

Trinity Lutheran Downtown

Regularly Scheduled Voters' Assembly Meeting

Trinity Lutheran Church Sanctuary

Sunday - December 11, 2016 - 12:15PM

“Our mission is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through ministries which strengthen and equip people for Christian witness and service in downtown, metropolitan Orlando, and the world”

DRAFT Meeting Minutes

I Welcome & Call to Order-Ted Lange

- Agenda attached
- Voters were registered and counted; 47members registered
- Call to order, pass out materials

II Prayer/Devotional-Ted Lange

- 1 Cor. 12-spiritual gifts; Gal. 5:13-unity
- Prayer
- All read the Trinity Mission Statement in unison
- Approval of Minutes-June 19, 2016-motion Ted Lange, seconded-Ulysses Floyd, passed unanimously
- Approval of Minutes-Aug. 28, 2016-motion Ted Lange, seconded-Eric Havens, passed unanimously

III Pastor's Report – Pastor Zehnder

Trinity Members and Friends, Jackie and I are thankful for your warm welcome to us once more. It is a privilege to be with you in ministry in these days. It is certainly our prayer and yours that the Lord of the Church will bless our time together in such a way that Trinity will stay strong and continue to move into the future with a sense of hope and purpose and optimism.

- For several months the congregation has been in the throes of the Calling Process for the Senior Pastor position. It is challenging and filled with faith. We must remember that our Heavenly Father is with us in this Walk and is leading us towards the Pastor that He would have in place here. Our Heavenly Father is holding on to us tightly in this process, and in every ministry He calls us to do.
- I would encourage all of you to continue to be diligent in your church life, and especially in these days to take great pains to be regular in your church attendance. In these post Christian era days, some say that a “regular attender” is one who joins in the public worship of the church, maybe every two of three weeks. This may be “what they say” but I couldn't disagree more. While any

attendance record is better than none, I would encourage you to remember the words of the Apostle who urges us, “Do not forsake the assembling of ourselves together – as the manner of some is” (Hebrews 10:25). The King James Translation was boiled down to, “Brothers! Sisters! Young people! Old people! Don’t skip out on the church’s worship.”

- In the past decade or perhaps even more, Trinity has been facing financial challenges. That dilemma is no stranger to most churches. However I was disappointed to hear that some who had decided to “Step Up” in giving at the time of the Stewardship process we followed in May of 2015 did not continue that commitment which resulted in tough financial days here at Trinity. Obviously people like, you, that is the “Choir”, are probably not among those folks. But let’s encourage one another in this aspect of our life together, as God’s Church, as well. As always be ready to take a “step up” in your financial support of God’s ministry here through Trinity.
- I am going to be assisting Tim Norris in the instruction of our Confirmands. The plan is – and I think this will work out well – that twice a month starting in January I will be absent from the 9:30 AM service in order to meet with the Confirmation classes. Pastor Larry Schaefer has agreed to step in for the 9:30 services as needed.
- I will begin a six-week Foundations Discussion Class on Saturday, January 14, 4pm to 5:15 pm. These discussions will serve various needs. It gives those interested a pathway to formal membership at Trinity. They are also for the benefit of our employees who are not connected to the Lutheran Church and Trinity. This is a requirement Trinity put into place years ago and makes sense. I believe I have heard that those attendees can also receive some kind of continuing education credits for attending! However, and I want to really stress this: I am hoping that many current members of Trinity will be an integral part of these Saturday discussions.

Everyone can use a “review” now and then. Your presence will be an encouragement to those who are new to Trinity and to me. I have always desired to lead a bible study here for our members but scheduling doesn’t allow that! These Foundation sessions makes this possible. I am confident that you will find the topics, the discussion, and the fellowship more than enjoyable. Please prayerfully make these biblical, informative six-week Saturday opportunities a priority!

- God bless us here at Trinity. Let’s pull together and get this place on the minds and hearts of Orlando, and the world!

