

**Trinity Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
April 17, 2016
7:30 PM**

Council: Nancy Buffum, Cindy Gesme, Eric Halter, Rob Harper, Mike Hower, Richard Leimgruber, Becky Luethy, Todd Maloy, Jerry Partlow, Eric Petersen, Kim Stewart, Renato Cataldo

Staff Present: Amy Jones, Morris Larson

Trinity Members Present: 6 additional members present

Recording Secretary: Deborah Weber

- **Call to Order 7:37pm**
- **Pastor opening prayer**
- **TLC Updates and Discussions**
 - Walking Together (WT) staffing update - Mary Fehner
 - Larry Lemke Reporting – WT advertised for the position vacated by Charlene. 30 applications were received and 3 applicants were interviewed. Mary Fehner has been hired as a part-time person. She started April 15. WT is also looking at a developing relationship with Humanity of St Louis (<http://humanitri.org/>).
 - Second Service staffing update – Emily Bounds
 - Pastor Mann Reporting – Emily was formally installed last week. Kim remarked that music at this Sunday’s service was beautiful. It was nice to see the support from both services for our guest group (Voices Only). Emily is working weekly with the ministry team to integrate their needs.
 - Discussion to help members understand the budget, what was approved for 2016, and what needs to be done and extended discussion on the proposed “Bridge the Gap” campaign.
 - Larry Tietjen represented the fund raising group. Larry read from a prepared letter drafted from the team’s perspective (see the attached).
 - The discussion was opened to all participants in the meeting concerning event planning, communications, and if the timing of the campaign was correct.
 - Jerry Partlow made a motion for council to approve the campaign as recommended by the fund raising team.
 - Todd Maloy seconded the motion.
 - Additional discussion involved the logistics of the campaign.
 - The motion was called.

- The vote to approve the motion was passed unanimously by the council.
 - Discussion about how Trinity proceeds to develop a vision for the future?
 - For the Ministry Site Report, Trinity needs to articulate what the 3 and 5 year visions may be.
 - Pastor Mann commented that he plans to have multiple parallel conversations/group meetings to make sure the congregation has the opportunity to express themselves. He hopes the members can have multiple levels of involvement. There will also be some large congregational gatherings on the subject. For example, the adult forum will be one of the conversation groups having the discussion this summer.
 - Once the ministry site report is written (late summer), it will be published for the congregation to review and comment.
- **Update from Pastor**
 - Town Hall results and next steps: The last town hall meetings on Wednesday and Sunday went more smoothly than the first. We were only able to get through half of the planned conversation during the second meeting on Sunday. There were lots of ideas and reactions. One of the next meetings will involve looking at Trinity's patterns, gifts, and challenges by decade.
 - Commentary from the council and members present:
 - Richard and Kim commented that they were discouraged by the negative tone of some of the Trinity positives presented in the town hall meeting, but they remain optimistic for the future of Trinity and its ability to move forward.
 - Pastor Mann plans to spend more time with the Trinity leadership/ church council members.
 - Jerry, Kim and others commented that members are getting impatient with the listening sessions and lack of perceived progress on the call process.
 - Pastor Mann commented that the initial consultations focused on members with significant concerns or complaints. He plans to follow-up with more members who have a positive perspective about the direction of Trinity.
 - Pastor Mann also hopes to move from crisis consultation and into call the process soon.
- **Updates from Teams (3 min. each)**
 - **Missional Service MIT**
 - **Rob Harper reported the Mission Team heard proposals for International Missions and discussed those proposals.**
 - **Fundraising Team – (reported above)**
 - **OSC/Finance –**

