

**The 246th Annual Congregational Meeting of Trinity Lutheran Church, Bedford PA
12/20/2015 at 9:45 A.M.**

Topic	Discussion Points to Note	Actions, Decisions, Recommendations
Gathering Welcome and Prayer Call to Order	Meeting was called to order by Council President Dr. Jerry Gronborg	
Minutes from the 2014 Congregational Meeting	Completed mortgage in a ten year span. New members Budget for 2015 was adopted	Motion was made by Fred Claycomb and Second by Janet Raines to approve 2014 minutes. Motion Approved.
Recognition of 2015 Council Members	<p>3rd Year Dr. Jerry Gronborg (2 years Executive committee/ President/finance) Lori Dunkle (Executive committee/ Secretary/Outreach) Elden Lorah-Property team Janet Raines (Executive committee/Treasurer/finance)</p> <p>2nd Year Ben Altman-Worship team Tammy Crawford-Children and Youth team Sue Prescott (Executive committee/ Vice President/ Children and Youth) Sandy Zembower- Adult and All Parish team</p> <p>1st year Lois Boyer-Worship team Amanda Casteel-Adult and All Parish team Denise Steele-Outreach team Jeremy Vent-Property team</p>	Pastor Short acknowledged and thanked our Council Members (and their families) for their faithful commitment and service among us.
Election of New Council Members (3 year term)	<p>Nominees: Jennifer Bailey Jay Cessna Don Replogle Kevin Rizzo</p>	<p>No Additional Nominees were presented. Motion to close nominations properly made and seconded. Motion Approved (unanimously)</p> <p>Jennifer, Jay, Don, and Kevin were elected to serve a three year term beginning January 2016.</p>

<p>Ministry Team Reports:</p>	<p>Detailed reports are available on the Church’s website and on file in the Church Office.</p> <p>Executive Committee (Officers Jerry, Sue, Lori, and Janet) Dr. Gronborg highlighted</p> <p>Worship and Music Ministry team Ben Altman highlighted</p> <p>Children and Youth Ministry team Tammy Crawford and Sue Prescott highlighted</p>	<p>A heart felt Thank You is shared with all parishioners who serve on our Ministry Teams.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Established use of 2015 Thrivent Choice Dollar donations *Named Troy Dunkle the recipient of the 2015 Trinity Lutheran Church/Paul B Schendel Memorial Scholarship *Created 2016 Salary & Benefits recommendations for pastors and congregational employees *Coordinated Nominations for the Election to 2016 Church Council *Developing Plans for Renovation of the Altar and Nave *Cantor Ministry expanding *Deacon Ministry expanding *Blessing of the Animals on the Feast of St. Francis (Oct. 4) *Strong participation in weekly worship leadership ministries *Growing Sunday School *Strong participation in After School Faith and Fun Club ministry *Dynamic Summer VBS *Renewing Confirmation ministry *Strong participation in Youth Group, Pittsburgh Youth Encounter Retreats, Kiva, etc. *Created Children and Youth Safety Policy and compliant with State-Mandated Clearances
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	<p>Adult and All-Parish Ministry team Amanda Casteel and Sandy Zembower highlighted</p> <p>Outreach Ministry team Lori Dunkle and Denise Steele highlighted Dr. Gronborg gave report</p> <p>Finance and Stewardship team Dr. Gronborg and Janet Raines highlighted</p>	<p>*Growing participation in Easter breakfast, Summer Wind-down picnic, Fall hayride, Christmas Family Festival</p> <p>*Strong participation in Adult Forum Sunday morning adult series, and Wednesday Evening Bible studies</p> <p>*Women of Trinity</p> <p>*Generational fellowship groups with Fall, Winter, and Spring gatherings</p> <p>*Monthly Book Club, Knitting and Crocheting ministry, Sewing ministry</p> <p>*Trinity Hikers fellowship-new this year</p> <p>*Tome Ministry Fund Grants</p> <p>*God's Work Our Hands Day at the Bedford County Library</p> <p>*Prayer notes to parishioners and friends</p> <p>*Monthly ministry highlights and appeals</p> <p>*Strong support of Tuesday Free Community Dinners</p> <p>*Sharing with the ministries of the Allegheny Synod and the ELCA</p> <p>*Strong Partnership with The Salvation Army</p> <p>-coordination of community kettle drive & 30+ parishioner volunteers</p> <p>-coordination of area Christmas Toy and Clothing Ministry</p> <p>-coordination of Free Thanksgiving dinner</p> <p>-disbursement of more than \$25,000 in charitable aid for local Rent & Utility Assistance</p> <p>*Leadership among local Ecumenical Ministerium</p> <p>*Audit of 2014 Accounts found accounts in good order.</p> <p>*Growth in giving of c. 7-8% as of October 2015</p> <p>*Periodic ministry and personal stewardship updates sent to parishioners and friends</p> <p>*Presentation by Pr. Liz Polanzke, regional ELCA Planned Giving specialist</p> <p>*Thorough quarterly reviews of all ministry accounts and investments</p> <p>*Beginning reimbursement to Investment Account of Garden of the Resurrection expenses</p>
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	<p>Property Ministry team Jeremy Vent and Elden Lorah highlighted</p>	<p>Comment: New paint job in Social rooms looks fantastic!! *Painting of hallways, social room, and restrooms *Lighting at front of main entrance *Church sign updated *Parish house porch restored and railings *Exterior Narthex doors refinished *Hundreds of hours volunteered annually in regular maintenance and minor repairs</p>
<p>Administration and Office Ministries</p>	<p>Pastor Short Highlighted Tasks of our Secretary, Kathie Crist's tasks</p>	<p>*Weekly worship recordings ministry *Winter, Spring, and Fall Newsletters *Weekly Worship Resources and Announcement pamphlets *Management of offerings, other receipts, payroll, and accounts payable *Coordination of use of facilities *Salvation Army Charitable Assistance *Website management</p>
<p>2016 Parish Ministry Budget Proposal</p>	<p>Dr. Jerry Gronborg presented</p>	<p>2016 Budgeted Income: \$341,702 2016 Budgeted Expenditures: \$350,118 2016 Anticipated Actual Expenditures: \$340,553</p> <p>Notes: *invites parishioners and friends to grow 3.5% in their offerings and gifts to the Church (compared to 4% in 2014 and 7% in 2015) *reduces our use of Invested Assets and Income for our Regular Parish Ministries. *modest growth in expenses related mainly to health insurance premiums and modest salary increases to our employees and staff.</p> <p>Motion properly moved and seconded to adopt the 2016 Parish Ministry Budget as presented by the Church Council. Motion Carried (unanimously).</p>

