

**Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting**

September 21, 2023 – 6:30 pm

Conference Room

**Members present:** Danette Welsh (President), Bob Baumann, Bev Cross, Kyle Gebhardt, Sue Kolling, Matt McMerty, Dean Natwick, Colleen Peterson, Barb Pfeifer, Londa Rodahl (by Zoom), Denise Wetzel, and Pastors Martha HarriSon and Mark Narum.

Devotions were given by Matt McMerty.

**Approval of Agenda:** Matt McMerty moved approval of the agenda with the addition of two items. Second by Bob Baumann and carried.

**Acceptance of Consent Agenda:** Kyle Gebhardt moved acceptance of the Consent Agenda. Second by Bev Cross and carried.

**Financial Report:** Matt McMerty reported August revenues of \$61,484.70, expenses of \$63,087.65, leaving a balance of \$-1,602.95. Year-to-Date: revenues \$528,631.93, expenses \$513,460.22, balance \$15,171.71. Colleen Peterson moved that the Council received the financial report. Second by Bob Baumann and carried.

**Dwelling in the World:** We discussed the parameters that should be used by church staff when dealing with the transient population that frequents our property. The staff had already established they will not provide rides to anyone. Council agreed: 1) staff can determine when to ask someone to leave the building; 2) the public cannot use the microwave or any other equipment; 3) no sleeping is allowed on the premises; 4) a set amount of Loaves & Fishes food will be put in the lockers daily and when it's gone, it's gone until the next day. We have started collecting clothing and staff will determine how much will be given to someone.

**Old Business:**

*Heating/Cooling System:* Pastor Mark explained the air conditioning failed in some areas. They would like to install a shut-off valve in the nursery at a cost of \$5,150. It is also proposed that we put in a filter system at a cost of \$9,700. If we decide to do the whole system, we would write a grant for this expense. This filter would help keep the system clean once it is cleaned out. Pastor Lee Herberg was very happy with the work this company did at First Lutheran Church in Mandan. Kyle Gebhardt moved that we approve of moving forward with this proposal and submit a grant request of \$9,700 to the Trust Fund Committee for this filtration system. Second by Dean Natwick and carried.

*The Banquet Update:* Danette Welsh noted that Trinity replied to The Banquet's first letter (8-11-23) to us in which they stated Trinity's involvement was no longer needed. Subsequently, our Executive Committee and Pastor Martha met 9-5-23 with Jim Barnhardt, Jodi Link and Rev. Larry Janke to discuss the possibility of Trinity's future role. Following this meeting, Jim sent another letter asking for our feedback, which we had already done at our 9-5-23 meeting. We also asked Jim to speak at our services to apologize for their actions taken without even notifying us. Jim stated he wanted to promote The Banquet more than just apologize. Therefore, he will not be speaking to the congregation and Trinity is now done with our connection to The Banquet and The Dream Center. However, Trinity members are more than welcome to do things with The Banquet/Dream Center on their own but we will no longer have a liaison to their board or provide a volunteer coordinator.

*Committee Revitalization Update:* Pastor Martha explained the work that has been done to clarify the roles and duties of the following committees: Family Life, Worship and Music, Fellowship, and Small Group. Some committees are considering a name change, as well as establishing term limits, setting meeting schedules, and refining duties. Work on this continues.

**New Business:**

*Camp of the Cross:* Pastor Mark reported receiving a letter from Camp of the Cross asking for further donations. He noted we might want to look to the Trust Fund for additional funding.

*Vendor Fair Update:* Danette circulated a sign-up for Council members to volunteer for the various needs of the September 30<sup>th</sup> vendor fair from 10:00-2:00 at Trinity. For this second year, we are adding an immunization clinic (through Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health) and a bounce house.

*Capital Campaign Update:* Pastor Mark is pleased with where we are as our current cash available in the Capital Campaign Reserve Fund is \$149,410. We are expecting a \$50,000 check soon. We will really kick into this campaign in early October.

*Portico Level:* Pastor Martha explained that Portico is the pastoral health insurance. It was recommended that we go to the gold level. This decision is something that has to be approved each year. Sue Kolling moved that we go back to the gold level. Second by Barb Pfeifer and carried.

*Budget:* Pastor Mark hopes we can start to put funding in the budget as a reserve for the roof. The current budget doesn't have a line item for roof repairs. He hopes there will be a preliminary budget available for our October meeting.

*Structural Engineer:* Pastor Mark noted when he and the Deferred Maintenance Task Force toured the building last year, it was noted that the stained glass in the 1930 building is buckling. This hasn't been addressed by Core Facility Solutions and he thought we should go out on our own and get a structural engineer to work on this. Matt McMerty moved that we authorize John Brintnell, facility manager, to contact a structural engineer to determine the solution(s) and cost to stabilize these issues in the 1930 building. Second by Bob Baumann and carried.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 8:00 p.m.

Submitted,  
Londa Rodahl, Secretary