- ***Be diligent in your attendance to church/faithful in assembly***
- ***Financial challenges-be faithful in your stewardship***
- ***Confirmands-will meet with senior confirmands during second Sunday of month during 9:30 service starting in January.***
- ***Foundations class starting on January 14th - Current members are encourage to attend to support those attending***

Thanks, friends TRZ

IV Board of School Ministry-Kathy Aber

- Kathy reminded church members that Trinity Lutheran School has nearly 400 children on campus 5 days each week 309 in CDC and 77 in K-8 served by 100 full- and part-time teachers - and that's a very active, vibrant ministry!
- The School Board is currently working on a revision of the Employee Tuition Benefit Policy adopted last year. Work should be finalized in early January in order to establish school tuition for the 2017-18 school year.
- School Board membership has changed with congregational member Bev Middleton replacing Diana Meyer who completed her term on June 30th.
- This past Friday, 192 children and chaperones from Trinity Lutheran School attended "The Nutcracker" ballet at the Dr. Phillips Center via the city bus with almost one chaperone per child — the largest group ever for this annual event that includes 80 4-year-olds and 20 kindergarten students. Teacher Katharine Sutton reported the teachers had reviewed the acts in the ballet with the children to familiarize them with it and talked about the bus ride in advance. She said some children liked different scenes in the ballet but some liked the bus ride best
- Thanksgiving Meal served to entire school and parents-500 served
- Teamwork between the finance department and the School administration has resulted in a more efficient system of fees and tuition collection.
- Kathy encouraged church members to come out during the week to see the 400 students and families touched each day by Trinity's ministry.
 - On Wednesdays — to attend the weekly school chapel services in the sanctuary to the school ministry in action. 8:30 is the time for older children's chapel and 3- and 4-year-old chapel is at 9:30.
 - Also on Wednesdays, there is a new after-school club — The Fellowship of Christian Athletes that draws students from other downtown schools. This is a national Christian organization with an outreach emphasis for young student athletes.
 - Grandparent's Day has been re-scheduled for January 23 due to Hurricane Matthew interrupting the regularly scheduled date. Kathy encouraged congregational attendance and volunteer opportunities to witness how exciting the campus becomes when more than 400 grandparents come out to see their grandchildren's school.
 - The school collects Box Tops for Education and encouraged church members to remember to collect these.
 - For end of the year donations, donations are always welcome and especially to fund new equipment for the 3- and 4-year-old playground
- The Faculty-Staff Appreciation Dinner was attended by 80 employees in the Trinity Courtyard on a recent weekend. A meal from Olive Garden was donated by a school family who is employed by Darden restaurants.
- ***In conclusion, Kathy reminded the voters that Trinity's mission of bringing children, families and the Orlando community and the world, one step closer to Jesus is truly being carried out each and every day with 400***

children, their families and friends that over 100 staff are connected to and engaged in our mission work.

- CDC Update-Patty Moser
 - 76 four year-olds are enrolled with a new class added this year
 - Many activities for combined classes in VPK and Kindergarten
 - Teachers are completing Continuing Education courses for Florida certification
- K-8 Update-Kevin Brockberg
 - To help students understand the preparation of Advent, each received a necklace with advent-colored beads, one for each progressive theme represented by the Advent Wreath:
 - Week 1 Hope-students shared Jesus as the Hope of the world to those attending the annual Tree-Lighting Ceremony at Lake Eola last week
 - Week 2 Joy-students celebrated the Joy of the season through Christmas classics: the Nutcracker Ballet at Dr. Philips Performing Arts Center and with Christmas short films sponsored by the Student Council
 - Week 3 Love-after caroling at the Lutheran Towers this Thursday, students and staff will exchange Christmas gifts with one another.

