

Trinity Lutheran Church
Minutes of Church Council Meeting
Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Called to order at 6:05 pm by Bob Horn

Opening prayer: Pastor Eric

Council Members and Roll Call:

President: Bob Horn

Vice President: Marcus Rismiller

Secretary: Elizabeth Snodgrass

Building and Property: Anthony Wright

Youth and Family: Michelle Wright

Social Concerns: Elaine Olson

Stewardship: Jonathan Sargent

Non-voting: Eric Wooldridge

Motion made and seconded to approve agenda. Motion carried.

Motion made and seconded to approve minutes for the January council meeting. Motion carried.

The council met at a retreat on Saturday, March 9, 2024. During that time, the council received copies of the February Profit and Loss statement for review. They were also advised of a problem with the hot water supply to the kitchen in the church. It was suggested that we forego the permanent repair at a cost of \$,4000, and opt for a short term fix and install a small instant hot water heater under the sink for the time being, since renovation of the kitchen will be part of the remodel project. Anthony Wright will check into this further.

The rental house has been vacated and the council discussed options to either let it stay vacant, or to undertake extensive repairs. This decision has been passed to the Land Task Force as one of their first orders of business. There was a similar discussion of what to do with the house currently used as our TLC preschool after the preschool closes in early June. There was some concern about leaving them vacant, but the council will defer to the Land Task Force's recommendation.

Reports:

Written profit and loss statement for January and February were provided. Income was shown as 65,775.76, and expenses totaled \$77,007.11.

Pastor's Report

Lent: Our partnership with Hope Lutheran Church for special services in Lent has once again been very successful. Ash Wednesday was well attended here at Trinity, and the midweek soup suppers at Hope have had their highest attendance in many years. Pastor Doug Bursh's education time with the adult has been particularly well received. For upcoming Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services at Trinity, we decided to move from 7 pm to 6 pm to make them more accommodating to younger families.

Land Task Force: Joel Hanson, Jan Molinaro, Danny Rude, and Jim Sprenger make up our Land Task Force. The team really hit the ground running with Joel taking the leadership role. They already met with a local realtor, visited the 11-acre site, and did background research on land surveys and zoning designations. At this time it appears that selling the full property is the best way to maximize the value of the land rather than dividing any part for sale or leasing all/part of the land. One developer has already sent an offer, and the Task Force expects other offers to come soon.

Confirmation: We are looking at Sunday, May 5 th for Confirmation. Rather than having a formal Confirmation program apart from our other youth activities, we integrated it into the regular times that our 7 th and 8 th graders are already meeting. This has been a big relief, as much of the formal Confirmation education overlapped with the things we were already teaching the kids in small groups and youth nights.

Youth and Family: In the past, we had an extensive class schedule that the students participated in for 2 years. Once their studies were completed, the student was able to be confirmed. Pastor Eric and I have decided to change the process of Confirmation while still honoring the importance of this event. We feel that these youth are already doing the important 5 parts of Discipleship that is part of the Rite of Confirmation that is recognized by our church:

The Five Gifts of Discipleship- Living out our Baptism:

- to live among God's faithful people,
- to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper,
- to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
- to serve all people, following the example of Jesus,
- to strive for justice and peace in all the earth

Social Concerns: Elaine Olson and Laine Eldridge from Hope Lutheran will be going to the Mexican border in Texas to find out more information about border issues and refugee status.

Property and Maintenance: Sunday, March 24 will be spring clean up for our outside grounds.

New Business:

- A. Land Task Force:** The four-person task force has accomplished a great deal in a short amount of time, and has already been able to find a development company interested in purchasing the property.
- B. Current Offer on the Land:** Through the excellent work of our land task force, we have received a strong offer for our 11 acre property from MTT Holdings. The Council discussed the offer, and how the property would be utilized. Council had questions regarding possible impact to taxes, legal ramifications and the like. We will consult with an attorney to review the contract, and find out if there are capital gains taxes that apply in our case. Elaine Olson moved to approve the task force to approve the offer pending review from our legal consult. Second by Anthony Wright. Motion carried unanimously.

There was further discussion surrounding possible acquisition of a neighboring property.

- C. Capital Campaign:** With the current offer, we may not need a full campaign, but we would like to offer an opportunity for congregation members to be part of this legacy and contribute to its success. This will be discussed further at future meetings.
- D. Personnel Policy Manual:** The personnel committee has rewritten the manual to reflect the wording suggested by Synod, with a few minor changes. They and the staff have recommended approval. Elaine Olson moved to approve the manual. Jonathan Sargent seconded. Motion carried.
- E. Financial Policy:** It has been requested that council members help to count offerings each Sunday. Council members will sign up to assist in this task on a monthly basis.
- F. Preschool Celebration:** May 19th is the date set aside for the celebration of our preschool ministry, as it comes to its close. We will acknowledge staff and preschool board to include Carry Schmit and the two teachers. Congregation members will have the opportunity to contribute to gifts for them.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Adjourn at 7:30 p.m.