

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church**  
**Congregation Council Meeting Minutes**  
**September 11, 2018**

Prepared by Bob Nida

**Location:** Trinity Lutheran Church Lounge

**Present:** Larry Faelchle, Neal Coryell, Pastor Peterson, Emily Godshalk, Steve Mayer, Mayda Vasquez, David Huskey, and Bob Nida.

**Absent:** Geoff Wilhelm, Donna Bowman, Sarah Evinsky.

Meeting called to order at 7:05PM

**Pastor's Devotional:** Sung hymn as a remembrance of the victims of 9/11.

**Minutes:** Emily motioned to accept August minutes. David seconded. Passed Unanimous.

**Old Business:**

Larry discussed the absentee voting motion brought up at the last annual meeting. Pastor spoke with the Synod office and he was advised that this is an ELCA-wide rule that applies to all congregations that is explicitly against absentee voting. He discussed the effort to change ELCA wide rules are about a 7-10 year process involving selling the motion to other members. Pastor reviewed the congregational constitution which was passed in 2006. Pastor will ask Bob Abrams of the Synod about how to begin to get this rule changed at ELCA.

**New Business:**

Pastor brought up the membership letter about membership and inactives. Pastor provided a rough draft that would need to be review and modified by council as necessary and then be approved by council and authored by council.

Larry brought up the WIFI topic, discussed. Bob reviewed the topic for council. Pastor motioned that we table the topic.

**Executive Reports**

- **President's Report.**

- Larry discussed the timeline of budgetary planning events based on the email he distributed over the weekend. November 18th is the plan for the annual meeting, not November 19th. October 21 is the Columbus Marathon and that day might not be wise. David reported that AEP will shut down power on September 16th.

- **Vice President's Report**

- Neal presented his key logging system. David reported that the insurance company has had issue with the number of keys distributed.

- o Neal spoke of Cropwalk.
- o Food pantry service on Sept 20th.
- **Treasurer's Report**
  - o Steve distributed budgets, reviewed income and expenses. Electricity costs had gone up from \$1,000 to \$3,000. Costs might have been attributed to new tenant's cooling and electrical needs. These might be important things to consider when renting in the future.
  - o Neal motioned to accept Treasurer's Report, Emily seconded, passed unanimous.
- **Pastor's Report**
  - o Pastor reported he drove a lot in service to member's needs.
  - o New attendees are expressing interest in membership.
  - o Pastor discussed his pastoral schedule. He tries to divide time evenly among different needs.
  - o Pastor will attend a preaching workshop in October. Will not miss a Sunday service to attend this workshop.
  - o Pastor reported that the Synod says it is up to the congregation to find their temporary pastors and set their need, general estimates of about 20 hours for temporary pastors during a pastoral sabbatical. The estimate is it would be similar to an interim pastor in context of costs and benefits.

## Committee Reports

- **Community Ministry**
  - o Mayda reported members provided to a meal to the students at Jacob's Porch.
  - o October 3th will be the collection for community pet pantry.
  - o Mayda is arranging volunteers to work on lunches.
- **Congregational Life**
  - o Emily reported last lemonade on the lawn was in August
  - o Women's Fall Fest is October 7th after service.
- **Evangelism/Communications**
  - o Report submitted.
- **Property**
  - o Discussed budget being distributed to the Saturday November 3rd service as well.
  - o Spoke with Wenger heating and cooling. They will start within the next 2-3 weeks, take a few weeks.
  - o Parking lot lights, contacted companies to repair/replace light.
  - o Chimney repair scheduled with a chimney company, repaired on October 15th and 16th.
  - o AEP replacing powerline this Sunday, September 16th.
  - o David spoke with Jill (Cello teacher) and let her know that heating system is set to be worked on.
- **Spiritual Formation**
  - o Report submitted.

- o October 27th is Fall cleanup.
- **Worship**
  - o Reported submitted.

Closed with Night Prayers.

**Adjournment:** Adjourn at 9:12 P.M.

**Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio**  
**Pastor's Report for Church Council**  
**For August, 2018 (Submitted September 11, 2018)**

**I. Upreach**

**A. Worship and Common Prayer**

- |                                  |                          |        |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|
| 1. Sabbath services each weekend | –Saturdays 5 p.m.        |        |
|                                  | --Sundays 10:30 a.m.     |        |
| 2. Midweek worship               | --Wednesdays 12:05-12:35 | Still  |
| prayer                           |                          |        |
| & commems.                       | --Wednesdays 6:15-6:45   | Feasts |
| 3. Worship and Music Team Mtg.   | Aug 21                   |        |

