

Trinity Lutheran Church

Church Council Meeting, Tuesday February 23th

Trinity Lutheran Church: Called to order 18:04

Attendees: Tom Johnson, Pastor Andy, Nancy Johnson, Jeff Riddle, Pastor Bryan, Charlene Kuenzi, Nancy Ross, Marshall Lysne, Ruth Trinrud, Mark Harrington, Diane Opperman, Don Holtebeck, Marshall Lysne,

Devotions: Presented by Pastor Andy

Secretary's Report: Read and reviewed without any omissions or additions. Moved by Char K., 2nd by Mark H, approved.

Treasurer's Report: Read by Nancy J. Giving went down in January, which is typical to start out the year. Expenses were also lower than usual too though, but there extra bills and expenses paid off to start the year. Looking at the general account, it does again reflect the large donation from the Klapp estate.

Pastor's Reports: Shared and presented by PA, and PB who were also present at the meeting.

Council Reports: Because of a shortened meeting to accommodate our guest speaker, only 4 of the councils presented on business that was discussed over the past month.

Buildings and Grounds: Don H. Looked into getting a safe, and we now have one. George will be putting it in, but will have to figure out how to get it through the wall.

Worship and Music: Char K. Acknowledged to the council that we need to try harder to accommodate all people coming into Trinity that are interested in music groups.

Health: PA. The CPR and first aid classes are set for March 10th. It will be in a 4 hour block. There will also be a new cancer support group to start on March 17th with plans to continue on the 3rd Thursday of each month.

Mission/Stewardship: Marshal L. Would like to get a list of categories from all councils and groups where funds could be allocated in the future, in case there are other large donations given to church.

New Business: Terry Nellis wrote a letter asking for funds to help further support our South African partnership. There are also 3 vacant spots on the councils that need to be filled by the new members. Everyone will be put into a position they are comfortable with. Also, George is looking to update the security around Trinity. Heidi is also looking to update one of the older printers, because they no longer make parts for it even if it would break.

Adjournment: Marshal L. Moved, Ruth 2nd



Pastor Andy's report: Feb. 23, 2016

In recent years, I've learned that Lent is a really busy time for pastors here at Trinity. And I've learned that having only two pastors here makes for a really busy time. This month I've learned that having only two pastors *during* Lent makes for a *really, really* busy time.

- Before Pastor Jennifer finished her time with us and before Lent arrived, speaker and visual artist Eric Samuel Timm's presentations at Waupaca's elementary, middle, and high schools on Jan. 27 and his follow-up, faith-based appearance that night at the high school were well received. There was strong consensus that Timm, who appeared courtesy of the schools in partnership with our Waupaca Area Youth Network churches (First Assembly of God, Shepherd of the Lakes, Victory, and Trinity) was the best of the three speakers we've brought in to benefit local kids since 2013. His motivational messages about speaking words of life rather than death and about trusting in God also thankfully didn't cost us anything financially this time, as our last effort in 2014 left us with enough funds to cover the churches' share.
- Lina Mohr organized the first Middle School Lock-In and Junior Youth Gathering of her time as our youth program coordinator with strong success. The Jan. 29-30 Lock-In rather puzzlingly drew only 27 middle-schoolers. As usual, about a third of those attending were non-member friends of our confirmation students, but the strongest turnout was from eighth-graders, who usually make the smallest showing. We know that honors music events kept a lot of kids from participating, and behavior problems last year might have kept some from coming back. Nevertheless, the superhero-themed event went incredibly smoothly, thanks to help from **Dean Sondrol**, Kim Miller, Katy Johnson, incoming Church Council Secretary **Tim Gauerke**, **Heidi Fischer**, and a great team of high-schoolers including **Jesse Heinz**, **Spencer Sondrol**, **Erin Montgomery**, **McKena Schultz**, **Lindsey Frank**, **Micah Meza**, **Peter Stratton**, and Maddy Frank.
- Turnout at our synod's Junior Youth Gathering was another story. Of the more than 300 people packing the downtown-Neenah hotel for the Feb. 20-21 event, coordinated largely and masterfully by **Julie Neubauer**, we had 33 middle-schoolers (a majority of whom were sixth-graders expected to attend) ... and, due to evolving safety guidelines that required us to room two adults with every four kids, we had an extraordinary team of 18 chaperones across the spectrum of adulthood: Jeff Riddle, Dave Leder, **Pete Gasper**, **Barry Maxson**, **Jeremy** and **Sammie Pethke**, **Alan Kjelland**, **Neil Dunday**, **Kim Rowland**, **Nicole Bodenheimer**, **Nick Pankratz**, **Dennis Abrahamson**, **Dawn Jenson**, **Rena Klug**, Katy Johnson, Heidi Fischer, Lina, and me. We had a great group of kids, and things went off without a flaw from the start of the event, which included engaging messages from speaker Dan Scharnhorst and phenomenal music led by Dakota Road. Along with all our volunteers, I'm thankful for the Knoepfel family's estate gift, whose Safeguarding Youth Fund made this possible.
- Elsewhere in the world of Trinity's confirmation program, the aforementioned **Dave Leder** is off to what I hear to be a strong start finishing the year with Pastor Jennifer's sixth-grade class. I'm grateful to Dave for volunteering to step in!
- And I'm grateful to Wanda Eikenbary, Shana Roney, and the Worship and Music Committee for giving Faith Ventures a generous share of \$556 from the total \$860 donated at Feb. 14's third annual Trinity Spectacular Concert. **Kim Miller** (Nashville trip co-coordinator, with **Yvonne Robbers**) led a group of the teenage travelers in providing hospitality at the concert, and **Shasi Pierotti** and **Mya Berzsenyi** spoke about their hopes for the trip. The annual Faith Ventures silent auction began on Feb. 13, thanks to Lina's skills with arranging the auction items, many of which were donated by members of the larger congregation, in addition to items amassed by the travelers.
- This Lent is certainly shaping up to be the busiest one yet, and this weekend will bring me to the midpoint of a four-weekend marathon of events: last weekend's JYG, Saturday's First Communion class, March 5's Christianity and Sexuality Class, and the March 11-12 BROvernighter. Thankfully, I'm *not* in charge of the other high-school event on the 11th and 12th, the third annual Girls' Night INN, which is yet another of Lina's undertakings.

