

Trinity Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes – August 10, 2021
Reporting: Jennifer Hubrig

Present: Marc Bachman, Cathy Carlson, Carolyn Dobler, Andy Elofson, Brian Fell, Nancy Kruger, Doug Minter, Sarah Nelsen, Barbara Simpson, Pastor Nikoli Falenschek, *Jennifer Hubrig*,

Absent: Alie Hermanson, Scott Fichtner, Pastor Joy Ekstedt

The agenda for the meeting was approved with one addition.

A. Business Discussed:

1. Pastor Nikoli's Report

- Bonfire Worship: We've completed three of five Bonfire services, and they're going really well! Only one of the three has actually been outside because of rain and heat. Hopefully, we'll be outside again before the summer ends! Kristie has been an amazing help with these services.
- Earn-To-Own Program: Our musicians are progressing really well and are, most importantly, having lots of fun together. Many of our musicians have been to three bonfire worships and have officially EARNED their instruments!
- Gravesides/Funerals: Since our last council meeting, I've had the privilege to walk with the Hermel, Johnson, and Aanonsen families in their grief.
- Baptism: We were able to welcome little Dalton Orde to the wonderful, baptized family of Christ on August 1.
- Rural Minnesota Fellows Program: I have been accepted to the Collegeville Institute's 22-month program, which will begin in November. This program convenes ecumenical rural leaders with community leaders from other sectors of rural life. We'll gather eight times over twenty-two months (usually for two days at a time).
- Food Shelf: You may remember that I serve on the SPAF Board and serve as the volunteer coordinator. With the leadership of our staff and board president, we are currently trying to address a number concerning issues at the shelf. Our staff and clients have been complaining about racist, sexist, and other inappropriate behavior perpetrated by our own volunteers, volunteer leaders, and even board members. I have spent a lot of emotional energy and strategic skill in trying to turn a page at the food shelf. Please send prayers and please consider volunteering. We've had folks quit outright when asked about inappropriate behavior, and I expect more resignations in the coming weeks. We are looking for volunteers willing to be kind, empathetic, willing to learn, and excited to meet their community neighbors.
- Holy Communion Series: We're in the middle a five-week series of worship services focusing on Holy Communion. For this series, we're having Holy Communion at every service. So far, I've heard many positive comments and a few people have mentioned that taking Communion every Sunday might take some getting used to. I would love to hear from folks how they're experiencing the five weeks—send me a note or chat!
- Covid: With variants and cases on the rise, I think it's time to start reconvene the Health Response Team, especially with programming just around the corner.
- Synod Grant: We'll be receiving a \$2500 grant from the SWMN Synod to build on our earn-to-own program. These monies will buy professional music lessons for guitar and cajon (instead of just me, lol) and will also pay our way to and from various other worshipping communities so that we might glean expertise and ideas from other worship leaders.

2. Treasurer's Report

- Offerings through July were \$228,985. This is down \$9,649 from giving through July 2020.
- Total expenses through July have been \$250,762. This is deficit of \$21,777 between income and expenses. Of note, we had an "excess" of 108,016 on January 1. That "excess" is now \$85,975.
- The budgeted amount through July was \$276,312. So our expenses are running \$25,550 below the budgeted amount through July.
- The Controlled Savings Balance was \$142,012

- The Bank Balance at the end of July was \$85,975
3. **Endowment Fund Request:** There is a request from Pastor Nikoli for Curriculum for Frolic, Sunday School, Confirmation, and HS youth group: **See Action Item #2.**
 4. **Committee Appointment:** The property committee requests that Barry Wood be appointed to their committee. **See Action Item #3.**
 5. **Fundraising Request:** There is a request from Kristie Olson for an annual youth fundraiser. They would like to “flock” people’s yards with Flamingo’s. **See Action Item #4.**
 6. **Current Covid Situation:** The Health Response Team met on Monday. They directed us to a tool from the CDC that tracks the level of community transmission. The levels are categorized as low, moderate, substantial or high. Nicollet County is currently at the substantial level. They recommended the following to the Church Council for consideration:
 - The Health Response Team recommends that mask wearing be a requirement for attending Sunday School.
 - The Health Response Team recommends that we continue to encourage the recommendations of the CDC regarding vaccination, social distance, hand washing and masking
 The Council discussed these recommendations at length. **See Action Item #5.** The Council will reconvene on August 31 to re-evaluate this ever changing situation.

7. Committee Reports

- Property Committee: The a/c unit for the narthex needs to be replaced. **See Action Item #6.** Since our building is only unlocked during office hours now the committee is looking into a keycard lock system. They are looking into getting air exchangers on all our furnaces to meet the air quality specifications recommended by ISG.
- Community Life: They are working on planning Barry’s retirement party on August 29 at 10:30 am.
- Children, Youth and Family: No report at this time.
- Worship, Music and Arts: They are considering whether or not to stream the Wednesday night services due to the extensive requirements for copyright when posting to the internet.
- Mission: They continue to serve meals at Estate Apartments two times per month. They are working on an opportunity for us to serve at “Feed My Starving Children”. They are also planning for the God’s Work, Our Hands event on September 12.
- Adult Education: Adult Forum will resume on September 19 at 9:30 am in the library.
- Stewardship: They haven’t received as many Time and Talents survey responses as they would like so they are going to offer an incentive of a drawing for a quilt and other modest prizes. They are planning the Fall commitment campaign and congregational meal that will culminate on Commitment Sunday, November 14.

B. Actions Taken:

1. **Motion M/S/P to approve the minutes of the July Council meeting.**
2. **Motion M/S/P to approve the endowment request from Pastor Nikoli for CYF curriculum. Up to \$150 for Frolic and up to \$900 for Sunday School to be taken from the Sunday School Endowment Fund. Up to \$900 for Confirmation and up to \$300 for Youth Group to be taken first from the remainder of the CYF Endowment Fund then from the Christian Education Fund.**
3. **Motion M/S/P to appoint Barry Wood to the Property Committee.**
4. **Motion M/S/P to approve the annual “flocking” fundraiser.**
5. **Motion M/S/P (with one dissenting vote) to follow CDC recommendations – *If you are not fully vaccinated you should wear a mask in indoor public spaces. If you are fully vaccinated you should wear and mask in indoor public spaces when you are in an area of substantial or high transmission.***
6. **Motion M/S/P to contract Lenny Miller to replace the a/c unit for the narthex at a cost of \$3,003 to be taken from the Building Improvement Fund.**

C. Responsibilities Assigned: none

D. Next meeting: August 31, 2021 at 6:30 pm to assess the Covid situation. September 14 at 6:30 pm for the regularly scheduled meeting.

30-60-90

August

- 11 Bonfire Worship
- 17 Joy returns from sabbatical
- 22 Sunday School Teacher meeting
- 25 Bonfire Worship
- 29 Retirement Party for Barry

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

October

- 9 Brandt/Gill Wedding
- 20 NO youth activities-MEA
- 31 Reformation Sunday
 - Affirmation of Baptism Service