

# Trinity Lutheran Council Meeting Minutes

**Date:** October 21, 2018

**Attendees:** Ron Jones, Christie Tietjen, Steve Paquette, Richard Leimgruber, Nancy Buffum, Becky Luethy, Claudia Pico, Mike Sharitz, Pastor Chris Naig, Rob Harper, Morris Larson

Ron called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. He presented the agenda and the list of staff and team reports. Pastor Chris led with an opening prayer.

**Lantern Hill** – Rob Harper updated the Council on the status of Lantern Hill, the mission in Ensenada, Mexico. Lantern Hill is in the process of completing the necessary tax filings as a non-profit organization. They need funds for building repairs. Lantern Hill already has received \$15,000 in donations, but they are seeking an additional \$10,000. Rob will be visiting Lantern Hill in November and will return with additional information. The Mission team has not yet decided on the allocation of their remaining budget (roughly \$5,000).

**Pastor's Report** – Pastor Chris attended the Bishop's convocation on October 9-11. Planning is complete for Reformation Sunday and All Saints' Day. The Eastern Conference of the Central States Synod of the ELCA will be holding a dinner at Trinity on November 4. The joint Thanksgiving ecumenical service with St. Anselm (Priory) is scheduled for November 20 at St. Anselm at 7:00 pm. We will increase the advertising of the monthly service at Meramec Bluffs, which generally is held the first Wednesday of each month. The new reporting system of member visits (with members advising Becca Pecher of hospital or other visits) has been going well. It allows Pastor and other staff members to be kept up to date on the need for hospital or home visits.

**Treasurer's Report** - Receipts in August were \$2,000 below budget, but expenses were \$13,000 below budget, resulting in net income for the month being \$11,000 better than budget. Year-to-date net income less debt payment is \$38,000 favorable to budget. Steve also reported that the Endowment Committee met with Lutheran Senior Services to update and enhance the Endowment brochures and to obtain suggestions for better congregational outreach. We thank LSS for their support.

## **Discussion of reports received from Staff and Teams:**

**Children's Ministries:** There are 20 youth attending Confirmation Class for grades 6 through 8. Fall Open Gym has been a success, with the next session to be held Sunday, November 18 from 1:00-3:00 pm. An Ice Cream Sundae was held on October 14 at the Hermann's. A garage sale on Saturday, September 29 at the Garthe's raised funds for the Lantern Hill ministry.

**Music Ministry:** Positive feedback continues to be received on the effectiveness of music for the 9:00 and 11:15 services. A Praise Band is scheduled to play on November 4 at the 11:15 service. Graeme Allen plans to continue to teach a song during the children's message at both services.

**Preschool:** The annual Fall Festival held Thursday, October 11 was a huge hit. There were crafts, games, photo booth, gymnastics, inflatable castle, book fair and a pancake dinner. A Grandparents/Special Friend Day was held with a chapel service and fun activities. The Magic House presented a “Sensational Science” in-house field trip teaching about the five senses. The Preschool Mission project this month is Evelyn’s House, a pediatric hospice house in Creve Coeur. Games are being collected for use by the patients and families.

**Operation Services Committee (OSC):** Additional roof repairs were made to address leak or appearance issues. New windows and frames have been installed in parts of the Parish Hall to replace the colored glass and improve the lighting. The bollard light near the rear entrance has been repaired using insurance proceeds. The hand railing by the steps leading to the lower-level parking lot is scheduled for repair soon. Continued vandalism has occurred to the back gate of the parking lot and is under investigation. Other Fall maintenance issues are in progress.

Other written staff and committee reports were reviewed with no additional discussion.

**Planning Committee** – Council appointed the following eight members to serve on a planning committee (to be called the Congregational Vitality Committee): Jeff Haferkamp (as leader), Michelle Halter, Nicole Maloy, Pastor Chris Naig, Brian Parrish (as the staff representative), Christie Tietjen (as President in 2019), Ron Jones (as past President in 2019), and the person to be elected as the Vice President in 2019). The committee will begin meeting to implement a process with congregational input to develop the mission, vision and plan for Trinity’s future.

**2019 Budget** – Steve Paquette presented to Council the initial draft of the anticipated receipts and expenses for the 2019 Budget, which Steve had reviewed previously with the Executive Committee. This is a “balanced budget” with anticipated receipts roughly the same as anticipated expenses. The Council thanked Steve for his many hours in developing the 2019 Budget and in coordinating with the staff for their input. Steve will review this initial draft budget with interested members of Trinity at an Adult Forum session on Sunday, November 18. The final budget will be submitted for approval at the January 27, 2019 annual meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.