- Lina also led the third annual and presumably final Heroes Day Off, which drew only eight grade-school kids. After three years with declining turnout—and nevertheless noble intentions to help families on a day off from school, plus no shortage of fun—the Family & Youth Team elected to end this experiment.
- FeFiFoFUN, however, continues to be strong with around 30 elementary-schoolers each month. Longtime coordinator **Katy Johnson** will miss her first Wednesday in my six years here next week; I can accept that! **Teresa Carlson** and **Amanda Williams** will step up from their assistance this year to lead the March 2 event in her absence.
- Just before Pastor Jennifer said goodbye on Feb. 7, I had a few fruitful days at Luther Seminary's Mid-Winter Convocation on Feb. 1-3, which Pastor Bryan also attended. Lots of good stuff about applying the Reformation to today's church and good opportunities to network with folks at my theological alma mater.
- Thankfully, with so much going on, lots of folks have been pitching in. Lindsey Frank is leading us off with our first youth reflection of this year's Lenten worship season on Wednesday. And Church Council President **Tom Johnson** started a series of biweekly guest sermons to take Pastor Jennifer's place in the preaching rotation from now until Holy Week. Carthage College student **Carla Ikert** will speak on March 5-6 about her travels to Germany in the footsteps of Martin Luther. And Vice President **Jeff Riddle** is on for Palm Sunday weekend (March 19-20) to talk about how his mission team recently helped Jesus ride into the lives of people Guatemala.
- Things here probably won't get any easier once I leave for sabbatical. (Then again, maybe I *am* the one driving all the pastors away.) But I bring good news of great joy that **Maddy Frank** will serve us as a family and youth ministry intern this summer after graduating from Waupaca High School at the end of May. Having worked in our office last summer and having been a heavy-hitter in youth programs for years, Maddy will actually offer more experience with our summer youth events than either Pastor Bryan or Lina. I can hardly imagine a better young person to sit in for me in the youth dimension of my work than Maddy.
- Reminded again of how much extra work there is to pick up when we're short a pastor, I'm all the more thankful, both for my ability to go on sabbatical from May 2 through Aug. 15 nevertheless (as Pastor Bryan insists that I still do) and for the kind financial gift that you provided to Pastor Jennifer and me from the Clapp estate gift for our extra work in the last transition. I deeply appreciate this!

Pastor Bryan's report:

Throughout the month of January, I have continued to become more familiar with the work and ministries of Trinity Lutheran and its leaders. I had opportunities this month to meet with the Personnel Committee, Membership/Evangelism, Youth and Family, and the Technology Committees, and the Executive Committee.

With Pastor Jennifer taking a new call in Appleton, I have been a part of the discussions related to the call process and job description for future candidates whom we will interview. I have been in contact with the Bishop's office, regarding this job description, and have also requested interim help at this time, and especially in the future, as Pastor Andy goes on his sabbatical.

I was able to visit seven of our members at the Veteran's Home in King and offer them communion. I have also made visits to our local hospital to visit our members there, and have enjoyed the opportunities to join two families over lunch and supper.

I am continuing to teach seventh grade Confirmation classes and am enjoying this work. I am finalizing my preaching and worship duties for the season of Lent, where I will be preaching and leading worship on Wednesdays.

I am also attending sporadically an early morning coffee gathering in downtown Waupaca, where local news is discussed, among other things.