

Trinity Lutheran Church

Church Council meeting, Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Trinity Lutheran Church: Called to order 7:03 p.m.

Attendees: Tom Johnson, Jeff Riddle, Pastor Bryan, Pastor Andy, Nancy Johnson, Charlene Kuenzi, Nancy Ross, Mike Claussen, Don Holtebeck, Mya Berzsenyi, Marshall Lysne, Ruth Trinrud, Diane Opperman.

Also in attendance, Steve Johnson and Barry Maxson from the Call committee

Prayer: Pastor Bryan

Devotions: Nancy Ross

Secretary's Report: Report was reviewed without omissions or additions. Moved by Charlene K. to approve report 2nd by Jeff R. Approved.

Treasurer's Report: Nancy reported that April which included Easter was a Good month for giving from the congregation. Nancy reported that a Mission account was set up to receive funds from the Richard Clapp estate. As part of the benevolence giving from The Richard Clapp estate Nancy reported that from suggestions received funds would give given to the Special Olympics, Big Brothers Big Sister program, operation backpack and campership. \$1,480.00 was given to the youth.

It was reported that an Additional \$1,300.00 would be received from the Selmer Knoepfel. These funds will be used in part to purchase skirts for the hand bell tables. Motion made by Don H. to approve the report, 2nd by Mike C. Approved.

Call Committee: Steve Johnson reported that the call committee had a candidate for recommendation.

Steve explained the process of selection with which the call committee used to interview the two candidates which included skype and face to face interviews with the committee. Separate interviews were held with staff. Separate one on one interviews were also held with each candidate meeting with each Pastor.

The call committee came back together on Sunday March 24th to consider the staff and Pastors evaluations. After much discussion and deliberation in this 3 hour session it was a unanimously consensus to recommend Dione Miller for consideration. The recommendation from the call committee to the church council was moved by Don H. and 2nd by Nancy J. The recommendation was approved.

A May 15th date was set to conduct a congregational meeting to vote on the recommendation to extend a call to Dione Miller.

Pastors Reports: The Pastors reports were shared and presented by PB and PA who were present at the meeting.

Pastor Bryan's report: April 2016

As the month of March came to an end, our season of Lent came to a close with our Holy Week worship services and our Easter Celebration. Music, worship, Confirmation ministries, and pastoral care filled my month of service here in many and various ways.

I was able to visit 5 of our members in the hospital, along with 9 of our members in their homes. On one of these visits, I had the opportunity to meet with a family to plan their matriarch's funeral, for which I was able to lead worship in one of our area country churches, Farmington Lutheran Church.

Area Lutheran and ecumenical activities included meeting with our local clergy group and attending a planning meeting for receiving members of our sister churches from South Africa this summer.

Besides attending our regular committee meetings here, I was also able to meet with our Call Committee.

My local community activities included attendance at our local FFA Alumni Banquet, and a softball benefit in Iola.

I took no vacation or continuing education days this month, but two sick days—a Saturday and a Sunday, down with the flu.

March was a high volume, high production month for our staff, and I am thankful for all their hard work and dedication.

Regards, Pr. Bryan Robertson, Trinity Lutheran Church

Pastor Andy's report: April 26, 2016

The forthcoming May newsletter that will be mailed this week will explain this in more detail, but this will not be my last Council meeting before my sabbatical after all. The members of Trinity's Executive Committee have given me their blessing on postponing my sabbatical until next summer. Especially after April 5, when folks from our synod's staff offered an interim plan that did not include a pastor to fill in for the coming months, it seemed that this just wasn't a good time for a three-month break. Instead, based on a suggestion from Heidi Fischer, I'll take off only the month of June (for the June 4-11 young adults' trip and subsequent vacation). Some period of rest does seem to be in order, but I'm honestly relieved not to be detaching myself at such a significant time, even and especially with a congregational vote on a new associate pastor apparently right around the corner. As for notable news from the past month:

