

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Minutes – January 5, 2022

Grow Faith, Serve God, Love Others

Welcome by President Brian at 7:00 PM. Members present, in-person, were Diane Schuerman, Jason Heinzig and Maureen Erdman with Adam Kolander, Jason Anderson, Toni Lindstrom and Jodee Erickson via Zoom. Also present, in-person, were Bill Hoberg and Pastor Dale. Absent was Robert Neuman.

Devotions by Pastor Dale were from 1 Corinthians. Tomorrow, January 6, is Epiphany when the wise men went to see Jesus. They were Gentiles, not Jews, and were searching for their king, as we are today. How did they know where to find Him? They were the first people to look for Jesus saying this is my Savior, too. Christ came to the world for all of us. It is knowing God's word that leads us to God. We have to pray and listen. We have to be fully present. Then we will have a better understanding of where we need to go.

Pastor's Report – Pastor Dale held a "Blue Christmas" service. Advent and Christmas services were planned and looking ahead to Epiphany season. He is looking at different ways of recording of services. He is used to Facebook live which worked well for him. Recordings of whole services make a huge file that is difficult to work with and time consuming. Do we need to do the entire service? If not, what parts should be recorded and what parts can be left out? Lots of questions yet, but important. Pastor Dale was trained on the movie room equipment. He will be showing Luther (produced by Thrivent in 2003) for confirmation. He held confirmation classes. There was one funeral and one baptism. He took vacation during the Christmas/New Year Holiday. Pastor Dale's goals/events for the near future: Getting Epiphany planned, looking at beginning sung liturgy, looking ahead to Lent (Ash Wednesday is March 2) and visit/ call more people this month. A reminder: Donald Young (Gideon) will be here at Trinity on January 23. Pastor Dale requested to change his day off from Mondays to Fridays through February.

Reports:

Secretary Jodee Erickson – The December minutes were reviewed and approved by email.

Financial Secretary Pam Anderson – Motion by Maureen to approve with second by Jason H. Motion carried.

Treasurer Bill Hoberg – December total income was \$20,618.50 and total expense was \$17,004.80. Checking account balance as of December 31, 2021 was \$36,398.10. Motion made by Diane to approve with second by Maureen.

Committee Reports:

Board of Education and Youth – Did not meet. Jamie sent out a revised schedule by e-mail to Sunday School families and committee members for the remainder of the school year.

Outreach and Community Relations (B.A.C.K. pack program) – Did not meet.

Property and Grounds – The garage door opener at the parsonage has been replaced. The floor drains at the parsonage have been worked on by Hawley's. The two sump pumps go to the same drain and could be a problem if both were running at the same time. The two items that are outstanding are the installation of the thermostats at church and the church plumbing vents that need to be routed to the outside. It would be best to wait until spring to install the vents. The outside east door going into the fellowship hall needs to be repaired as snow is blowing in under the door.

Stewardship and Finance – Did not meet.

Worship and Music – The first item is what are the council's wishes on recording of services. A different liturgy will be used beginning January 16. The committee is appreciative of the money given to update the software for doing slides. Laura R did a slide presentation on her own for the family at a recent funeral. In the future the committee was thinking it might be something that others may want done. Should there be a fee set for this? The service was also recorded for the family as a family member could not attend. The standard for recording needs to be addressed. There is a universal music license available. What does this cover? The committee asked why so many bulletins need to be printed when all the information is on the screen. Would it be a savings to cut back on the number printed and just do a few for those who aren't able to see the screen well? The subject of compensation for doing slides for services was brought up. Many hours go in to the making of slides plus running the computer during services. It was suggested that compensation could be similar to what the organists receive each Sunday. Currently there are four people who do this work. Each person does a month at a time. The committee felt that the current website needs to be updated. Currently Backstreet Media hosts and updates it when needed. For Wednesday Lenten services, there will probably not be slides done.

The council considered each topic. No decisions were made at this time, but more thought and research will be done.

Call Committee – The committee will be meeting with Pastor Dale on January 10 at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall.

Discussions – The expense of offering envelopes has continued to rise. There was a discussion on ways to lower the cost. Currently, we have received 170 envelope boxes at \$4.00 totaling \$680.00. This amounts to 6.7 cents per envelope. Backstreet Printing could provide regular printed envelopes at 15 cents each. The system used to record the offering now is by a number printed on the envelope assigned to each family. The other concern is the number of boxes which are never picked up and eventually thrown away. Of the boxes picked up, some people may prefer writing a check once a month. Pastor will discuss this with Pam and see what she thinks would work best for recording the offering.

Old Business – Bill has been working on updating the endowment numbers.

New Business – A Personnel Committee will be established this year. The members of the committee could possibly be the Council President, Vice President and Secretary. The purpose of the committee will be to meet quarterly to check with Pastor and the office secretary to discuss how things are going.

Staff needs to be able to talk things over in confidence, whether things are going well or not going well. This was thought to be a good idea. Brian will implement this at the beginning of this year.

Annual meeting – The agenda, ballot, 2022 budget and resolutions were reviewed with corrections and additions where needed.

Updates – Committees have been taken off the list for serving coffee after church services on Sundays. The youth will continue to serve coffee as they have in the past.

Announcements – Annual meeting is Sunday, January 16 following services. Special council meeting will follow the annual meeting to elect officers. February newsletter articles are due January 17. The next Church Council meeting is February 2, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Adjourned by President Brian at 8:30 PM

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Jodee Erickson, Council Secretary