

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grow Faith, Serve God, Love Others

COUNCIL AGENDA

November 4, 2020; 7 pm

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

Devotions. We watched a video on the change in how the SW MN Synod election for a new bishop will be done this year. What vision do we have for the future of the SW MN Synod and for our church?

Pastor's Report. Pastor Art made 33 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, funerals, weddings, or baptisms. Pastor Art led five Sunday worship services in person and by Zoom with all five being posted on Facebook and recorded for radio broadcast. Our radio broadcasts are funded through January 24, 2021. Pastor Art had a half day of continuing education. He took a half day of vacation and no sick leave. Attendance for in-person worship averaged 10-12, estimate about 40 attending by Zoom, and eight to 10 for drive-through communion after services. There are two scheduled baptisms (November 8 and December 6). Confirmation is scheduled for November 22 for three confirmands who have been waiting since last May. There will be an informational meeting on November 10 from 7 to 8 pm on the new process in place for electing the next bishop of the SW MN Synod. In-person confirmation has been going well. The youth wear their masks and social distance.

Additions to the Agenda. None

Reports:

Secretary Becky Woitte. The September 30 minutes were reviewed and approved by email.

Financial Secretary Pam Anderson. Motion by Laura to approve with a second by Toni. Motion carried.

Treasurer Bill Hoberg. Envelope giving was \$9,001.80; total giving with transfers was \$12,696.47. Total expenses were \$14,461.74. The balance on hand is \$20,148.39. Motion by Diane to approve with a second by Adam. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Board of Education and Youth. The committee agreed that we are not ready for in-person Sunday School and will continue emailing the lessons through December. The committee will revisit this in January. The lessons will also be available for members of the congregation who request them. ROCK had 10 students who attended. Sunday School Superintendent Jamie Moe announced in the last SS email that there will not be a Sunday School Christmas program this year.

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

Property and Grounds. The parsonage furnace needed service. Cost was \$59. Thank you to Darrell and Carol Davidson who repaired the south steel door so that it opens and closes properly. The bell part on one of our candle extinguishers broke off. We will use the other ones we have. There is tree trimming that needs to be done at the parsonage. One broken branch is hanging over the driveway. Brian gave Jason additional ideas for the toolbox.

Stewardship and Finance. The committee received a request from Green Lake Lutheran Ministries for a donation. In their letter, they noted that we had already given them \$500 this year. The Bible camps have operated with no income for this year. Tabled until next month.

We also received a request from Southwestern MN Synod for Gifts of Grace; no specific dollar amount was requested. The request letter stated that donations will enable congregations to be well positioned to address the changing needs of ministry in our area. The Gifts of Grace is for debt reduction for pastors

new to ministry; to increase the retirement funds for pastors who had not kept up with pension payments; and, for emergency medical expenses for pastors who were hit with unforeseen medical expenses. The Lily Foundation gives \$250,000 to the Gifts of Grace and the Synod needs to match it. Tabled until next month.

Worship and Music. The committee met on October 1 and 29. The committee suggested that Pam develop a master copy of the copyright information for all hymns to save her the time of looking up the same hymns. We need volunteers for lector, Zoom greeters, camera operators, and lectors every Sunday. The committee will purchase a booster for internet service in the balcony and front of the church. Shelly and Marlene will help Pam develop a template for sending out weekly emails. The committee discussed weekly drive-by communion during cold weather and suggested Pastor Art cutback on the number of Sundays it is offered. The committee recommended minimal decorations for Thanksgiving and only the Advent wreath and nativity for Christmas. The committee recommended Zoom only service for Thanksgiving service. The committee will discuss Christmas services based on current COVID numbers.

Shout Out to Slide makers-Brenda Wiese, Marlene Giese and Becky Woitte; Musicians-Miriam Lindblad, Lorri Pederson, and Shelly Mikkelson; Special Music-Emmie Grussing, Shelly Mikkelson and Candice Sowers.

Sunshine Shout Out to Marlys and Mick Boone; Krysta Connolly, and Irene Heinzig.

Old Business:

-Committee update on People-in-the-Pews Plan. We will remove coat hangers to help avoid the spread of germs. We will put up additional signs to remind people there is no gathering in the narthex before or after church.

-Emergency Fund. Members/Organizations who may need assistance. There was a fire in Becky Huston's home. Through e-mail on 10-7-2020 a motion to provide Becky Huston with \$500 from the Local Community and Outreach Fund was made by Toni with a second by Jodee. Motion carried. Motion by Diane to give \$500 each to Krysta Connolly and to Karn Brandt for expenses associated with taking care of the siblings of Blakely Koenig with a second by Toni. Motion carried. Money will be taken from the Community Outreach Local fund.

New Business:

-The furnaces at church have not been serviced for 10 years; just the heat pumps. Jason will contact Craig's to do this.

-There is a COVID air purifier system available for the church. Jason will talk with Craig's about this and discuss at our next meeting.

-Continuing in-person services with the low numbers. Pastor gave his feedback about how he misses visiting with people at the in-person services versus visiting on Zoom. Motion by Becky that Thanksgiving service be Zoom only with a second by Laura. Motion carried.

Announcements: The December newsletter articles are due on November 16. Email agenda items to Becky by November 22. The next council meeting is December 2, 2020 at 7 pm.

Adjourned by President Brian at 8:24 pm.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca Woitte, Council Secretary