

Trinity Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes – June 14, 2021
Reporting: Jennifer Hubrig

Present: Marc Bachman, Andy Elofson, Jennifer Hubrig, Doug Minter, Sarah Nelsen, Barbara Simpson, Pastor Nikoli Falenschek,

Absent: Cathy Carlson, Brian Fell, Scott Fichtner, Alie Hermanson, Nancy Kruger, Pastor Joy Ekstedt

The agenda for the meeting was accepted by unanimous consent.

A. Business Discussed:

1. Pastor Nikoli's Report

- VBS: We had so much fun last week at VBS! Thanks to all of our volunteers, and an especial thanks to Kristie, we learned lots, stayed safe, and reignited our love of Jesus.
- Synod Assembly: I served on the Credentials Committee for the synod assembly, where we elected Rev. Dee Pederson to the office of Bishop of the Southwestern MN Synod. Bishop Jon has been our bishop for 18 years and has served us well. We are so grateful to him for all that he and his family has sacrificed in order to serve our area churches. I am really excited that our synod elected Rev. Pederson, who will take over for Bishop Jon in August. She has served our synod as the Director of Evangelical Mission for the past few years and will lead us forward with strength, skill, and passion. Thank you, in addition, to Carolyn Dobler and Sarah Nelsen for representing our congregation as voting members at the Assembly.
- Bonfire Worship: I am so excited to kick off our new bonfire worship services on the 23rd. So far, we have received a LOT of positive feedback and the congregation is greatly anticipating this new worship experience. I have already crafted the liturgy for the first bonfire worship and have received lots of s'mores supplies. Just today, we also received a monetary donation intended to purchase a fire pit and supplies. I am so grateful for Trinity's support and have every confidence that our Bonfire Worship services will be filled to the brim with joy and Holy Spirit!
- Earn-To-Own Program: I have also received a lot of positive feedback regarding the earn-to-own program. Just tonight, we'll have had our first music lessons already! In total, we have nine guitarists signed up, seven of whom will be earning their instruments, and three percussionists who will all be earning their cajons. I have connected with various adjunct folks who will supplement my own skills in leading these music lessons. Together, these musicians are forming a group called the Firesides.
- Gravesides/Funerals: June is turning out to be a busy month related to funerals and graveside services. I officiated a funeral for John Phillips on June 5, a graveside service for Lillias Harmer on June 14, and will officiate a memorial service on June 19.
- First Communion: We've completed all of the scheduled First Communions! In total, we had close to thirty kids start receiving the elements across four services (May 9, May 23, May 30, and June 13). I'm so SO happy that our table has grown larger for hosting Christ's meal. We also have a couple of baptisms coming up soon, too!
- Baccalaureate: I'm so grateful to the Community Life Committee for putting together those care packages for the graduates and for making these seniors a focus for our community. Our service went really well and the CLC has been making deliveries for those who haven't yet picked up their quilt or care package. We'll loan you an instrument for the summer to practice on which you can keep if you satisfy these requirements.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Offerings through May were \$160,663. This is down \$15,992 from giving through May 2020. *Of note, the last Sunday of May's deposit was not made until June and will be reflected in June reports.*
- Total expenses through May have been \$179,809. This is a deficit of \$19,146 between income and expenses. *Of note, we had an "excess" of \$108,016 on January 1. That "excess" is now \$89,424.*
- The budgeted amount through May was \$200,802. So our expenses are running \$20,993 below the budgeted amount through May. *This is primarily due to reduced costs for janitorial services and property expenses.*
- The Controlled Savings Balance at the end of May was \$136,755.

- The Bank Balance at the end of May was \$89,424.

3. **Synod Assembly Gift:** Traditionally we have sent a gift of \$250 from the Foreign & Domestic Mission Endowment Fund to the synod. **See Action Item #2.**

4. **Building Security:** Staff members requested clarity on when the building should be locked/unlocked. Here are the expectations of the Church Council.

- The only doors to the building that should ever be left unlocked at any time are the 2 sets of doors in the narthex.
- The 5th Street entrance doors should only be left unlocked when services are being held or when staff is present for activities that may be held outside near that entrance.
- The parking lot entrance doors should only be left unlocked during office hours and when services are being held.

If anyone needs access to the building outside of office hours or worship services they should contact the church office prior to that time and arrangements will be made to let them in.

5. **Committee Reports**

- **Property Committee:** ISO-Aire demonstrated and left for our use two portable HEPA air exchangers. Reviews have been positive regarding the additional amount of noise being minimal. The committee recommends that we purchase two portable air exchange units to primarily be used in the Narthex and Gustafson Room at a cost of \$3,495 each. **See Action Item #3.**
- **Community Life:** They assembled goody bags and quilts for Trinity's graduates.
- **Children, Youth and Family:** Up next is the Week of Mission, planning is well underway.
- **Worship, Music and Arts:** No report at this time.
- **Mission:** They've increased their delivery of meals to the Estate Apartment folks to every Monday night.
- **Adult Education:** Adult Forum will resume in the Fall.
- **Stewardship:** They are working on volunteer recruiting. The Time & Talents form is being updated and descriptions of opportunities are being developed. The new church management software will be a great asset to the endeavor of recruiting volunteers.

B. **Actions Taken:**

1. **Motion M/S/P to approve the minutes of the May Council meeting.**
2. **Motion M/S/P to approve sending \$250 from the Foreign & Domestic Mission Endowment Fund to the synod for a synod assembly offering.**
3. **Motion M/S/P to approve of purchase of two portable HEPA air exchangers when the Property Chair determines the time and price is right.**

C. **Responsibilities Assigned:**

1. Marc will purchase the HEPA air exchangers.
2. Marc will look into our current building keying structure and will check on the cost to install a keypad of some type for entry into the building for outside groups using the church.

D. Next meeting: July 13, 2021 at 6:30 pm in-person.

30-60-90

June

- 1 Pastor Joy's sabbatical begins
- 6-10 Vacation Bible School
- 13 Coffee Fellowship Resumes
- 19 Memorial Service for Donna Wick
- 22 Anti-Racism Team Event
- 23 Bonfire Worship
- 27 Baptism at 9:30 am service

- 5 Offices Closed-Holiday
- 5-9 Week of Mission
- 14 Bonfire Worship
- 25-29 Shetek Day Camp at FLC
- 28 Bonfire Worship

August

- 11 Bonfire Worship
- 17 Joy returns from sabbatical
- 25 Bonfire Worship

July

Communion returns to 1st and 3rd Sundays