**B. Spiritual Formation**

1. Spiritual formation Team mtg. Date??
2. Prepped for and participated in 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday Intergen event—Church picnic 8/12
3. Study on Ephesians at Panera, Weds. Eves in August
5. Met w/pastor Beth Clothier to discuss confirmation classes 8/1

**II. Inreach**

**A. Congregational Life:**

1. Mtg. Augsut 5
2. Before and after worship base-touching, as always.
3. Church Picnic 8/12

**B. Pastoral Care:**

1. Hospital, sick, & homebound: 8/1(x2), 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 15(x2), 19, 21(x2), 23, 24, 26(x3), 27, 28, 9, 30
2. Pre-marital/Baptism/Funeral: None
3. Various phone calls and notes weekly
4. New members: 8/5, 7, 16

**III. Outreach**

**A. Evangelism/Communication:**

1. A few Facebook posts
2. Streetwalking 2x/wk.
3. Mtg. 8/15
4. Meetings and contacts w/ Alvis throughout August

**B. Visitors and Prospective Members:**

1. Lots of phone calls to regular members & friends
2. Notes, emails, or calls to visitors weekly

**C. Community Ministry:**

1. Regular contacts through Samaritan Ministry
2. Southside Progressive Action: dna August
3. Interfaith Justice Table 8/21

**IV. Downreach (Support Teams, Civic Relationships, and Personnel)**

**A. Staff:**

1. Mary—variously through the week
2. Lori—occasional base-touching
3. Dr. Tom on vacation

**B. Property:**

1. Several discussions w/ David Huskey
2. Trash pick-up through the churchyard weekly

**C. Finance:** Occasional contacts w/ Steven Mayer

**D. Council** 6/12

**E. Trans-congregational:**

None this month--cluster and conference on summer hiatus

**V. Professional & Personal Development, Time Off, Reimbursements, etc.**

**A. Scholarship, study, and teaching**

1. Enrolled in a creative writing correspondence course through Image Journal
2. Some research into pastoral sabbatical

**B. Time away 2017-18**

1. Continuing Ed. taken in 2017:

a. Total offered per year: 10 days, including 2 Sundays

b. **Taken in 2018: 10 days, incl. 2 Sundays**

Spanish Lang. course: 2 Sundays (1/ 7 & 14) + 2-4, 6, 17, 18, & 20

3. Vacation

a. Total offered per year: 4 weeks (20 workdays, including 4 Sundays)

b. Taken in 2018

i. Language & Culture Trip in Mexico: 3 days, incl. 1 Sunday

ii. Science of Consciousness Conference: 2 days (April 4-5)

iii. Visit to my sister Holly in Minnesota: 6/24-29 (3 days, no Sundays)

c. Planned yet for 2018

i. Preaching workshop in Minneapolis: 3 days (10/2-4)

ii. Unplanned for vacation remaining: 9 days, (including 3 Sundays)

3. Mileage to be reimbursed, August: 919 miles (x \$0.545/mile =) \$500.85

June & July: 510 (June) + 578 (July) = 1088 miles

1088 miles x \$0.545/mile = \$592.96

**VI. Remarks:**

1. Let's rejoice in our new members: Nichole, Camille, James, Dustin, and Jessie!  
Scott Counts appears to be ready to join the congregation.

2. It's been a bit rough this month, having 3 funerals after providing care for 3 members in hospice.

3. I'm finding the additional prayer times nourishing and reinvigorating. Join me!  
Morning prayer T-R 7:30  
Evening Prayer, T 5:30

4. FYI: I generally try to divide my weekly work time up into fourths (@ a little over 10 hrs/week):
- ¼ Preaching, teaching, and worship prep
  - ¼ Pastoral Care
  - ¼ Working with Leaders & ministry teams
  - ¼ Everything else (admin.)

## Tuesday, September

# 11, 2018 Communications & Evangelism Report September 2018

Our committee met on August 16. Sarah Evinsky, Neal Coryeal, and Pastor Peterson were in attendance. We discussed the outdoor signage design and placement. There will be two 4'x12' vinyl banners mounted on the north corner of the educational wing. One will be pretty permanent with our worship times, contact information, etc and one will be designed to be rotated for the season.

We also discussed signage in the fellowship hall to communicate our worship services, website information, and mission statement to all the outside groups using that space.

I assisted with organizing our participation in God's Work, Our Hands Sunday on September 9. We had about a dozen people help prepare a meal for Jacob's Porch, set up and clean up the meal, and participate in their worship service.

