

Trinity Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting, Tuesday, September 25, 2018

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 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	Fred Kuenzi X
Pastor Dione X	Yvonne Robbers X	Don Morgan X	John Kunzman
		Seth Rowland	Diane Opperman X
		Mya Berzsenyi	Nancy Johnson X
X = Attended Meeting.			

**Prayer:** Pastor Bryan Robertson.

**Devotions:** Yvonne Robbers.

**Future Devotions:** September and October – Yvonne.

<b>Secretary's Report</b>	Report was distributed and reviewed. Motion to approve by Nancy Johnson, seconded by Fred Kuenzi, all approved. August minutes will be amended to reflect the Parish Ed committee did have a meeting, and Fred Kuenzi was at August's meeting.
<b>Treasurer's Report</b>	Report was distributed by Nancy Johnson. No questions or concerns.

**Pastor's Reports:**

► **Pastor Bryan:** After much preparation and planning throughout the summer, our Education, Youth and Family, and Confirmation ministries for the new school year began their work, supported by many volunteers and staff. In our Confirmation ministry, I am teaching our seventh-grade youth. In our adult education ministry, I am also leading a group on Sunday mornings.

Our Wednesday evenings include a welcome addition to our ministry lineup: we are offering a meal to our youth and adults at 5:30 p.m. We are also offering a new schedule for that evening, with Confirmation classes following the meal at 6:15 p.m., WOW worship at 7:15 p.m., and Crossover for our older youth at 8:15 p.m.

This new ministry lineup has had a smooth and successful start-up, and I personally am enjoying my role as a teacher.

I have been working on materials for our Stewardship emphasis in the month of October. With the help of one of our graphic artists, Camin Potts, our Stewardship emphasis will include pictures and designs that celebrate Trinity's 75th anniversary of ministry. Along with including pictures of our people and places, past and present, our Stewardship materials will focus our vision on the future. As we plan our ministries for 2019, we ask that our people consider offering pledges for the upcoming year.

We would also like to take up a special offering of \$7,500.00 for our 75th anniversary. We have identified two charities that will share this offering. The work of our Waupaca Area Food Pantry serves many in need in our area, and the work of Lutheran World Relief serves people in need around the world.

I have also assisted with our Church Directory project. We were able to schedule one more date for our parishioners and staff to have pictures taken, and work continues to take and assemble pictures of our many groups and ministry committees. I have also worked with those planning displays and worship services commemorating our 75th anniversary of ministry.

As our Confirmation, Education, and Youth and Family ministries began their new year of programming, I continue to be grateful for all the volunteers and staff that are sharing their love and faith, and for our parishioners' financial support that make these ministries possible. Most of all, I am thankful to God, the Holy Spirit, working through our people as we pass on our faith.

► **Pastor Andy:**

The biggest and best news of the past month was that Kim Miller, our youth program and communications coordinator, and her family received a tremendous blessing—as such, Kim is on leave for the best of reasons. I can't say as much in print as I'll say verbally because this report will be posted online, and there is still need to keep this matter from going completely public at this point, but it's very good news. Obviously, Kim's absence makes for big shoes to fill for the time being, and I'm certainly among those who are trying to fill them. I'm thankful to the many talented youth leaders and experienced communicators who are graciously filling gaps right now.

Among them are Yvonne Robbers and Rena Klug, who have been heading up our new Wednesday dinners. Those meals got off to a great start with approximately 70 or more showing up for pizza before Sept. 12's initial confirmation hour at the earlier 6:15 p.m. time. The meals (beginning at 5:30 p.m.) continued last Wednesday, and about 60 came for hot dogs. We'll continue these meals through Oct. 24 and evaluate whether to make them a permanent offering; I'm thankful for the Council's support of the program last month.

