

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Grow Faith, Serve God, Love Others*

## COUNCIL MINUTES

January 6, 2021

**Welcome** by President Brian McNeill at 7 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 on Matthew, Chapter 2, on the wisemen coming to visit Jesus. King Herod was not a good leader and didn't like the idea that a new king had arrived on the scene to take his place. He used the subterfuge of sending the wisemen to find out when the birth of Jesus would take place. King Herod hoped that the wisemen would come back to him and tell them where Jesus was, but the wisemen did not return. Pastor Art compared this to our world today. Chaos is a part of the world's makeup and strange things happen. There is still hope for us just as there was hope in the time of Jesus' birth.

**Pastor's Report.** Pastor Art made 16 parish visits by phone, computer or in-person plus had many text messages and email conversations. Pastor Art held two baptisms in December and one on January 2. He led three in-person confirmation classes. There were no weddings, funerals, or counseling sessions. Pastor Art led five Sunday and one mid-week Zoom worship services with five radio broadcasts and six services posted on Facebook. Pastor Art had no continuing education or sick leave and took six days of vacation. The SWMN Synod is planning an all-online assembly to be held on two successive weekends (June 4-5 and 11-12). Because we will be electing the first new bishop for our synod in 18 years, this will allow for the nominating and first elimination ballots to take place the first weekend, time to collect information, video speeches and plan further voting with the final eliminating ballots on the second weekend. Pastor Art reminded us that we, as a congregation, can nominate a candidate and any of us, as individuals, can also nominate a candidate. We have enough money for radio broadcasts until the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of January.

**Additions to the Agenda.** Lightweight vacuum cleaner for the janitor.

### Reports:

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

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

**Treasurer Bill Hoberg.** December income was \$25,952.30 and expenses were \$11,663.45. Checking account balance as of 12-31-2020 was \$30,308.08. Motion to approve by Laura with second by Diane. Motion carried.

### Committee Reports:

**Board of Education and Youth.** Did not meet. Sunday School Superintendent Jamie Moe will wait and see what the council decides about the return to church before making a decision on in-person Sunday School.

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

**Property and Grounds.** The committee has been doing a little maintenance around the church. The problem with mice is being addressed. Craig's installed the COVID air devices on the furnaces. While they were doing that, they discovered something not working on one of the furnaces which was fixed.

**Stewardship and Finance.** The committee prepared the 2021 budget.

**Worship and Music.** The committee met on January 5. The committee will work with the church secretary to obtain the remaining email addresses of members. The committee is recommending Zoom only worship until Ash Wednesday, February 17. When church resumes in-person again, the committee recommends a church council member be present for every service to sign people in and instruct immediate seating per the adopted guidelines. The committee is recommending drive-by communion on a Wednesday before confirmation, i.e., 3 pm start time.

The Council discussed the COVID vaccine rollout; the number of active COVID cases in our area; what time to have drive-by communion; members attending other churches that are holding in-person services; natural immunity to the COVID virus; the annual meeting; and, volunteers to help with sign-in, Zoom greeters, and to run the camera and computer. Motion by Toni to start in-person services on February 17 with a second by Becky. President Brian called for a vote. Yays – 7; Nays – 1. Motion carried. We will start weekly announcements asking for volunteers for the sign-in table, camera operators, etc. so we are set when church resumes in-person on February 17.

**Shout Out** – Outgoing council members Jason Anderson, Laura Hulterstrum and Becky Woitte. Becky Woitte for 11 years of making baptismal cloths and quilt labels.

**Old Business:**

-Committee update on People-in-the-Pews Plan. Discussed under Worship and Music Committee.

-Annual Meeting – In-Person, Hybrid or Online only. The annual meeting will be Zoom only. President Brian had a sample ballot for us to vote immediately on-line. The ballot system also works for voting by cell phone. The ballot goes into a tally for the Zoom host to see and then share. We practiced voting a few times. We discussed how people will vote who do not have a smart cell phone and voting by landline phone. President Brian will prepare a list of instructions and see that it is distributed to our members.

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

-Request from Southwestern MN Synod for Gifts of Grace. Diane made a motion that we give them a \$1,000 donation with a second by Becky. Motion carried.

**New Business:**

-Approve 2021 annual meeting agenda, budget, slate of officers, and resolutions. Motion by Becky to approve the draft 2021 budget to present to the congregation with a second by Laura. Motion carried.

-Lightweight vacuum cleaner for the janitor. Motion by Becky to have the janitor purchase a vacuum cleaner locally that she likes with a second by Toni. Motion carried.

**Announcements:** The Annual meeting is January 17, 2021 at 10 am. There will be a special council meeting after the annual meeting to elect officers. February Newsletter articles are due on January 18. The next council meeting is February 3, 2021 at 7 pm. President Brian thanked Laura for her two terms on council and Becky for her one term and secretarial work.

**Adjourned** by President Brian at 8:19 pm.

**Closed with the Lord's Prayer.**

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Rebecca Woitte, Council Secretary*

