

Trinity Lutheran Church Council Meeting

December 19, 2024 – 6:30 PM

Conference Room

Members present: Kyle Gebhardt (President), Matt McMerty, Colleen Peterson, Denise Wetzel, Phil Murdoff, Mitch Becker, Brady Pelton, Barb Pfeifer, Julie Leer, Pastor Martha HarriSon, and Pastor Mark Narum.

Members absent: Bob Baumann, Dean Natwick

After the completion and clean-up of the Staff Appreciation Meal, President Gebhardt called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m.

Devotions were given by Phil Murdoff.

Finance Director: It was announced that the Finance Director is no longer at Trinity. Pastor Mark reported that Brent Winkelman will replace the former Finance Director. He has an excellent working knowledge of the Accounting system used by Trinity and he will begin working on Monday, December 23, 2024, on a part time basis to ensure deposits are completed and bills are paid.

Pastor Mark also reported that he and the former Finance Director have been working with the financial institution to try to determine why it is taking so long for checks to clear the bank that are recorded as part of past deposits. Pastor Mark requested Council members to refer inquiries to him if parishioners report a delay in checks clearing that have been written to Trinity.

Approval of Agenda: It was moved by Julie Leer and seconded by Barb Pfeifer to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Acceptance of Consent Agenda: It was moved by Matt McMerty and seconded by Colleen Peterson to accept the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

Financial Report: Colleen Peterson presented information provided by Pastor Mark in lieu of a Financial Report. While the information presently available shows positive account balances, it is believed that there are a number of expenses incurred but not yet paid, or to be incurred for this year. The difference between the current balances and what is believed to be owed for the remainder of the year would leave us short about \$66,000; however, that number is likely to be reduced by offerings yet to be received this month and other income which may arrive in the mail.

It is expected that we will have Financial Reports for the 4th quarter of 2025 in time for the January Council meeting. Council will finalize the 2025 budget at that meeting.

It was moved by Julie Leer and seconded by Matt McMerty to approve the Financial information received. Motion carried.

Old Business:

Fire Suppression / Kitchen update: We have received one bid for the replacement of the kitchen hood. It is about \$23,000. In addition, bids are being sought for necessary electrical and plumbing work associated to this work.

Budget: As noted above, it is expected that we will have Financial Reports for the 4th quarter of 2025 in time for the January Council meeting. Council will finalize the 2025 budget at that meeting.

New Fellowship Hall Chairs: The purchasing has begun! We have seen a positive response in offerings designated toward the purchase of the chairs.

New Business:

First International Bank Statement of Account Access: Pastor Mark presented a Resolution to give Brent Winkelman access as a signer to Trinity's accounts, to add Brent as an online banking user with the access given to the Financial Director position, and to add Brent as a full access user to EZBusiness, to ensure Brent has the access needed to execute the duties of the Financial Director. It was moved by Julie Leer and seconded by Brady Pelton to approve the adoption of the Resolution. Motion carried.

Annual Housing Allowance Statements: Housing allowances for Pastor Mark and Pastor Martha were reviewed. It was moved by Brady Pelton and seconded by Denise Wetzel to approve the Housing Allowance Statements. Motion carried. The statements were signed and returned to the Pastors.

Naming Recipient of Local Benevolence Funds: Council discussed potential recipients, including supporting local organizations and supporting international missions. Noting that Trinity supports local organizations in a number of ways other than through Benevolence Funds, Council discussed supporting international missions, notably Lutheran Partners in Global Mission which works to educate young girls in underprivileged regions of the world working with partners in Central African Republic, India, Tanzania, and Guatemala and with smaller partners in those same regions of the world. It was moved by Denise Wetzel and seconded by Colleen Peterson to approve the distribution of benevolence funds to Lutheran Partners in Global Mission. Motion carried.

Update on Church Damage and Conversation: Council followed up on the information received about the vandalism incurred in the basement on December 5th. Discussion included response to the incident and also included possible ideas for deterrence and mitigation of future events.

Devotions next month: Brady Pelton

Barb Pfeifer asked for prayers for the young volleyball player who died suddenly during an event at a local school and for the volleyball player's family and community. After other losses were also acknowledged, Pastor Mark offered a prayer for those who have experienced loss and grief and those in need this holiday season. The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting will be January 16, 2025.

Submitted,
Julie Leer, Secretary