

**Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting**

December 19, 2023 – 6:30 pm

Conference Room

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

**Members absent:** Dean Natwick.

Devotions were given by Barb Pfeifer.

**Approval of Agenda:** Matt McMerty moved approval of the agenda with the addition of three items. Second by Colleen Peterson and carried.

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

**Financial Report:** Matt McMerty reported November revenues of \$70,927.89, expenses of \$72,048.15, leaving a balance of \$-1,120.26. Year-to-Date: revenues \$721,897.97, expenses \$722,320.57, balance \$-422.60. Kyle Gebhardt moved that the Council received the financial report. Second by Bob Baumann and carried.

**Dwelling in the World**

Pastor Mark and Pastor Martha explained their plans for the Lenten services. They plan to have speakers tell their story of how Christ-centered faith connects their lives. Any of us can be a speaker and/or if you know of someone willing to fill one of these weeks, please let the pastors know. There will also be a special hymn at each service that tells a story.

Pastor Mark questioned if the Council would be willing to serve the meals (noon and evening) on one of these days. The Council decided to serve on Ash Wednesday, February 14.

**Old Business:**

*Budget:* The proposed 2024 budget currently shows a deficit balance of \$-10,274; however, this is before the December income and expenses are realized. Kyle Gebhardt moved to approve the 2024 budget as proposed. Second by Bob Baumann and carried.

Pastor Mark reviewed the Capital Campaign Update, which shows we are only \$12,501 away from what is needed to complete the campaign.

*Worship & Music Director Position Task Force:* Pastor Martha reviewed the feedback received from our congregation meetings and from what other area churches have for their directors. A job description is being developed for a part-time (or slightly more than part-time) position. The task force hopes to have the job description ready to advertise the position in January.

*Council Retreat:* We will plan this retreat for Saturday, April 13, 2024.

*Nominating Committee:* Danette had spoken with Troy Zander, chairman, and nothing further to report at this time.

**New Business:**

*Grant Requests:* Two grant applications were reviewed: 1) \$2,000 from the Mental Health/Substance Abuse Task Force to allow Trinity to sponsor faith leaders' training for suicide prevention, for a congregational/community activity in March, and to sponsor the Out of Darkness Walk in September; and 2) \$450 from the Property Committee to purchase crack monitors to track structural movement in the 1931 building. Matt McMerty moved that the Council supports these two grant applications. Second by Bev Cross and carried.

*Memorial Fund Requests:* Pastor Mark reminded us that we authorized \$1000 from the Memorial Fund last month for new chairs in the front area and to have the building blueprints framed. The chairs arrived and the framed blueprints should be here soon. The cost of the framing was lower than expected. He requested the use of up to \$400 from this fund to have a few chairs reupholstered at Roughrider Industries. Sue Kolling moved the approval of using up to \$400 from the Memorial Fund to have several chairs reupholstered. Second by Denise Wetzel and carried.

*Use of First International Bank & Trust Interest:* Since moving our account to First International Bank this year, we have earned \$14,000 in interest. Discussion followed on how we could use some of this interest. Matt McMerty moved that we use some of the \$14,000 interest to: put \$5,000 into the newly-created Long Term Building Maintenance Fund to be used for major projects like reroofing the church; use \$3,168.85 to pay off the special tax assessment on the 4<sup>th</sup> Street parking lot; use \$1,950 for end-of-year bonuses for Trinity staff; and offering a contingency that if our 2023 budget ends in a deficit, that we will use some of this interest to cover the shortfall. Second by Bev Cross and carried.

*Annual Meeting Date:* Matt McMerty moved that we hold the annual meeting on Sunday, February 25, 2024 following the 10:30 worship service. Second by Kyle Gebhardt and carried.

*Annual Report:*

Pastor Mark noted that committee reports for the annual report should be submitted to Klarissa Pudwill as soon as possible after the first of the year.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer at 7:50 p.m.

Submitted,  
Londa Rodahl, Secretary