V Thrivent Financial Choice Dollars-Pulse-Donations-Tim Norris

- Trinity Downtown has received a little over \$108,000 Thrivent Choice Dollars from members around the country and world. The purpose of this money was for it to be used in the Orlando area and to have a direct impact on the community regarding the PLUSE tragedy. This understanding is what Thrivent told its members and the Leadership Council is trying to make sure that the money distributed holds true to that. To date, we have received and reviewed 7 different requests to use this money in our community. Leadership Council has approved the distribution of the following 5 requests:
 - Orlando Modern Quilting Guild - \$5,300
 - Reimbursement of the Pastor's discretionary fund for expenses from the prayer vigil - \$503
 - Deposit money for starting a Comfort Dog Ministry - \$7,500
 - Lutheran Counseling Services - \$10,000 for their general disaster fund and a yet to be determined amount for future counseling sessions for people affected by the PULSE tragedy.
 - Urban Church Plant - \$1,500 for kickoff event in October. Future events will be taking place leading up to the launch of a Downtown Urban Church Plant led by Pastor Billy Brath. It is also in discussion that we donate the rest of the money to the Urban Church Plant, which will have a target audience of the downtown and LGBT community. This effort is being supported by the District and has the blessing of Pastor Walton.

VI Comfort Dog Ministry-Jenn Blackwood

Jenn presented an overview of the Lutheran Church Charities "K-9 Comfort Dog Ministry" which is being pursued by Trinity.

- A Ministry with a mission “to share the Mercy, Compassion, Presence and Proclamation of Jesus Christ to those who are suffering and in need with mercy, compassion, non-judgmental, non-threatening, loving compassion.
- Maybe you had the opportunity to meet the 12 dogs that arrived in Orlando the days after the Pulse shooting. Our Trinity campus was “home base” for their deployment to our Downtown community. This team that was in Orlando visited police and fire stations, news stations, hospitals, prayer services, and even restaurants.
- The idea to have a comfort dog at Trinity and how we could reach into the community outside the perimeter of our campus with this ministry is simply exciting. Our location allows such wonderful ministry opportunities to be the hands and feet...and paws of Christ’s love. Our location to fire and police stations, hospitals, courthouse, public schools, and events at Lake Eola, to name a few makes ministry opportunities at our finger tips. And here on campus our school outreach ministry and the church and staff families will also benefit from this ministry
- Prior to placing a comfort dog for ministry, congregational support is required:
 - Congregational support- Volunteers and participation to form a Ministry Team
 - A K9 Ministry Team should consist of about 10-15 people. While the idea of a dog is so exciting and tugs at heart strings- the ministry of people is the top focus, the dog is just a vessel....PEOPLE make this ministry work. There are specific rules and procedures through LCC including interviews of team members. Wendy Havens and myself have both spoken to LCC to make sure we are clear on procedures. We are learning as well. A ministry plan has begun to be put in place. Very briefly: the outline of a K9 Team:
 - TOP DOG- where the dog will sleep at night- the primary care giver- who will bring dog to be on campus most days. The dog is like an “employee of Trinity”. Here the dog will be picked up for whatever the day holds.
 - HANDLERS- learn commands and go on outreach missions, trained for when dog needs a place to stay
 - CARE GIVERS- people who love on people, who listen to folks in crisis
 - FUNDRAISING
 - VISITS/SCHEDULER
 - COMMUNICATION- Social media/publicity/correspondence
 - THRIVENT
 - Financial Support - A proposal was put together requesting money from the Thrivent Pulse fund. We were granted \$7500 of the approximately \$20,000 that is required of dog placement. Now to fundraise for the rest. We are also looking into outside resources in the community which will help defray the annual costs of maintaining the ministry- such as veterinarian care/grooming/food.
- As you can see- this will take a commitment of folks. Please pray about this and your role in this exciting ministry. We will have a “Donuts and Dogs” meeting to demonstrate how you can be part of making this a successful ministry.