- In what is quite easily the worst news from Trinity's youth ministries in several years, **Taylor Vaughn**, an 18-year-old who has been one of the most involved members of our youth group during her four years of high school, learned on March 31 that she has non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. She is rounding out the first month of her cancer battle at Children's Hospital in Milwaukee. I plan to make my fourth trip to see Taylor there on Saturday, the day before our Graduate Recognition service, for which Taylor will hopefully be able to join us remotely through a video call. On my last visit, Taylor's mom, Shelley, emphasized how grateful the family is to the community for all the support here. I have been blessed to deliver several showings of support from folks here at Trinity—a huge, signed banner; cards; monetary gifts; a quilt; and more. Continued prayers and contributions to the family in the face of both the cancer journey and its significant financial cost are greatly appreciated.
- Another year of confirmation will be in the books after tomorrow, with its Year-End Picnic and final night of classes. I'm grateful to everyone who made the year of Wednesday worship and confirmation activities so successful. This past weekend's youth-led worship services were the penultimate piece of this fast-paced year, as eighth-graders did a great job leading us at all three services, with help from **Michele Drake**, **Pat Hunter**, Lina Mohr, and Heidi.
- Lina reached her six-month mark as youth program coordinator a week ago and really seems to be settling in as this school year wraps up. Our plan to hand over leadership of the high-school Bible studies to Heidi and **Tim Gauerke** for the remainder of the school year through April seems to have given Lina a better chance to get to know the teens she's leading. She and **Parker Kantos** will begin co-leading the Crossover Bible studies after Parker begins his internship next Tuesday as the high-school time slot moves to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays for May.
- I'm really excited that Lina has registered for the Youth Ministry Certification Program with Tiger McLuen's organization, Youth Leadership. I myself have benefited immensely from shorter-term training with Tiger and his team, and I know Lina will learn a lot through the nine-course program that starts in August. Tiger, of course, was our featured speaker this confirmation year. His presentation to middle-schoolers and their prayer partners on April 13 was deeply appreciated, especially by parents, and the timing of his ensuing talk with our high-schoolers that night was a godsend—in light of Taylor's diagnosis, Tiger offered the incredibly powerful presentation on finding God in the midst of life's storms that I had seen him deliver twice before. It had an obvious impact on the teens, and Tiger addressed Taylor personally for the video recording of his talk, anchored in both the Bible and his own health struggles.
- One last bit of big news: In response to an effort to get church members, rather than pastors and staff members, in the driver's seat of Trinity committees, **Susan Elandt** has volunteered to become the first chairperson of the Family & Youth Team, starting with next month's meeting.

Council Reports:

Buildings and Grounds: Don H. reported digging was underway for the new outdoor parking lot lighting. The executive committee forwarded on to the B & G committee a request which was received from the Worship and Music committee to consider curtains for the Badger Street side windows in the sanctuary. Don reported this request had been explored previously and from their evaluation and congressional input they received, there was not a call to have curtains installed. Marshall L. questioned the number of members polled because based on his discussions with members he felt there was a need for the curtains.

Personnel: Pastor Bryan distributed a copy of the new employee hand book and noted the revisions. Pastor Bryan asked the council to review the handbook and ask any questions or bring any concerns up before the next monthly meeting at which time approval of the new handbook would be recommended.

Health: Jeff R. reported the committee is working on a binder that will help members better understand and navigate serious health issues that may arise within there family's and the church family at large.

Membership & Evangelism: Tom J. reported the committee is working on a survey for new members to help them use their spiritual gifts in ministry within committees and the congregation.

Mission Stewardship: No report

Parish education: Diane O. reported they are working on the committee meeting frequency. They would also like to make a push to increase the Lay School ministry enrollment of Trinity members.

Worship & Music: Charlene K. reported the committee is evaluating the Good Friday and Maundy Thursday 12:15 worship service as society and business time off opportunities are becoming less commonplace.

Family & Youth Team: Mike C. reported the committee is working to make the youth bulletin boards more visible. Lina M. will begin working on a 1 year Youth certification. Consideration is being made to discontinue having the nursery staffed on Wed. evenings due to the low usage. There is now a age cap on the nursery (5 years old). Fe-Fi-Fo-Fun completed its sixth year! Parker Kantos begins his summer internship on May 3rd. A brat fry for a youth fund raiser will be held on June 18th at Piggly Wiggly.

Susan Elandt will be the new Chairperson for the FYT. Tom J. asked that the committee explore ways to increase the usage of Pine Lake Bible Camp.

TLW: No report

Information & Technology: PB reported options for a wireless solution between our firewall and internal use of the Trinity website is ongoing. Exploration of converting our paper records to a digital format to include historical and photographs is in progress.

Future planning: No Report

Old Business: None

New Business: None

Adjournment: Motion by Nancy J. 2nd by Mike C. Motion Approved

Respectfully submitted, Tim Gauerke, Secretary

Devotions for April: Charlene K.