

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church Council
August 11th, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Members present:

Brendan R	Vice President	Stewardship	Leslie B
Chuck P	Treasurer	Social Concerns	Mary C
John D	Secretary	Staff:	
Gary S	Property	Pastor Deanna W	
Management	Tom E	Pastor Sue W	
Cong. Life	Lynn T	Kathy F	
Youth Ministries	Laurie S		
Christian Ed.	Bridget S		
Worship and Music	Jamie P		
Absent	Dan T (President), Jeff D (Evangelism), Lindsay Anderson (Past President)		

Vice President Brendan R called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Devotions

The council meeting was opened with a devotional reading by John D.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written. As the secretary will be absent from the September meeting, Leslie B volunteered to serve as secretary for that meeting.

Pastors' Report

Pastor W, after noting a good turnout at the Rebekah Circle tea, outlined some of her plans for the fall. Rally Sunday, Sept. 13th, will feature a blessing of our three to four year olds. This is not only to bless our youngsters, but to remind parents of the promises made at their children's baptisms. Sunday, August 30th will also feature a "Blessing of school backpacks", backpacks meaning whatever you carry with you to work, i.e. laptop, briefcase etc... On Sept 20th a procession of our children will lead our new processional cross down the aisle for its dedication. Details of Pastor Wildermuth's installation on Sept. 27rd at 3:00 p.m. were also discussed.

Pastor Wanwig plans some short travel in September as well as attending evening continuing education classes.

Rally Sunday Planning

Rally Sunday is promised to be Fun! Fun! Fun! with games for the children downstairs (rain) or outside (fair) , balloons (and a balloon release) . Congregation members will also be provided the opportunity to volunteer for some of the recurring services to the church, i.e. ushers, lectors etc... Pastor Wildermuth suggested that (~ half of) most congregations are unfamiliar with the requirements of these basic volunteer opportunities, hence they are reluctant to step forward. We, the active members,

should not assume that everyone is as familiar with these tasks as we are. It was suggested that these job descriptions be written out and posted, and furthermore, that such written job descriptions be made available to volunteers.

“Coffee with the council” planning

It was resolved that council members be available for coffee and casual conversation with church members several times a year to discuss issues of interest. Coffee to be provided by the council. The first such meeting will be on Oct. 11th.

Approval of 2009 housing allowance

Chuck P made a motion to accept the following resolution regarding the required housing allowance for pastor Wildermuth:

“Whereas the Internal Revenue Service requires pastors who allocate some of their income to a housing allowance to have that amount approved by the council,

Whereas the treasurer has reviewed the pastor’s requested resolution and found it reasonable,

Therefore, the council hereby approves an allocation of Pastor Wildermuth’s compensation package to “housing allowance” in the amount of \$22,600, effective from the date of her arrival at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church until December 31, 2009.

The motion was seconded and passed without dissent.

Committee Updates

Finance Report

Treasurer Chuck P outlined our financial position to date. He noted that attendance is up 25% over this same time last year. Giving in July was about \$2,000 below expectations, but the “final report will reflect more receipts than expenses”. We are off to a good start for August, but receipts for this “vacation” month are typically below budget.

Stewardship

Leslie B reported that stewardship focus will adopt a more traditional approach to fundraising in the coming year.

Congregational Life

Lynn reported that we have two upcoming activities coming up this fall, a Fall Festival on October 17th featuring music by Chuck P and David Locke. There will be bratwurst, beer etc. (and soft drinks for the youngsters). Then, on the first Saturday in December (Dec. 5th) we will have our annual Christmas dinner.

Worship and Music

Jamie presented a plan to introduce the new “Cranberry” Hymnal to our congregation. The new hymnal, the first update since 1978, includes several additional settings for services, some new hymns and most of the old favorites. Hymnals cost about \$30.00 apiece and hymnals for HTLC would run about \$7,500. The congregation will have the opportunity to become familiar with this new hymnal prior to any purchase decision.

A motion to move ahead with introducing the new hymnal to the congregation was made and approved by a unanimous vote.

Youth

Upcoming activities for our youth outreach will include a "Mystery Trip" to a more local opportunity, rather than a return to New Orleans next year (which is relatively expensive), and this Advent there will be an auction of well-decorated Christmas trees.

Christian Ed.

Bridget S reported that all Sunday School positions are filled! The nursery has been thoroughly cleaned and the craft closet has been cleaned and reorganized.

Property

Gary related his continuing efforts in maintenance, including saving HTLC some money by re-anchoring the treads on the back stairs, rather than replacing them.

Social Concerns

Mary C reports that they will meet with AGROS regarding the future of our commitment to El Milagro on Sept. 20th. Social Concerns is also considering a new focus for outreach, perhaps something more local. There was a discussion of our "faltering" support of Compass Center breakfasts. Kathy suggests that we start enlisting help from older congregation members in addition to that of our youth volunteers.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
John D
Secretary
jnbdonal6206@comcast.net