

Trinity Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes – July 13, 2021
Reporting: Jennifer Hubrig

Present: Cathy Carlson, Alie Hermanson, Jennifer Hubrig, Doug Minter, Sarah Nelsen, Barbara Simpson, Pastor Nikoli Falenschek,

Absent: Marc Bachman, Andy Elofson, Brian Fell, Scott Fichtner, Nancy Kruger, Pastor Joy Ekstedt

The agenda for the meeting was accepted by unanimous consent.

A. Business Discussed:

1. Pastor Nikoli's Report

- Week of Mission: Kristie rocked it on our week of mission and we had lots of fun! We ended up volunteering at the Union Street housing shelter cleaning the ditches along 169, helping out at Little Big Sky Farm, and volunteering at Echo Food Shelf. We also did a lot of fun fellowship things and worshipped a lot. Thanks to Kristie, Calleigh at First Lutheran, and our nonprofit partners for a great week!
- Bishop Updates: Rev. Dee Pederson will be installed as our synod's new bishop on October 9. Long before that, we'll be gathering at the Redwood Area Community Center to celebrate Bishop Jon's 18 years of serving this synod in this capacity. That gathering will happen on August 14th from 1-5pm.
- Bonfire Worship: Bonfire worship kicked off in June to great response. We had 42 people at worship that day and filled our night with songs, water, s'mores, Holy Communion, dancing, and scripture. HUGE thanks to our volunteers who tended the fire, helped people feel welcome, manned the s'mores station, and to EVERYONE who stayed after to help tear down. Our second bonfire service was much less ambitious as we had to plan around the inclement weather. We gathered in the Fellowship Hall for a much different experience that was nonetheless very meaningful. We added a slideshow of videos and lyrics to the experience and did some painting for the sermon time. S'mores were baked in the oven. Again, huge thanks to the volunteers who stepped forward to keep things running smoothly and tear down afterwards.
- Earn-To-Own Program: I'm very proud of the progress our musicians are making in learning their instrument. I also am grateful for their bravery in sharing that progress at the Wednesday night worship services.
- Gravesides/Funerals: I've been honored to officiate the services of Donna Wick, Howard Hermel, and Lynn Johnson. Thank you to the funeral home, the families who worked so hard, and our church volunteers for creating such amazing opportunities to gather in grief and remembrances.
- Emanuel Nine: I participated in a veneration service First Lutheran alongside Rev. Bill Nelsen to remember the events of June 17th, 2015 and the martyrs of Emanuel AME Church: Rev. Clementa C. Pinckney, Rev. Myra Singleton Quarles Thompson, Rev. Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Rev. DePayne Middleton-Doctor, Rev. Daniel Lee Simmons, Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Ethel Lee Lance, Susie Jackson, and Tywanza Kibwe Diop Sanders.
- MN-Valley Conference: My colleagues and I gathered at Gustavus on June 22 for a day of prayer, business, and fellowship. Rev. Stephen Cooke, one of synod's Assistants to the Bishop, attended as well to share news from the upcoming bishops transitions.
- One Body, Many Members: The Anti-Racism Team's first public event was a great success! I was welcomed to begin our time on the evening of the 22nd in prayer and scripture. I then provided childcare for some young parents while the event's lecture/discussion took place.
- Baptism: I was so excited to baptize little Addison Grayce Mervin on June 27! Thank you to her family for inviting me to participate in this way on an amazing day!
- VBS: I hosted the VBS Volunteers at my house on June 30 for fun and food to say thank you for all they've done for us. We could not have had a successful VBS program without them!!

2. Treasurer's Report

- Offerings through June were \$191,471. This is down \$13,849 from giving through June 2020.

- Total expenses through June have been \$215,678. This is a deficit of \$24,207 between income and expenses. *Of note, we had an "excess" of \$108,016 on January 1. That "excess" is now \$83,155.*
 - The budgeted amount through June was \$238,608. So our expenses are running \$22,930 below the budgeted amount through June.
 - The Controlled Savings Balance at the end of June was \$139,367
 - The Checking Account Balance at the end of June was \$83,155
- 3. Endowment Fund Request:** Pastor Nikoli had 2 endowment requests for consideration but one was withdrawn and the other modified. The request is for an additional \$500 for bonfire worship service supplies (t-shirts, service prep). **See Action Item #2.**
- 4. Committee Reports**
- Property Committee: No report at this time.
 - Community Life: No report at this time.
 - Children, Youth and Family: They have decided on the destinations for the 2022 Summer trips. The middle school youth will go to Rapid City with Youthworks and the HS youth will go to the Sr. High Gathering in Minneapolis.
 - Worship, Music and Arts: No report at this time.
 - Mission: No report at this time.
 - Adult Education: Andy Lo has resigned his position on the committee.
 - Stewardship: They have created a catalog of various ways for congregation members to get involved at Trinity and will be sending that out to everyone along with a Time and Talents Survey. The purpose of the survey is to give people an opportunity to express an interest in what areas they would like to be involved with at church. There will be both an online version of the survey as well as a hard copy paper survey that can be completed and returned.

B. Actions Taken:

- 1. Motion M/S/P to approve the minutes of the June Council meeting.**
- 2. Motion M/S/P to approve the endowment fund request of up to \$500 for additional bonfire worship supplies. Funds are to be taken from the Organ & Choir Endowment Fund.**

C. Responsibilities Assigned: none

D. Next meeting: August 10, 2021 at 6:30 pm

30-60-90

July

- 6-9 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
- 22 Sunday School Teacher meeting
- 25 Bonfire Worship

September

- 1 Confirmation Leader meeting
- 6 Holiday-Offices Closed
- 8 Confirmation Orientation
- 11 Wee's Orientation
- 12 God's Work, Our Hands Sunday
- 8 am Worship resumes

Sunday School Blessings at 9:30 service

Sunday School Begins

2nd Coffee Fellowship hour begins

Frolic Family begins

15 Worship on Wednesday resumes

Confirmation Blessings at 6:15 service

Confirmation classes begin

19 Welcome Celebration for Kristie Olson

HS Youth Group begins