expenses: \$1,217.06	
May End Ministry Balance: (\$1,356.30)	Mortgage Principal: \$1,659,756.42