

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**Church Council Meeting Minutes – August 9, 2022**  
**Reporting: Rita Gibbs**

**Present:** Sarah Nelson, Cathy Carlson, Bob Broeder, Kayla Siewert, Meredith Young, Rita Gibbs, Jeff Feder, Alie Hermanson, Nancy Kruger, Jim Timmerman, Pastor Joy Ekstedt, Pastor Nikcoli Falenschek

**Absent:** None

**Devotions:** Jim Timmerman

**A. Business Discussed:**

**1. Pastor Joy's Report**

- Pastoral care – had the last two sessions with a couple preparing for marriage. Their wedding will take place August 7 following worship. Also, had visits with members.
- Met with the family of Ann Maland and led her funeral after worship July 31.
- Led SPAM (St. Peter Area Ministerial) devotions 2 of the 4 Thursdays at care facilities.
- Led Holy Communion service and devotions at Benedictine Court.
- Met with Finance Committee and Exec Committee (other committees didn't meet)
- Considering Appreciative Inquiry process for re-engaging member.
- It was great to have our missionary, Pastor Philip Knutson, present with us at worship July 10.
- Looking forward to being at *What Would Archie Bunker Do?* the evening of Sunday, August 7. (I used a clip from this show when I led earlier studies and it provided great teachable moments).
- Will be leading Trinity's WELCA Summer Bible study.
- Will arrange exit interview with Kristie.
- Will be on vacation after worship August 14 and will return to the office August 23 (week 4 of my allowed 6 weeks of vacation).

**2. Pastor Nikoli's Report**

- **Kristie:** A lot of my time lately has focused on the upcoming transition with Kristie leaving – with her gone, I'll be leaning more heavily on our committees and volunteers to ease over the hump and will need our other staff to step up in a couple of areas, as well. I'm obviously heartbroken to see her go – she has been an amazing colleague, leader, mentor, and administrator this last year and a half – but I am also excited for what's coming her way. Tomorrow (8/3) we'll be sending her off officially at the summer's penultimate bonfire service. I've crafted a service that features some of her favorite campy songs, and we'll be baking our own Communion bread. We've also a brief liturgical order to ritualize her sendoff. Everyone is invited!
- **Joint Youth Group:** We will continue to build up our combined youth group time with First Lutheran and Union Presbyterian this year. We already have our schedule set for the coming year. We will continue to meet on the first Wednesdays of the month (beginning in October) and are planning a joint lock-in night and even a brief retreat to the local Presbyterian camp.
- **Confirmation:** After years of tumultuous upheaval, I'm excited to settle back into our "usual" Confirmation schedule. We were relatively back to normal last year, but we'll be reintroducing more regular learning/service nights with (hopefully) field trips to the funeral home, Gustavus, etc. Kristie and I are also considering ways to engage our Confirmation students and families more regularly at Wednesday night worship. We are recruiting volunteers in earnest, so please spread the word!
- **Sunday School:** Sunday School looks like it's going to be great this year, despite some weird scheduling things with the school system. We are recruiting volunteers in earnest, so please spread the word!
- **Frolic:** I'm currently developing a flyer with a weblink to add to our baptismal bundles to get our youngest families hooked up with this wonderful service. Also, we'll be continuing to chat at CYF Committee about how to engage these young families.

- **Social Media:** Kristie had taken on social media engagement as one of her areas of expertise while she served Trinity. Together, she and I planned out a transitory process whereby we can train Kristen in on these services and hand off that responsibility back to her.
- **September 11:** When the high schoolers returned from Puerto Rico, they shared about their trip during the GWOH worship service. We'd like to do something similar this year by asking our Rapid City and Christikon students to lead worship on September 11 (GWOH) and share about their trips.
- **Volunteer Engagement:** Kristie has drafted a proposal to more consistently engage and thank our CYF volunteers, which I'm hoping the CYF Committee can help implement. We hope that this structure can provide more regular relationship building and contact with our families and volunteers.
- **Continuing Education:** I will be engaged in another Colledgeville Institute event beginning the afternoon of August 14 and will return in the evening on August 16.

### 3. Treasurer's Report

- No report available at this time.
- It was noted that offerings are down from last year at this time by about \$31,000.
- It was noted that Trinity did receive about \$71,000 from the Federal government's program for Employee Retention. This is a one-time grant.

### 4. Finance Committee Report

- The Endowment Committee Report to Council through June 30, 2022 was presented for review.
- The Endowment Committee awarded the Fern Martinson Scholarship to previous recipients, Paige Meyer and Lily Elofson. The \$1000 award will be split equally between them.

### 5. Endowment Request

- Pastor Nikoli presented a request to use Endowment funds for curriculum materials for Sunday School, Confirmation, Fourth Grade Bibles, Kindergarten Bibles and miscellaneous supplies totaling \$1,640.65.  
**See Action Item 3.**

### 6. Number of church services

- There was discussion about the number of church services starting after Rally Sunday. It was suggested that there would be one Sunday service and the Wednesday evening service. Coffee time would be after the Sunday service. Sunday School and Adult Education would be at 10:15 on Sundays. **See Action Item 4.**

### 7. Committee Reports

- Property Committee: Due to a lack of funds, they are postponing any major building projects. They discussed looking for volunteers to help with weeding and such.
- Community Life: They looking to regroup in the fall.
- Children, Youth and Family: They are working on the Sunday School schedule and meeting with volunteers. Senior high will be doing a mission trip to Denver. Junior high will be going to Christikon. Kristie provided them with possible re-engagement plan. They will be sending out a survey for Vacation Bible School to change dates possibly.
- Worship, Music and Arts: They will be working with the new service schedule starting in September. Inquired about funds to fix art, glass broken on frame. Requested Council review policy for funerals and weddings.
- Mission: God's Work Our Hands (GWOH) will be Sunday, September 11 beginning after church service until noon. There will be several projects including helping with quilts, rolling bandages, cleaning at St. Peter Area Food shelf, roadside clean-up, making cookies for first responders.
- Adult Education: They will start a new schedule September 18 for Adult Education. They will work up a master calendar to support other committees in their focus.
- Stewardship: The Time and Talent sheets will be going out soon. November 13 is commitment Sunday and there will be a meal to thank everyone.

B. Responsibilities Assigned:

- Sarah will assign small group to clarify steps used to determine winner of Fern Martinson Scholarship for future. This should be set up to verify actions needed to be taken to assure the Endowment funds are being used according to the specified guidelines.
- Council will review one Trinity policy each meeting, one per month, to make sure they are current. Pastor Joy will send out first policy to review prior to next month's meeting.

C. Actions Taken:

1. **Motion M/S/P to approve the agenda for the August Council meeting.**
2. **Motion M/S/P to approve the minutes of the July Council meeting.**
3. **Motion M/S/P to approve the request for Endowment Funds for curriculum material. The money will come from the Children Youth Family Endowment Fund and the Confirmation Bible Endowment Fund.**
4. **Motion M/S/P to approve schedule of services for the upcoming school year as follows: Sunday service at 9:00; coffee time follows service; 10:15 Sunday School and Adult Education time; Wednesday evening service.**

C. **Next meeting:** Tuesday, September 13, 2022, at 6:30 pm