The other Wednesday changes—especially the time swap that moved Confirmation to 6:15 p.m. and Worship on Wednesday to 7:15 p.m.—have been well received. Attendance for Confirmation on each of the last two weeks has been stellar, and Wednesday worship turnout has at least been visibly better than it was at the end of last year. Again, I'm thankful to the members of the Family Task Force for suggesting these adjustments. The Task Force's suggestions for Sundays also saw follow-up consideration in recent weeks. We came just short of the necessary commitments to start up an 8 a.m. Sunday School hour, so that is off the table for now; however, the Worship and Music Committee advanced the concept of a revised 10:30 a.m. Sunday worship service with blended musical styles.

Heidi Fischer, the Family Task Force's chair, did a great job in following up on these matters, and she's another one of the great people who are helping me fill in for Kim. Heidi has offered some of her past experience facilitating aspects of Confirmation, and she's also volunteering to lead the 2019 Faith Ventures trip, whose destination is all but official, thanks to input from high-schoolers at 2018-19's opening weeks of Crossover. Meanwhile, my wife, Tracy Behrendt, put together the October newsletter for us in Kim's absence.

While I'm obviously busier with extra work on my plate, I was able to join Pastor Dione for the first of six monthly training sessions on mental health for faith leaders on Sept. 6. This first gathering covered a lot of mental-health topics that should prove helpful in ministry.

Looking ahead, October will be a busy month with the annual Family Picnic and Hayride on Oct. 14 (thanks once again to the Sondrol family); the long-awaited return of Trunk or Treat on Halloween; and, of course, the annual Affirmation of Baptism service on Reformation Sunday, Oct. 28—be sure to mark your calendars to be there as 28 high-school freshmen (our biggest class of confirmands in five years) become adult members of the church.

► **Pastor Dione:**

September was a month full of anticipation, preparation, and looking ahead. The first half of the month was filled with planning for confirmation and the second half marked its much-anticipated commencement. This year we've flipped the Wednesday lineup so that confirmation precedes worship. Personally, as a confirmation teacher and worship leader, the change has been night and day. I have more time to visit with and get to know the youth both during the community meal and in the classroom before class begins. I also feel a very different internal leadership presence leading worship as I can focus on worship without worrying about rushing to get to confirmation class. This has also allowed me time to visit with folks (particularly adults) after the service, which was never an option before. Time will tell to see how it works out in the community as a whole, but I feel that I can offer a better pastoral presence with the new schedule. God's up to something there, and it's great to see and experience.

Throughout the month, I have continued to connect with new visitors either via email, a mailed card, or over coffee. We held a new member orientation on September 13. As a result, six new members will join Trinity during worship on Wednesday, September 26. As I've stated before, new member orientation nights are some of my favorite because I get to hear all the awesome ways people have felt God's love and inclusion at Trinity in ways that lead them to want to become part of the community. It's a great reminder of the impact this congregation has on the people it serves.

Pastor Andy and I are attending a monthly Mental Health Training for Faith Workers through NAMI over the next several months. We attended our first training day this month. I'm looking forward to learning more about the resources we have in our area and how to better respond to people in need of mental health care who seek out help from a pastor as a first step.

I have been working with Cindy to help adjust our worship volunteer scheduling. We have received varied feedback about the process and are trying to adjust to take different preferences into account. It's a work in progress, but I think we're making valuable improvements.

On the first Saturday of each month, I am leading a women's bible study on "Amos & Hosea: Boundaries, Tough Love, and Amazing Grace." There has been a such enthusiastic response to that offering that we may need to consider splitting the group in two. It's a good problem to have!

Another good situation that requires adjustment is Kim Miller's adoption of a baby! We are extremely grateful for this addition to the Miller family and know the importance of her taking maternity leave to bond with and care for her baby. In her absence, I have become even more keenly aware of and grateful for how much she does around here. The pastors and staff have all worked together to divide up her

duties in her absence. While I helped with some logistical pieces during the transition, I recognize that Pastor Andy bears the brunt of the ongoing pieces of her job, so I'm attempting to help him as well.