Upcoming Events:

1. Columbus marathon 10/21: we plan to have volunteers staff a table and pass out water to runners and interact with spectators
2. Village Lights: Provide treats to visitors

## **Spiritual Formation Ministry Report – Month of August 2018**

*Submitted by Geoff Wilhelm on 9/11/2018*

**Committee members:** Amy Hehr, Brad Smith, Carol Smith, Christiane Buuck, Geoff Wilhelm, Pastor Chuck, Bob Ohrstedt

**Next Ministry Team Meeting:** TBD, Either Tuesday October 9<sup>th</sup> @ 7pm or Sunday October 14<sup>th</sup> @ noon

### **Children's / Youth Christian Education:**

Jill McCarter is doing a great job with the Childrens' Minister role. Amy and Pastor are beginning to work with her on lesson plans for light Childrens' Christ Ed during "nursery" time

### **Youth & Family Ministry:**

Intergenerational 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday event updates follow:

#### **August 12<sup>th</sup> – Theme: Faith Webbing @ the Picnic!**

- Spiritual Formation teamed up with Congregational Life to add some fellowship "mixer" activities as well as provide some gathering and closing activities
- The prayers were enjoyed by all and the table mixer activity was well received!

#### **September 22<sup>nd</sup> – Theme: Faith Webbing with Gary Pecuch Saturday, September 22 9:30a-Noon**

How well connected are you to the people you worship with? Old Trinity is going through an exciting period of transitions as we welcome more and more new members into our midst, in the midst of a rapidly changing city. As a church, we strive to support, encourage, and care for one another, but this is challenging when we may not even know each other well.

Please plan to join us on September 22<sup>nd</sup> for a morning dedicated to growing together in Christ. Gary Pecuch, the Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator for our Southern Ohio Synod, will be present at Old Trinity to discuss how we get to know one another better, and better yet, to better encourage, support, and care for one another through "faith webbing."

#### **October 27th – Intergenerational Event: Fall Cleanup! Saturday, October 27th, Time TBD**

Spiritual Formation is teaming up with Property to gather a fall cleanup...combined with opening and closing fellowship and devotions

#### **December 1<sup>st</sup> – Intergenerational Event: Preparing for Advent: Saturday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 9:30a-noon**

We will gather for fellowship and devotions and crafts centered around making Advent Wreaths – that can be used immediately, as Advent begins December 2<sup>nd</sup>!



**Community Group Study: Midweek Faith Discussion and Bible Study on Immigration:  
“Out of the Waters”: Wednesday Evenings at 7:00**

Concerns about immigration and refugees have been in our news and in our prayers lately, but what does the Bible say about all of this? This study will help us engage the biblical story as it relates to issues of migration. As participants take on the roles of Moses, Miriam, Pharaoh and others, we will have a chance to bring these characters to life and engage directly with their stories. Better understanding our faith story will help us act and live as people of faith and citizens of this land.

<b>Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Exodus 1:1-14</b>	<b><i>Pharaoh Didn't Know Joseph</i></b>
<b>Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Exodus 1:15-21</b>	<b><i>“They Are Not Like Us”</i></b>
<b>Wednesday, September 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Exodus 1:22-2:10</b>	<b><i>Moses, the First Mojado</i></b>
<b>Wednesday, September 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Exodus 2:11-3:10</b>	<b><i>Hyphentated Egyptians</i></b>
<b>Wednesday, October 3<sup>rd</sup></b>		<b><i>St. Francis Day Mass and Blessing of Animals</i></b>

**Evinsky Small Group Study** – Folks are gathering Sunday evenings at the Evinsky home for study and discussion on the lessons from the week.

**Alpha – Planning for the Future**

We will want to begin planning in September, for a new Alpha series in early January 2019. Our goal will be to encourage as many people as possible to get the word out to friends, family, and the community around us. We tentatively set mid-November as the beginning of a communication campaign to promote the series.

**Confirmation Classes**

Pastor Chuck plans to begin confirmation classes with Robyn Gurujal and Carlos Pagan in September.

## AUGUST 2018 WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Committee members: Pastor Peterson, Sarah Bender, Katie Brandt, Neal Coryell, Shirley Griffin, Bev Speasmaker, Tom Wells, Donna Bowman, chair

An inventory of communion supplies was made in July and normal wear and tear necessitate the purchase of some new Communion linens. As one of the home Communion kits has a damaged lid and we have added new Eucharistic ministers, we need to purchase two additional kits. This will result in the committee overspending its worship supplies budget, again.

Since the feast of St. Francis falls on a Thursday we decided to transfer the celebration to October 3 and have our traditional Blessing of the Animals at 7 as part of the Wednesday service.

Beginning September 9, the liturgy will change to Now the Feast and continue until the beginning of Advent.

We will have, possibly, two confirmation students starting in fall. Pastor Peterson has been discussing combining our students with other churches that also have just a few. The confirmation students will be encouraged to participate in worship as acolytes.

Following the meeting, we had a general cleanup of the area behind the altar.