

Trinity Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting, Tuesday, November 27, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Tim Gauerke.

Attendees:

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

Prayer: Pastor Dione

Devotions: Mark Harrington

Secretary's Report	Report was distributed and reviewed. Addendum to October's minutes was added. 28 Confirmands were voted on and approved as the newest members to Trinity Lutheran Church. Don Morgan made the motion, and Mark Harrington seconded the motion. Vote was passed with all present in favor.
Treasurer's Report	Report was distributed by Nancy Johnson. No questions or concerns.

Pastor's Reports:

► **Pastor Bryan:** No Report.

► **Pastor Andy:** The best news of the month is that it's almost time for us to get Kim Miller back! Our talented youth program and communications coordinator will return from her three-month leave on Dec. 10. I'm thankful to the many, many people who have pitched in to fill gaps amid Kim's absence. Most notably, **Yvonne Robbers, Heidi Fischer, Rena Klug**, the entire Family & Youth Team, and our church staff came through in countless ways, and I'm also grateful to **Tracy Behrendt** for lending her editorial skills to put together our newsletters for October through December.

With all that volunteer help, we have held our own since the start of school year. Most significantly in the past month, we had three big events go well:

- We had a respectable crew of members assemble in costume with their decorated cars to give candy to a whole bunch of kids who came through our parking lot for Trunk or Treat on Halloween night. Yvonne and Heidi coordinated the effort.
- The sanctuary was filled on Oct. 28 as our 28 confirmands affirmed their baptism in a very big service.

- Singer-songwriter Rachel Kurtz drew another mighty crowd on Nov. 7 for her worship event; thanks especially to the families at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Plover who spent their weekly confirmation night with us. Yvonne once again led the way with an especially good pizza meal provided by the Chain O' Lakes Bar & Grill, with funding from Thrivent Financial.

Meanwhile, a great group of 19 high schoolers is signed up for the 2019 Faith Ventures trip to Erie, Penn. Heidi, as trip coordinator, will host a kickoff meeting tomorrow night and start our fundraising process. Shepherd's Quarter is kindly contributing money toward the trip in conjunction with the music group's Dec. 2 concert; the travelers will prepare homemade pizza for the Dec. 5 dinner as well as host a Dec. 16 breakfast that ties into the little Sunday schoolers' Christmas program; and the group will take \$1 donations from Trinity members in exchange for the right to wear pajamas to worship on Dec. 12, 15, and 16.

Speaking of fundraising, our annual year-end drive is under way to catch up on our payments for Geoffrey, the 11-year-old boy in Kenya whom our youth have sponsored through Compassion International for the last five years. The three confirmation grades and the Crossover high-school youth group are in a four-way competition to raise the most money, with Dairy Queen Blizzards on the line for the winners.

We're also looking ahead to a major fundraiser for youth programs across the board. Years ago, **Tim Drake** asked me how I thought he could offer his abilities at Trinity. I mulled it over for about five years(!) while looking for the right opportunity, and I finally told him this summer that we could really use help heading up the rummage sales that have been happening less frequently as a fund source for Crossways camperships. Tim immediately told me he wasn't interested. But he also immediately suggested hosting a golf scramble as an alternative fundraiser for our youth ministries. Tim has a unique skill set, and he's the perfect person to pull off what I think is a fantastic idea that he has here. So ... "Fore!" Look out for the scramble in 2019 as a complementary event to (let's keep hoping) a future rummage sale while tapping a different demographic. (I don't think there's much overlap in the Venn diagram of golfers and rummage sale enthusiasts.) Thanks, Tim!

We're unfortunately not seeing the increase in attendance that we hoped to see with the changes to worship services on Wednesday night and at 10:30 on Sunday mornings, which were recommended by our Family Task Force. The 10:30 a.m. blended service is still early in development; **John Hammond** just started co-leading music with guitar and vocals. The Wednesday worship time change to 7:15 p.m. has only continued the attendance slide now that the freshmen have been confirmed. I think the big take-away has been that 6:15 p.m. is a great time for both worship and confirmation (class attendance and behavior both have been significantly better), but we can't have them at the same time. We'll keep working on both fronts. To end the year on a happier note, numbers have remained steady on Wednesdays for both FeFiFoFUN (thanks to **Katy and Morgan Johnson** and their crew) and Crossover (thanks to **Jake Foss** and **Craig Gauerke**). Lots of good things will continue for 2019!

