

TRINITY LUTHERAN CONGREGATION COUNCIL

February 14, 2024 • 8 p.m.

OPENING BUSINESS:

The Trinity Lutheran Congregation Council meeting was called to order by President, Kim Kapplinger at 8pm on February 14, 2024.

Pr. Elizabeth opened the meeting with a prayer.

Members Present:

Pr. Elizabeth, Betty Dokken, Kim Kapplinger, Heather Gray, Mary Zaffke, Steve Nelson, Jerald Oakes, Jacque Wennes (phone), Lori Wilhelmson, Jessie Strinmoen, Autumn Wiste, Lorilyn Dehning.

Absent: Sherri Allen, David Storlie

Kim welcomed our new council members to their first council meeting: Lorilyn Dehning, Autumn Wiste, Heather Gray, Barb Gulbranson (Jessie Strinmoen in Barb's place), and Sherri Allen (on her way home from Spain).

Election of Vice President. Mary Zaffke and Betty Dokken nominated Jerald Oakes for another year. He accepted the nomination and motion passed.

Secretary's Report for January 10, 2024 was read, edited, and approved. Jacque Wennes made a motion to approve the secretary minutes with corrections, seconded by Betty Dokken. Motion carried. (Corrected Minutes on file)

Treasurer's Report (placed on file) Lori Wilhelmson made a motion to approve the treasurer's report, seconded by Mary Zaffke. Motion carried.

Highlights:

\$6000 donation came in to the office today (Feb 14th) for general fund

\$16,000 in general fund from Elaine Nassen memorial

Christmas donations have not been added to the NASB windows balance - still separate account

Luther League received donation for \$5000 from American Legion Charitable Gambling fund for the youth trip since it is Wilmington, Black Hammer and Trinity Youth involved.

STAFF REPORTS:

Pastor Elizabeth (see attachment) Pastor Elizabeth reiterated not having a youth director is not sustainable.

Pastor Lane (see attachment)

TEAM REPORTS

Care Ministry (Autumn Wiste)

- Committee met. Autumn was a member for only one year so had training for bulk ordering. This will save funds by buying in large quantities. Currently serving 23 youth

for the Hip program every weekend. Committee has one new member. Committee would like to move HIP program to Trinity Center due to proximity of school. Will work with Gary Wilhelmson to accomplish this when supplies are at lower levels. Due to large amount of useage Autumn may reach out in future to area churches for financial assistance if needed.

Communications (Mary Zaffke)

- Have not met.

Education (Heather Gray)

- Heather hopes full group can meet in March.

Finance (Jacque Wennes)

- PTO being calculated manually on a spreadsheet for ESSR program.
- Group discussed online giving. Jacque will do an article for the newsletter.
- Venmo is being looked at but they have no reoccurring giving option.
- Looking at 2024 Congregation reporting changes for SE Synod since they are on a different fiscal year. Not on a calendar year.

Outreach (Barb Gulbranson/Jessie Strinmoen)

- Not met but Cheryl Fisch did not want to serve on team. After discussion a motion was made by Betty Dokken and seconded by Jessie Strinmoen to have Gary Wilhelmson fill the open team member position. Motion passed

Mission (David Storlie)

- Not in attendance no report

Property (Jerald Oakes)

- Has a list of repairs to prioritize. Discussed funding. Will have more at next meeting. (list attached of Proposed Maintenance)

Staffing (Betty Dokken)

- Working on ideas for ways to find new Youth Director (see below)
- Attending Career fairs in LaCrescent and at WWTC LaCrosse
- Still running radio adds with Decorah stations for Youth Director position
- Church staff evaluations have been revamped and will take place after Lenten Season - Team Members affected will be asked to help/participate. In February we extended our search for CYF Director.
- posted our CYF director advertisement on Facebook, SE MN Jobs, Houston County/Fillmore County Jobs, NE Iowa Jobs, Job Boards for Minnesota/Rochester and indeed .com posted free for 7 days.

Stewardship (Sherri Allen)

- Absent no report

Worship (Lori Wilhelmson)

- Lots going on with Lenten Season and Services
- another event in March in conjunction with Communications Team
- Planning Irish Stew and Cider....will try various out of the box thinking and events for 2024 and will see how this goes.

CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Elaine Nassen Memorial \$16,667- Memorial was previously approved by council to be directed to the Windows fund. The funding is currently in the general fund and treasurer Steve Nelson would like to see this money stay in the general fund and not be moved to windows - due to our lack of funds. After a lengthy discussion a motion was made to move the memorial money from the General fund to Special Accounts Reserve fund to pay ourselves back. This way the money is there to borrow if we need and not have to use our Line of Credit at Merchants. Motion was made by Heather Gray and seconded by Autumn Wiste. Motion passed. According to a Vanco report people are more likely to pay for a specific special project instead of general day to day operations.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Welcome Packets for team members were distributed. Mail boxes for team leaders in office.
2. Rental Agreement with school for garage at Trinity Center - after discussion it was decided to have Jacque Wennes and Jerald Oakes talk with Lee Hoekstra and Gary Wilhelmson and report back at next council meeting. Current rent is \$600 year.
3. Peacemakers Quilt Guild has rented the Trinity Center for Thursday - Sunday of Syttende Mai fest. NA and AA will meet upstairs at Trinity Center that week.
4. Narcotics Anonymous (NA) will be using Trinity Center on Friday nights for their meetings. AA is meeting on Saturdays
5. Jacque Wennes made a motion to approve the Updated Banking Authorization and Money Counter list for 2024. This was seconded by Jerald Oakes and the motion passed. The only change is removing Jean Ann Tweeten name from Youth account and adding Lane Zaffke to that account.
6. New Team Photos are needed for the bulletin boards. Please take a new photo at your next team meeting.
7. Property Team is currently working to raise the height of the island in the kitchen of the parsonage. Estimated cost is around \$500.
8. Jessie Strinmoen gave a brief update on the youth fund raising. So far an estimated \$18,000 Has been pledged to the youth trip. This includes a \$5000 match of funds and a \$5000 donation from American Legion Charitable Gambling. Trip will cost approximately \$2000 per kid and an estimated goal of \$40,000 total. There are 14 kids and 5 chaperones going.
9. Lenten Suppers are underway. Next Wed is Worship/Property
March 6 - TBD possibly Office Staff
March 20 - Outreach
10. A motion was made by Jerald Oakes and seconded by Mary Zaffke to extend the council meeting for another 15 minutes. Motion passed.

LORD'S PRAYER AND ADJOURNMENT

- A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:15pm. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned, followed by The Lord's Prayer.

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, March 13, 2024, at approx 7:30 p.m. (after Lenten service)

UPCOMING DATES:

LENTEN SUPPERS AND LENTEN SERVICES

Submitted by *Lorilyn Dehning*