In addition to the varied duties that come up throughout the month, I had the continued privilege to carry out the standard pastoral ministries including baptizing Asher Bradley Highlander, offering pastoral care to families in crisis, visiting the hospitalized and sick, and preaching the gospel into and out of those experiences.

**Council Reports:**

<p><b>Buildings and Grounds: Pastor Bryan Don Morgan, Fred Kuenzi</b> Bill Frank, Deb Kinison, Ken Claussen, Dan Tischendorf</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. New bus - <b>ongoing</b>. The committee has been very diligent in their research to find the best type of bus for the church's use. After research, they do not feel a diesel engine would be the best fit for the church's use.</li> <li>2. Mike, building and grounds superintendent, is willing to attend the council meetings as needed. If questions or concerns arise, the council can ask for further explanation for understanding.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Personnel: Pastor Bryan Ruth Trinrud</b> Rich Rasmussen, Steve Johnson, Jim Stoltenberg, Terri Lick, Penney Frank</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Becky Liegl made a motion, and Yvonne Robbers seconded that motion to approve the new PTO policy that was presented to council at the August meeting. Motion was voted on and passed. Pastor Dione will update the policy for the date to reflect, As of January 1, 2019.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Health: Pastor Dione John Kunzman</b> Carol Gehrke, Paul Sletten, Julie Hagen-Coenen</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No meeting.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Membership &amp; Evangelism: Pastor Dione Yvonne Robbers</b> Rita Harris, Amy Spadoni, Molly Reinke</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No meeting.</li> <li>2. New membership orientation was completed, and motion was made by Pastor Dione and seconded by Becky Liegl to vote the new members into Trinity's congregation. Motion was passed. New members were introduced at September's services.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Mission Stewardship: Pastor Bryan Tim Gauerke, Nancy Johnson</b> Marshal Lysne, Dave Leder</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary for Trinity - <b>ongoing</b>. Plans are in motion.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Parish Education: Pastor Bryan Neil Dunday, Diane Opperman,</b> Suse Riddle, Jean Schwirtz, Carmen Sondrol</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. There was a suggestion per the task force results to have a limited Sunday school hour during the 8 a.m. service, but there was not enough interest at this time.</li> </ol>

<p><b>Worship &amp; Music: Pastor Bryan Becky Liegl</b> Charlene Kuenzi, Nancy Ross, Wanda Eikenbary, Joni Radley, Pam Lysne, Be Parker, Shana Rogney</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Jacki Johnson will be in charge of Devine Designs.</li> <li>2. Motion was made by Becky Liegl and seconded by Pastor Dione to have a more blended service at 10:30. Children's choir will also be increasing participation at this service. Motion was passed.</li> <li>3. The bells that are used are corroding in the present room they are stored in. A dehumidifier will be purchased to try and help with this issue.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Family &amp; Youth Team: Pastor Andy Seth Rowland, Yvonne Robbers</b> Patsy Hunter, Susan Elandt, Kim Rowland, Nancy Ross, Katy Johnson, Mya Berzsenyi, Kim Miller, Rena Klimke-Klug, Kyle Mannel, Sara Hilander</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Wednesday night meals are going well so far.</li> <li>2. There is a need for more nursery employees.</li> <li>3. 2019 Faith Venture trip possibly to PA, and Heidi Fischer is in charge of the trip.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Information &amp; Technology: Pastor Bryan Mark Harrington, Nancy Johnson</b> Greg Lacey-Heartland Rep, Marty Miller, Pastor Dione</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No meeting.</li> </ol>
<p><b>Future Planning</b></p>	<p>No report.</p>
<p><b>Old Business</b></p>	<p>No old business was presented.</p>
<p><b>New Business</b></p>	<p>Committees to prepare budgets for 2019. Worksheets handed out and expected to be completed for October's meeting.</p>
<p><b>Adjournment:</b> 8:02 p.m.</p>	<p>Motioned made by Yvonne Robbers and seconded by Becky Liegl.</p>
<p>Next meeting: Tuesday, October 23, 2018, at 7:00 p.m.</p>	