

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Grow Faith, Serve God, Love Others

Council Minutes

December 2, 2020

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

Devotions by Pastor Art. He shared a presentation on Christmas, Christ and COVID by Eric D. Barreto.

Pastor's Report. Pastor Art made 24 parish visits by phone, computer or in-person plus had many text messages and email conversations. He had two hospital visits by phone. Pastor Art confirmed three students individually on 11-22-2020. Pastor Art held one teaching session, one baptism, and two on-line confirmation classes. There were no weddings, or counseling sessions. Pastor officiated for one funeral/burial held at the Benson City Cemetery. Pastor Art led two Sunday worship services in-person and on Zoom simultaneously; and, two Sundays and one midweek service on Zoom only. Four services were broadcast on the radio and five services posted on Facebook. Pastor Art had a half day of continuing education and took no sick leave or vacation. Pastor Art will be conducting two baptisms with family only. Brenda will videotape them for broadcast on Zoom the following Sunday. Pastor Art would like to take the week between Christmas and New Year's Day as vacation. The Council was in agreement on Pastor Art taking the vacation. He will be present for worship but will use a sermon prepared by Pastor Grady St. Dennis of Gustavus Adolphus College. There is no cost to the church for use of this sermon.

Additions to the Agenda: None.

Reports:

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

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

Treasurer Bill Hoberg. November envelope giving was \$8,744.70. Total income with memorial, loose offering and transfer was \$10,004.70. Total expenses were \$11,508.46. Checking account balance is \$18,644.63. Bill filled out the paperwork at First Security Bank for the Paycheck Protection Program loan to be forgiven. Motion by Jason A. to approve with second by Jodee. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

Board of Education and Youth. Did not meet. Committee has emailed back and forth. Superintendent Jamie Moe will continue what she is doing with the Sunday School.

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

Property and Grounds. Thank you to Rick Hoffman for cleaning up brush and fallen down tree limbs around the parsonage. Jason A. purchased tools and a toolbox for the church with memorial money from Diane Schuerman in memory of David Schuerman. Jason will mark the tools with "TLC". There is approximately \$60 left for additional

purchases. Craig's has been contacted for servicing the furnaces. One of our furnaces may not be working as there is a odor coming from it. Craig's has a couple of options on COVID filters. Fascia still needs to be put up on the north side of the church. Jason A. hasn't done a lot of research on pricing of the fascia.

Stewardship and Finance. The committee started the budget process for 2021 and will continue to meet.

Worship and Music. The committee met on December 1. The recommendation of the committee is that on-line Zoom services only continue through the end of December. The committee wants to continue with the council-approved digital newsletters only and paper to those who request it or have no email starting in January. The committee compared the cost of bulk mailing to the cost of copy machine rental based on the number of copies run off, toner, and 8½ x 14 sheets of paper. From what was determined, the cost is very close to the same as continuing with bulk mailing of the newsletter to everyone. The church secretary is having an issue with emails being "bounced back". The committee will research the issue and look at possibly changing the church email account to a Gmail one if our current account does not work properly. In checking with Backstreet Media, the issue may be including too many email addresses in one email. The committee is asking for volunteers to videotape themselves or a family member reading the Christmas story and singing hymns for a service. The committee prepared their yearly report for the annual meeting. The Council agreed with their previous motion to have digital only newsletters starting in January. Newsletters will be mailed to those with no email or who wish to receive them.

Shout Out - Special music from Shelly Mikkelson and Candyce Sowers for their two piano duets, Shelly Mikkelson for her solo, and Peggy Cameron for her solo; Jamie Moe for her work with the Sunday School.

Sunshine Shout Out – Our healthcare workers: Monica Olson, Liane Grussing, Sue Egenes, Holly Kolander, Adam Kolander, Kelly Michaelson, Miriam Lindblad, Kathy Tweten, Alisha Molden, Lindsay Nichols, Laura Ascherman, Kurt Flegel, Ann Aeikens, Janet Hoffman, Brenda Goldenstein, Logan Flegel, Kayla Rogers, Rebecca Girard, Monica Lindblad, and Melissa Brehmer-Hamblin..

Old Business:

-Committee update on People-in-the-Pews Plan. The committee recommended no in-person worship from November 22 to December 7. Becky made a motion via email to all council members for Zoom only worship November 22 through December 7 with a second by Jodee. Motion carried by e-mail vote on November 17. Motion by Laura to have Zoom only services through January 3, 2021 with a second by Becky. Motion carried.

-Members/Organizations who may need assistance. None known.

-COVID filters for church furnaces. Discussion on Respicair Ion Plasma System. One unit would be installed on each furnace at church. Each unit is \$200. The filters not only kill COVID but also allergens, hay fever, pollens, etc. Motion by Becky to purchase the units with the money from the general fund with a second by Toni. Jason A. asked about testimonials on the product. None known. Jodee said the informational sheet shows that it has a five-year limited warranty. Motion carried.

-Request from Green Lake Lutheran Ministries for a donation. Toni made a motion that we allocate \$500 for them in January after the annual meeting with a second by Becky. Motion carried.

-Request from Southwestern MN Synod for Gifts of Grace. It will be brought up at the Finance and Stewardship meeting for their 2021 budget discussion.

New Business:

-Merlin Simonson, expenses incurred from cancer treatments. Motion by Toni to give \$200 to Merlin Simonson from Community Outreach Local Fund with a second by Diane. Motion carried.

-Christmas present ideas for Team Promise families. There are nine families. Diane made a motion that \$100 be given to each family from Benson Bucks or individual Benson businesses to be taken out of the Team Promise account with a second by Adam. Motion carried.

-Adjustment to Pastor Art's housing allowance. Per the IRS, Pastor Art's housing allowance needs to be designated every December. In 2020, the amount was \$28,500. Pastor Art is requesting it be raised to \$29,000 for 2021. Motion by Becky to increase the housing to \$29,000 for 2021 with second by Laura. Motion carried.

-Annual meeting – Hybrid, In-Person, or Online only. Discussion. This will be tabled for a final decision at our January council meeting.

-Pay Shelly Mikkelson \$200 monthly for her musical contribution until church is resumed with no restrictions. Motion by Becky to start in November to pay Shelly \$200 a month with a second by Toni. Motion carried.

Informational: Nominating Committee members are Craig Lindblad, Alonah Kellner, and Pat Hagen. Auditing Committee are Janet Hoffman, Kathy Johnson, and Steve Sanders.

Announcements: January Newsletter articles are due on December 14. Email agenda items to Becky by December 27. Our next council meeting is January 6, 2021 at 7 pm. Committee reports for the year are due December 28. Our annual meeting is Sunday, January 17, 2021 at 10 am.

Adjourned by President Brian at 8:28 pm.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebecca Woitte, Council Secretary