

Trinity Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting Minutes – November 9, 2021
Reporting: Jennifer Hubrig

Present: Marc Bachman, Cathy Carlson, Andy Elofson, Brian Fell, Scott Fichtner, Alie Hermanson, Doug Minter, Sarah Nelsen, Pastor Joy Ekstedt, *Jennifer Hubrig*,

Absent: Nancy Kruger, Barbara Simpson, Pastor Nikoli Falenschek,

The agenda for the meeting was approved.

A. Business Discussed:

1. Pastor Joy's Report

- Pastoral Care – Had numerous visits with members. In conversation with a few families about up-coming funerals. Also conversation with a family celebrating a baptism.
- Met with Grace Street Bible study group. I'm now leading both studies each month rather than one of the studies. We are working on some of Jesus' parables and there is always room for more to join us!
- Met with *Enough* book study group twice in October and planning to meet twice in November as well. It's good to take our time in chewing over points that catch our attention from the book.
- As chairperson of SPAM I've had communication with other clergy in the community regarding the Thanksgiving Eve service. The service will be at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, November 24 at the Church of St. Peter.
- Attended Trinity's Anti-Racism Team event "102" on Oct. 19. Community leaders were part of a panel who shared perspective through the lens of their work and also answered questions. Very informative.
- Attended Endowment Committee meeting.
- Prepared fall stewardship program letters for Stewardship Committee to consider.
- Met with Pastor Nikoli a number of times about our busy fall programming.
- Met with Doug Minter, VP/Chair of the Personnel Committee regarding the congregation's need for a church building manager (property related tasks).
- Met and meeting with Simpson Forum team over plans for up-coming event in January.
- It was wonderful to celebrate as 19 young people of the congregation confirmed their faith on Reformation Sunday, October 31.
- November is an extra busy month for pastoral care since Trinity pastors lead devotion services at assisted living sites and the nursing home each Thursday.
- Nominating Committee will be meeting in November to prepare the ballot for the annual meeting in January.
- Will meet in November with women of the congregation to consider future of Trinity's Women of the ELCA
- Will meet in November with Doug Minter and lay staff for annual reviews. Reviews for pastors will be done in December by Executive Committee.
- New members will be formally received at worship services Sunday, December 5 and Wednesday, December 8. Please spread the word!
- December Council meeting is mid-month so we should determine now the Christmas Eve worship schedule (Dec. 24 is a Friday) and also the worship schedule for the following Sunday morning, December 26.
- Council needs to determine who will receive our mid-week Advent offerings. Advent begins Sunday, November 28 (Thanksgiving weekend).

2. Treasurer's Report

- Offerings through October were \$312,329. This is down \$12,916 from giving through October 2020.

- Total expenses through October have been \$361,858. This is deficit of \$49,530 between income and expenses. Of note, there was an “excess” of \$108,016 on 1/1/2021. That “excess” is now \$58,033
 - The budgeted amount through October was \$393,629. Expenses are running \$31,771 below the budgeted amount through October
 - The Controlled Savings Balance was \$182,378
 - The Bank Balance at the end of October was \$58,033.
3. **Endowment Fund Request:** The Endowment Committee presented a request to give \$1,000 to the Mekane Yesus Seminary of Ethiopia. **See Action Item 2.**
 4. **Advent Offering Designation:** The Executive Committee recommended the mid-week Advent offerings be split 3 ways and given to Connections Shelter, St. Peter Area Ministerium, and Habitat for Humanity. **See Action Item 3 .**
 5. **Christmas Eve Service Times:** Typically we have offered 4 services on Christmas Eve (two with communion) at 1:30 pm, 3:30 pm, 5:30 pm, and 11:00 pm. Our 3:30 and 5:30 services have the highest attendance and the 11:00 pm has the lowest. The Executive Committee had recommended that the 11:00 pm service be changed to 8:30 pm and that communion be served at all four services. **See Action Item 4.**
 6. **Native Land Acknowledgement:** Tabled for December meeting due to Pastor Nikoli’s absence.
 7. **Child Abuse Prevention Policy Check-out Procedures:** This topic was revisited and referred back to the CYF committee for further review. The council would like the committee to determine what Trinity’s liability would be if the policy was changed to include an “opt-out” waiver. This information (along with the proposed amendment(s) to the Child and Youth Abuse Prevention Policy and Procedure) should be presented to the Executive Committee for their recommendation to Church Council.
8. **Committee Reports**
 - Property Committee: They have a quote of \$2,800 that they would like to accept for getting the 3 pendant lights in the sanctuary working. **See Action Item 5.** They just received a quote for installing an exhaust fan in the fellowship hall. They will be working on the building use study in January. They are having trouble finding a contractor to remove snow on the sidewalks and driveways.
 - Community Life: They are putting together Christmas Gift bags for homebound members. They are still checking into caroling.
 - Children, Youth and Family: Working on fundraising for the 4 youth who are going on summer trips. Requested dates of 11/14/21-12/05/2021 and 01/30/2022-2/27/2022 for the annual Wall of Giving fundraiser. Having fundraisers on Commitment Sunday is not allowed therefore they will need to change the first run of dates to avoid November 21, 2021. The second run of dates is approved. Frolic has not been well attended therefore they are going to reduce the sessions to quarterly instead of monthly. The next session will be in January 2022.
 - Worship, Music and Arts: They will be coordinating the Poinsettia Garden this year. They recommend that the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve worship service be moved to 9:30 pm. **See Action Item 4.**
 - Mission: They are giving the remainder of the Foreign and Domestic Mission Endowment Spendable funds to St. Peter Area Ministerium and Union Street Place.
 - Adult Education: Darrell Jodock and William Nelsen will be leading some adult forum sessions on the topic of their newly published book. *Embracing Diversity: Faith, Vocation, and the Promise of America.*
 - Stewardship: The letters just went out about the commitment campaign. In lieu of providing a congregational meal this year they have decided to donate \$500 to Union Street Place on behalf of TLC.

9. **Agenda request:** Mark B. requested that the requirement of wearing masks inside the church building be revisited at the December meeting.

B. Actions Taken:

1. **Motion M/S/P to approve the minutes of the October Council meeting.**
2. **Motion M/S/P to approve the endowment request for giving \$1,000 to the Mekane Yesus Seminary of Ethiopia. Funds to be taken from the General Endowment Fund Spendables.**
3. **Motion M/S/P to designate mid-week Advent offerings (split 3 ways) to Connections Shelter, St. Peter Area Ministerium, and Habitat for Humanity.**
4. **Motion M/S/P to change the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Service to 9:00 pm and to serve communion at all four services.**
5. **Motion M/S/P to accept the contract for replacement of the 3 pendant lights in the sanctuary.**

C. Responsibilities Assigned: none

D. Next meeting: December 14, at 6:30 pm

30-60-90

November

- 14 Commitment Sunday
- 25-26 Holiday-Offices Closed
No youth activities
- 26 Hanging of the Greens
- 28 First Sunday in Advent

December

- 1 First Wednesday in Advent
- 5 New Member Sunday
- 12 Sunday School Christmas Program
- 24 Christmas Eve Worship Services

January

- 23 WELCA Thankoffering Service