► **Pastor Dione:** This has been a month filled with celebration and renewal. I began my month with a week and a half of vacation time, traveling to Rwanda in East Africa to visit a friend, and embracing some Sabbath time. While this was technically vacation time, rather than continuing education time, it certainly served as a time of spiritual renewal as I learned about the Lutheran Church in Rwanda as well as the Young Adults in Global Mission program there. I had the fortunate opportunity to visit with several of the YAGMs who are doing a year of service-learning and hear about their wonderings about their new community, God, faith, the world, and their place in it. It was truly food for my soul, and a reminder of our need to encourage young adults who grew up in our congregation to apply for the program.

When I returned to Waupaca, we jumped right in to another kind of celebration and renewal with a worship service led by guest musician and speaker, Rachel Kurtz. We ended that week with more celebration as we recognized Trinity's 75th anniversary of ministry done in the Triune God's name.

Looking ahead to all that God is calling the church-at-large to in the future, I attended a daylong Evangelizing Mission Summit for the East Central Synod of Wisconsin. During this daylong event, a number of leaders throughout the synod came together to wonder how God might be calling us all forward to explore new and creative ways to be church in our ever-changing world. This was just one of many conversations happening around the synod and the ELCA. Many good questions were asked, and ideas contemplated. These conversations are some that can begin to happen at all levels of the church including here at Trinity. What might God be calling our church to do that may look different than the ways we have been called to do ministry in the past? It's a question to ponder.

As we do look to new ways of being church, we celebrate and give thanks for the already established ecumenical relationships we have in town. On Thanksgiving Eve, we gathered together at Trinity for the annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving Eve service with sisters and brothers from Catholic, Episcopal, American Baptist, and Methodist faith communities. I served as the worship planner and facilitator for that service - a task I've come to enjoy the past few years.

I have also begun to look ahead to our Christmas Eve services and have begun preparing materials for them and seeking out communion servers to accommodate the large crowd who will soon gather at Trinity to hear the Good News of the birth of Jesus, Immanuel, God with Us.

I also celebrated the entry of Eileen Kolz into life everlasting, as we gathered together for her funeral service. Additionally, I visited with homebound members to celebrate Communion and made hospital visits for those who were ill.

It really is a time to celebrate and give thanks. May we continue to remember this all year-round and as things get ever busier as Christmas approaches!

Council Reports:

<p>Buildings and Grounds: Pastor Bryan Don Morgan, Fred Kuenzi Bill Frank, Deb Kinison, Ken Claussen, Dan Tischendorf</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A total of three pull stations that are needed within Trinity and the Fire Chief has approved of the placements will take place. The one that is presently behind a locked door will remain there. One will be placed outside the men’s bathroom by the main entrance, and the other one will be at the top of the landing by the Koinonia Room. One communication center is presently in the church office. Another one would be ideal in the future. Mark Harrington made a motion to approve the above, and Ruth Trinrud seconded it. All were in favor, and vote was passed. 2. Critical incident meetings have not occurred since 2016. It would be good to have feedback from a public safety viewpoint. Ongoing, we will need to circle back on this. 3. Council was in agreement with the present vendors that are hired to serve the church. 4. Bill Frank and Dan Tischendorf continue work on the purchase of Trinity’s new bus. Final purchase and availability of the bus for Trinity is unknown at this time.
<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. Note: Per Steve Johnson, he feels the building and grounds logbook is working well.
<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, Molly Reinke</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. No meeting.
<p>Mission Stewardship: Pastor Bryan Tim Gauerke, Nancy Johnson Marshal Lysne, Dave Leder</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pledge cards went out.
<p>Parish Education: Pastor Bryan Neil Dunday, Diane Opperman, Suse Riddle, 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 Rogney</p>	<p>1. Preparing for Christmas services.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>1. Tim Drake has offered to help with a possible golf scramble. Possibly more to come on this topic.</p>
<p>Information & Technology: Pastor Bryan Mark Harrington, Nancy Johnson Greg Lacey, Heartland rep; Marty Miller; Pastor Dione</p>	<p>1. No meeting.</p>
<p>Future Planning</p>	<p>No report.</p>
<p>Old Business</p>	<p>Ruth Trinrud, Personnel; Mya Berzsenyi, FYT; and Mark Harrington, IT/Future Planning; have all completed their terms of service on the committee. These positions will need to be replaced. Now is the time for someone to move if interested. Ideally, we need someone for technology support. Kim Rowland is interested in joining council. Future planning topic/committee needs to be on next month's agenda.</p>
<p>New Business</p>	<p>A motion was made by Becky Liegl, and seconded by Yvonne Robbers that the 2019 budget is approved with the following stipulation that there will not be a greater than \$35,000 difference at the close of the 2018 budget. The motion was passed with everyone in favor.</p>
<p>Adjournment: 8:32 p.m.</p>	<p>Motioned by Yvonne Robbers, and seconded by Becky Liegl.</p>