

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grow Faith, Serve God, Love Others

Council Minutes

September 30, 2020

Welcome by President Brian McNeill at 7:01 pm. Members present via Zoom were Jason Anderson, Jason Heinzig, Adam Kolander, Toni Lindstrom, Diane Schuerman, Laura Hulterstum, Jodee Erickson, and Becky Woitte. Also present were Pastor Art and Treasurer Bill Hoberg.

Devotions by Pastor Art on wisdom from the letter to Colossians, the first chapter, starting with Verse 9. He related it to Covid-19, the increase in cases, and how schools are responding.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Art made 12 parish visits by phone, computer or in-person plus had many text messages and email conversations. There were no hospital visits, teaching sessions, counseling sessions or baptisms. Pastor officiated for one wedding and two funerals/burials held at cemeteries. Pastor Art led four Sunday worship services by Zoom with all four being posted on Facebook and recorded for the radio broadcast. Our radio broadcasts are funded through October 11. Pastor Art had one day of continuing education and took no sick leave or vacation. Our first simultaneous in-person and Zoom experimental service was a great idea and helped us identify any glitches. There was one small step that was missed causing the Zoom service and recording to not work properly. Attendance for in-person was 15; 28 on-line for Zoom, and 23 for drive-through communion after services. Pastor Art is covering emergencies and funerals/burials for Pastor Zane of Our Redeemer's who is one of several area ELCA pastors with Covid-19. Pastor Art has one funeral for an Our Redeemer's member this coming Friday which will be held at the cemetery. Rice Hospice, including our Benson satellite office, has been chosen to conduct an Alpha Test in the development of a new reporting system for hospice patients. This has necessitated Pastor Art doing approximately one day of continuing education to learn the testing and reporting procedures. It will not add substantially to his work for hospice in the future.

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Reports:

Secretary Becky Woitte. The September minutes were reviewed and approved by email.

Financial Secretary Pam Anderson. Motion by Becky to approve. Second by Toni. Motion carried.

Treasurer Bill Hoberg. September income was \$7,609.10. Expenses through September 20 were \$10,175.83. Checking account balance is \$21,913.66. Motion by Diane to approve. Second by Jodee. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Board of Education and Youth. Two Sunday School sessions were done by Superintendent Jamie Moe with reading also by Julie McNeill. The information is shared with Sunday School families. Question was asked if it should be shared with all the congregation or just the Sunday school families. It was also mentioned to put it on Facebook. The committee will discuss it further.

Outreach and Community Relations/B.A.C.K. Program. Did not meet.

Property and Grounds. There is an issue with front glass door locking and unlocking. WD-40 worked last time when we had a problem. Both doors have to align in order for the doors to lock properly. It was suggested that we have a toolbox for church. Jason A.

has put together a list of the basic, necessary tools. Diane Schuerman will pay for the tools as a memorial for David's birthday. Jason A. asked who maintains the softener salt and if we want the property and grounds committee to take care of it. Darrell Davidson and Ron Woitte filled the softener the last time. It was suggested that the janitor check the softener every month or so and when it is low to contact Bill Hoberg. The west door on the south storage room does not open or lock well. Small trees are growing in the gutter above the Sunday School rooms. It was suggested that Jason contact someone with a boom truck, i.e. ALT or the fire department.

Stewardship and Finance. Did not meet.

Worship and Music. The committee discussed the synod information on hymn copyrights. They purchased an additional copyright license to be able to use all of our hymns. Many of the background slides we used previously were removed because of copyright and have taken our own pictures for backgrounds. With the camera and two computers running in the balcony for live and Zoom services, it would be helpful to have three volunteers each Sunday. The committee wonders if live music from three to four choir members singing in the balcony is feasible. The committee recommends sending digital monthly newsletters. The committee also recommends the church secretary send weekly email announcements/reminders. Shelly Mikkelson is willing to help Pam organize. The committee meets again on October 1 at 6 pm.

Shout Out to Carolyn and Laura Rear for weeding around the church and cleaning the altar area in preparation for communion and to the People-in-the-Pews Committee consisting of Brian McNeill, Diane Schuerman, Adam Kolander, Becky Woitte, and Pastor Art.

Sunshine Shout Out to all of our teachers, Julie McNeill, Julie Carroll, Chad Carroll, Laura Hulterstrum, Emily Ascheman, Christopher Giese, Lynn Lundebrek, Anne Duncan, Brock Duncan, Shelly Mikkelson, Jamie Moe, Mark Grussing, Angie Marohl, Amanda Halvorson, Renee Helgense, Barb Schwarz, Stacy Lindahl, Roger Lindahl, and Aaron Lindahl.

Old Business:

-People-in-the-Pews Plan. The committee updated the council on the September 20 worship in church. A big Thank You to Pastor Art and Brenda for all the work they did with the first service. We recommend resuming in-person services on October 4. We will only need two ushers each service. Motion by Laura with a second by Jason A. to continue offering in-person church services and Zoom starting October 4 with communion and drive-by communion after services. Motion carried.

-Emergency Fund. Members/Organizations who may need assistance. None identified at this time. It was noted that the Prairie V food giveaway is scheduled for October 27 and is free to all Swift County residents with no questions asked. They may be looking for volunteers to help distribute food.

New Business:

-Digital Newsletters and paper for those who request them. Becky made the motion to start digital newsletters with the January newsletter for all the members with email addresses. Second by Adam. Motion carried. Pam can start sending digital newsletters now along with the mailed ones. Members should notify the church office before January 1 if they still wish to continue to receive mailed newsletters.

-Church Secretary send out weekly group emails with announcements/reminders. The Music and Worship Committee will help Pam so that emails can be sent out each Friday.

Diane made a motion to have Pam do this as soon as it can be arranged. Second by Laura. Motion carried.

-Compensate Brenda and Shelly for all the work they've done. Motion by Becky to pay them each \$200 with a second by Adam. Motion carried.

-Donate to Benson High School grand piano fund. We have \$1,500 left in commitment and \$13,123.11 in the local community outreach fund. Laura made a motion to donate \$1,500 with a second by Diane. Motion carried.

-Approve new members: Elsie Marie from Faith Lutheran Church, Madison, MN; Melissa Brehmer-Hamblin, Blake and Imani Brehmer and Bennett and Isaiah Hamblin from St. Mark's Lutheran, Benson, MN. Motion by Jason A. with a second by Jodee. Motion carried. We will have a new member Sunday later.

Announcements: The November newsletter articles are due on October 19. Email agenda items to Becky by October 25. Our next council meeting is November 4, 2020 at 7 pm.

Adjourned at 8:18 pm by President Brian.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Woitte, Council Secretary