- ***Dogs and Donuts-Sat., January 14 @10:00 a.m. in the Magnolia Building. Sasha Comfort Dog from Hilton Head Island, SC, will be present that weekend for the meeting and for Church services.***

VII Campus Development Task Force Update-Rocky Smothers

- Foundry Commercial-Bob Emeott & Mark Meyer
- **(See attached Foundry Commercial Summary)**
- Our ministry partners at LCEF, those who hold our mortgage, suggested that we meet the folks at Foundry Commercial, a commercial real-estate firm, to discuss how their services might benefit Trinity. What we found was ministry minded individuals, with a corporate mentality of Ministry First, who can serve us with expertise in several areas of benefit to Trinity. Services that we have engaged Foundry Commercial in are,
 - Campus management – Fifteen core areas of operational support
 - Development management
 - These are areas where your Leadership Council has a commitment to excel as affirmed in our working 2016-2017 Ministry Plan, *“We will seek to improve the quality of our facilities, of our support systems, and of our ministry staffing, so that, as we begin writing the next chapter of Trinity’s life story, many more people will discover Jesus Christ, and the LIFE He offers, now and for eternity”*.
 - We view Foundry staff, not just as commercial partners but as Ministry Partners. Foundry will provide forward planning facilities management and project management with our Ministry goals in front.
 - Question & answer
 - Where located-downtown Orlando-CNL building
 - Cost-some covered through dedicated funds

VIII Parish Financial Report-David Wilkosz

- **See attached Trinity July to October 2016 Financial Graphs)**
- Financial Summary & Balance Sheet-July 2015 through June 2016
 - \$46,000 loss overall
- Financial Summary & Balance Sheet-June 2016 through Oct. 2016
 - \$10,000 loss overall
- Faithfully Forward & Bridge to the Future Capital Fund Drive-Bob Meyer
- **See attached Bridge to the Future 12-10_16 and Faithfully Forward Dec 11 Report A.)**

VIII General Manager’s Report-Eric Havens

- Expense freeze currently, except necessary items
 - Currently, expenses are outpacing revenues across the organization making meeting weekly payables, including payroll, insurance, mortgage, and other expenses difficult.
- Campus Revitalization Projects **(see attached Campus Revitalization Presentation)**
 - Bridge to the Future Campaign is an 18 month capital campaign established to upgrade aging facilities with focus on urgent projects in a

timely manner. The vision was to extend the very successful Faithfully Forward campaign to accomplish these much needed projects.

- \$113,283 pledged, \$34,333 received to date
- 15 completed projects
 - Choir loft AC
 - Railings
 - Roof replaced
 - Server relocation
 - Security monitoring system
- 13 pending projects

IX Vice-President's Report-Stephanie Landis

- Senior Pastor Call Committee
 - Two pastors have been here to visit
 - The call committee is considering which can fit our needs the best; prayerfully consider that God reveal his intentions for Pastoral leadership at Trinity.
 - We understand that with extensive ministries that Trinity engages in; we will be looking to bring on an associate pastor, or other called leadership, in the future
 - Tentative call service scheduled for January 8, immediately following the 11am service.

X President's Report-Ted Lange

One-Hundred Year Celebration

- Pastor George Trapp and a dedicated group of Lutherans gathered to form Trinity Lutheran Evangelical Church in 1919. We will celebrate this milestone, our "One-Hundred Year Celebration" in 2019.
- Your Leadership Council approved a plan of action for planning a year-long celebration of this milestone in ministry which includes planning events, programs and a focus on our history of ministry as well as engaging in our second century of ministry.
- Planning is to commence in January and will focus on year long-celebrations as well as a big event. This will be a celebration of who we are and where we are headed.
- Please consider participating in this celebration. Many varied hands and commitments are needed to dig into our past as well as plan our future.
 - Chanda Gillenwater will be the initial staff liaison as we proceed forward but understand that many paid staff as well as volunteers will make this a success.

XI Adjournment & Close-Ted Lange

- Doxology