

Trinity Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes – September 14, 2021
Reporting: Sarah Nelsen

Present: Marc Bachman, Cathy Carlson, Scott Fichtner, Andy Elofson, Brian Fell, Nancy Kruger, Doug Minter, Sarah Nelsen, Barbara Simpson, Pastor Nikoli Falenschek, Pastor Joy Ekstedt,

Absent: Alie Hermanson, *Jennifer Hubrig*,

The agenda for the meeting was approved with one addition.

A. Business Discussed:

1. Pastor Joy's Report

- Back in the swing of things! My time away for vacation and sabbatical concluded mid-August and I returned to the office August 17. The books I read were perfect for being renewed after a wild 18 months. I was also able to accomplish some projects as well as spend time with family and friends. I'm grateful to the council for the sabbatical. I'm also grateful to Pastor Nikoli and to the staff for tending to extra duties while I was gone.
- Pastor Nikoli and I are meeting each week after our staff meetings. There are always lots of topics to cover and especially at this time of the year.
- Kristie, Pastor Nikoli and I also have had conversation and will meet regularly as well on CYF programming.
- Met with TLC Companions to hear about their experiences visiting members this summer. I'm not surprised that the conversations were enjoyed by everyone.
- Participated in a conversation with other area pastors and a member or two of their congregations about our mission and purpose in the world.
- Will begin a book study early in October. The book is *Enough* by Adam Hamilton. I'm excited to read the book and to have conversations with others who will read it too. This book lends itself perfectly to our fall Stewardship campaign.
- Met with participants of Grace Street Bible study. I began this study group probably 6 years ago and we've been having conversation twice a month about up-coming scripture readings. When we met for the first time after my sabbatical/vacation, I offered some different material – *The Parables of Jesus* by Harry Wendt. We're going to try this material for a few sessions.
- Suggest that we use Faith Talk for council devotions. The questions in this material will take a light approach at getting to know one another better and to share the faith that is within us.

2. Pastor Nikoli's Report

- CYF: Working closely with Kristie and the CYF Committee to get our programs up off the ground. We'll be resurrecting our Confirmation retreats, which we haven't done since 2018. We'll be taking our 6th graders on an overnight to GLLM in October and will plan an 8th grade retreat for the spring. Besides those retreats, we'll also be doing a lock-in for our 9th graders before Confirmation Sunday and will be pushing the JH and SH youth gatherings (put on by Synod LYO Board).
- Food Shelf: Still desperately looking for more volunteers. For all of our pushing here, we've gained one or two new volunteers but that doesn't make up for those leaving the food shelf. Keep spreading the word! The SPAF did end up approving a partnership with the Greater Mankato Area Foundation, which will immediately gift us with \$10k for consulting expenses. This is a wonderful move for us and I look forward to the deep-dives we'll be taking into our structures and operations.
- Bible Study Stuff: Pr Joy and I will be working with the Adult Ed. Committee to offer some new Bible Study opportunities here at TLC. I'll be planning a Queer-Affirming Bible Study for the fall and am excited by the survey responses we've received so far. But, I've only received two or three responses so far—PLEASE FILL OUT THE SURVEY AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO DO THE SAME!
- Synod Grant: The Synod approved a little less than half of the funds I asked for to continue our worship leadership program through the fall. We will have to cut back on the scope of our worship learning and skill-development program, but I'm confident that it'll still be an awesome boon for us.

- Continuing Ed.: Next Wednesday, I'll be taking a mental health first-aid course and I have a number of CGP/Collegeville stuff coming up in October/November.

3. Treasurer's Report

- Offerings through August were \$256,722 This is down \$12,982 from giving through August 2020
- Total expenses through August have been \$291,201 This is deficit of \$34,479 between income and expenses *Of note, there was an "excess" of \$108,016 on 1/1/2021. That "excess" is now \$75,166.*
- The budgeted amount through August was \$315,526 Expenses are running \$24,325 below the budgeted amount through August
- The Controlled Savings Balance was \$145,186
- The Bank Balance at the end of August was \$75,166

4. Insurance Options

- Reviewed Portico options. Council to have questions to Jen and Scott by October 8, 2021. Will vote on October 12, 2021

5. Committee Reports

- Property Committee: Lenny Miller looking at AC in Narthex/ one other. Air Exchange in the basement will need to be considered. Lights in the Narthex and 3 fans. Starting to consider education wing, but will cost a lot of money. Looking at cost to replace carpet in the offices.
- Community Life: Had the retirement party for Barry and it went well. Planning Pumpkin Fest, with plans for both inside and outside dependent on weather.
- Children, Youth and Family: No report at this time.
- Worship, Music and Arts: Music is back. Choir is working on getting masks for singing.
- Mission: They continue to serve meals at Estate Apartments two times per month. Had the Highway clean up. Postponed the Feed My Starving Children event.
- Adult Education: Talking about God and the pandemic/Vocation. Darrell Jodock will do a presentation for several weeks
- Stewardship: Green Team is working on Nextracks for a new recycling option. Pastor Joy will be doing a book study

B. Actions Taken:

1. **Motion M/S/P to approve the minutes of the August Council meeting.**

C. Responsibilities Assigned: none

D. Next meeting: October 12, 2021 at 6:30 pm

30-60-90

September

- 8 Confirmation Orientation
- 9 Grace Street Bible Study resumes
- 12 God's Work, Our Hands Sunday
- 8 am Worship resumes
- Sunday School Blessings at 9:30 service
- 2nd Coffee Fellowship hour begins
- 15 Worship on Wednesday resumes at 6:15
- Confirmation Blessings at 6:15 service
- Confirmation classes begin
- 18 Wee's Orientation
- 19 Welcome Celebration for Kristie Olson
- Adult Forum resumes
- Sunday School Begins

Frolic Family begins

21 A.R.T. 101

October

- 9 Brandt/Gill Wedding
- 19 A.R.T. 102
- 20 NO youth activities-MEA
- 24 Pumpkinfest
- 31 Reformation Sunday
- Affirmation of Baptism Service

November

- 7 All Saints Sunday
- 14 Commitment Sunday
- 25-26 Holiday-Offices Closed
- 27 Hanging of the Greens