- Amy had the opportunity to spend some time at another church. She is working with OSC to improve our look.
 - OSC plans for a clean up and fix up at TLC. We will begin by going through all closets and removing or transferring anything worth selling to the Garage Sale team.
 - Morris reported on a number of additional clean up and repair activities.
 - **Endowment Committee –**
 - Steve Paquette Reporting: The endowment committee is planning on additional marketing and communications efforts. They will coordinate with the fundraising team so that the campaigns do not overlap.
 - **Education MIT –**
 - Jerry Partlow reported that Chuck Parrot is continuing to schedule activities, and we still have a timing issue with the first service ending late and members having to leave early for the second service.
 - **Small Group MIT-**
 - Kim Stewart reported that additional information regarding different groups would be added to the current database and clarified for the congregation. The goal is to present information to the congregation so new group participation can occur in the fall. A new small group started today and new dinner groups are starting in the summer. Other new groups are in the works. Additional leaders are needed to run a Small Group or a Special Interest Group.
- **Treasurer Report –**
 - Mike Hower reporting: Looking good through the first 3 months of year. Walking Together funds from last year were moved to Other Income. We are also back on budget for benefits.
- **New Business**
 - Morris-
 - Many thanks to all the volunteers that help Trinity. Special call outs to Chris Krejci, Ron Jones, Mike Sharitz and Amy Jones, for their recent efforts.
 - We have a contributor that wants to donate money to go directly to food related projects. Morris recommended multiple mission teams receive part of the donation.
- **Meeting closed at...9:14 pm**

From the Special Fundraising Team

Trinity Special Pledge / Contribution Request We need your help to close a \$100,000 gap!

Trinity Lutheran Church in Chesterfield has been the hands and feet of Christ to our community for over 100 years. Throughout this time we have provided an excellent worship experience with a strong liturgical and contemporary focus for our members. We have also reached out to our community with an outstanding preschool program that has touched many families over these years. Our strong benevolent and mission focus has made us a leader in St. Louis and our synod with our support of greater church wide missions, as well as local missions helping the homeless through Gateway 180, children in need through Lutheran Family and Children's Services and many others.

As we began 2016 and held our congregational meeting, we were presented by our church council with a serious dilemma. A revenue shortfall compared to prior years of over \$100,000. The council and staff presented to us a budget trimmed as deep as it could. Any deeper cuts will impact our ability to maintain the current worship experience, our internal ministry programs, our preschool and support of our external missions.

A \$100,000 gap in our budget is significant. At our congregational meeting we agreed to focus on closing the gap through raising revenues and not cutting costs further. Ruth Rangel and several other members challenged us with each giving unit committing to an additional \$1,000. If 100 giving units would do this then our gap would vanish. Without each of us stepping up to close the gap Trinity may not survive 2016! Are we willing to allow this to happen?

Our ministries provide much to celebrate and are vital to maintain for the future health of Trinity. Without serving our internal members, we will not be able to be the hands and feet of Christ to the community. Trinity cares for our own, but a key to who we are is our mission to the external community.

Trinity Ministries are vital to the external communities we serve. Preschool families depend on us. The homeless community and agencies like Gateway 180 depend on us. The children in our community and agencies like Lutheran Family and Children's Services depend on us. And the greater church, through our benevolence and support of the Central States Synod, depends on us. If we want to continue our ministries, it takes investments.

Those who have come before us created a legacy that is important for us to sustain. Trinity has so much to celebrate! If we focus on the positive, we can maintain the historical legacy and have a significant impact on our community and the St. Louis community in the future! Many of us have made significant commitments to Trinity, but right now we need more!

Since the congregation meeting, a fund raising team has been formed to seek ways to close the revenue gap. The team recommended to council and council approved this special appeal. Also since the meeting, a number of people have increased and made incremental commitments to meet Ruth Rangel's challenge. Over the coming months you will be hearing more and have the ability to ask questions about our fund raising efforts.

We have so much to be positive about. Let's all come together and make sure Trinity gets through these difficult times. The time is now for each of us to step up and commit to Trinity in 2016. God has blessed each of us in many different ways. Maintaining Trinity's ministries through this interim period is critical. The only way we can do this is to raise another \$100,000. Please prayerfully consider stepping up and joining others who have made additional commitments in support of Trinity.

We need your help to do one of three things:

- 1. Make a pledge to Trinity to support our Ministry and Mission work.**
- 2. If you have already pledged, prayerfully consider increasing your pledge.**
- 3. Make a onetime special contribution to help close the \$100,000 gap.**

2016 Trinity Fund Raising Team