

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting

October 15, 2024 – 6:30 PM

Conference Room

Members present: Kyle Gebhardt (President), Matt McMerty, Colleen Peterson (via Zoom), Bob Baumann (via Zoom), Denise Wetzel, Phil Murdoff, Mitch Becker, Dean Natwick, Julie Leer, Pastor Martha HarriSon, and Pastor Mark Narum.

Members absent: Brady Pelton, Barb Pfeifer

Devotions were given by Mitch Becker.

Approval of Agenda: Matt McMerty moved approval of the updated agenda. The motion was seconded by Mitch Becker. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Consent Agenda: Community Builders report added: Community Builders is planning a Family Advent event for November 24, 2024, a cornhole event for January 2025, and a spring puzzle event. Julie Leer moved acceptance of the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Denise Wetzel. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Deferred to next meeting. Transition and orientation for Chelsa continues.

Dwelling in the World: Council discussed recent municipal enactments to outline the means for addressing homeless encampments in the city. The process identified is one of interacting and identifying Human Services connections that may be able to provide assistance or services to those in the encampments. If there is no movement after these efforts, police may intervene. Renae Moch, Public Health Director for Bismarck-Burleigh Public Health will be working on a plan to deal with homelessness in the community.

Council divided into two groups to discuss and identify ways to address homelessness.

Old Business:

Fire Suppression / Kitchen update: Insurance company is requesting some follow-up relative to the use and upkeep of the kitchen, in particular the kitchen hood. The hood is out of compliance with the current mechanical code and the insurer is requesting remediation to ensure the safe use of the hood. Pastor Mark has reached out to a couple of contractors for bids and is waiting to hear from them. No estimates yet, but the expected cost could be anywhere from \$10,000 to \$30,000.

Fall Meal: October 30th. A kid-oriented meal with hotdogs and macaroni and cheese is planned. All are invited and may wear Halloween costumes. Treat bags will be handed out after church school.

New Business:

Ministry on the Margins: November Food Drive

United Way PB&J food drive: Held in Dec to ensure school kids have food available to help get them through the Christmas break.

Budget: Requests to staff for input on the budget. Some considerations:

1. Expect that Prop & Liab insurance premium will increase, Health Insurance costs will increase, and there will be some salary increases.
2. Savings with an employee hired at less than full-time hours who found their own health insurance for which means Trinity pays a minimal amount for insurance.

3. Request to hire “outside” musicians (not members of Trinity) to perform 4 times/year for \$2000-\$3000. In addition to Easter and Christmas, they’ll play on Reformation Sunday and one other non-holiday Sunday.
4. Request to increase the maintenance line items including an increase for boiler maintenance and adding a deferred maintenance line item. Last year \$5000 was allocated to begin building a reserve for roof replacements. In addition, the 4th Street door may need attention sooner rather than later.
5. Salary adjustments
6. Benevolence: goal is 10% of the unrestricted offerings go out. 75% goes to the Western ND Synod, 25% divided among Camp of the Cross, Missouri Slope, Ministry on the Margins, Missionary, and other council directed.
7. Still collecting giving intent cards.

Trust Fund Requests:
None

Staff Appreciation Meal: Potluck on December 19th.

Devotions next month: Brady Pelton

The meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next meeting will be November 21, 2024.

Submitted,
Julie Leer, Secretary