	Funds and Accounts	<p>Noted the Following Accounts and Funds which are regularly reviewed by our Finance Team that support various special aspects of our Ministries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Designated benevolence *Memorial fund *Youth ministries *Garden of the Resurrection *Tome ministry fund *Music ministries endowment *TLC/Paul Schendel scholarship *TLC Capital reserve endowment *TFL investment portfolio
Staff Appreciation	<p>192 Years of Collective Experience and Dedication!!!</p> <p>Kathie Crist (47), Janelle Lowe (42), Pastor Short (29), Susan Casteel (29), Terry Osman (22), Jayne Morse (18), Pastor Weinhold (3), Liz Miller (2)</p>	<p>Gratitude was expressed to all congregational employees and staff members, especially Kathie Crist's 47 years of service.</p> <p>Kathie and Pr Short are working closely to ensure that, in the future as retirement plans are developed, transitions will be smooth and intentional.</p>
Staff Updates	<p>Children's Ministries...Liz Miller</p> <p>Parish Musicians...present by Dr. Gronborg</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *A fantastic year *Everest June's VBS *Sunday School is growing *Faith & Fun Club avg. 18 *Unfrozen Christmas pageant *Great crew of volunteers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Experimenting with vocal and handbell choir rehearsal and Sunday Leadership schedules to be more user friendly and welcoming to new recruits *Special Easter and Christmas Cantata choirs *Experimenting with ministry of our Cantors

	<p>Time with Pastor Weinhold</p>	<p><i>Highlights</i> *Weddings, illness, and grief *Children and Youth Ministries (highlighted key points) *Adult and All-parish Ministries (highlighted key points) *Bible study...up to 15-18 participants at times *Blessed with great groups and team here at Trinity. **2016 -explore electronic giving options -various funding sources for resources like Thrivent Action Teams (thousands of \$) -build on Children and Youth ministries, build on their self-worth and also their neighbors</p>
	<p>Time with Pastor Short</p>	<p><i>Highlights</i> *Appreciate incredible personal support on the death of Pr Short's Father and the birth of first grandchild this past year. *Free Community Dinner... Thankful we opened our doors to this ministry (7 Years) Feeding the hungry-fulfills the mission of Jesus. The ecumenical partnership we've developed is a unique ministry. *Property Team... Countless hours of small tasks that many people don't see. Thank you to all those volunteers *Worship and Music... Large number of things, countless people involved in this, various people to coordinate this. It is enlivening and good. *Staff.. Thank you as well. See it as a mission not just a job. *Recent survey indicates less than 50% of Bedford County resident identify with an religious tradition. We'll explore ways to wrap our heads around this reality and options this presents for evangelism efforts.</p>

Looking ahead to 2016		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> *Worship and Music teams Altar and Nave Renovation plans *Making full use of new Thrivent's Action Team Ministry Grants *Updating photo collage of historical pastors in Trinity Hall *Stewardship matters and financial designs for ministries in the "long-term" *Developing early thoughts on the 2019 celebration of Trinity's 250th Anniversary
Other Business		None noted
Adjournment		Jay Cessna moved to adjourn. Properly seconded. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:45 am
Respectfully Submitted: Lori Dunkle Council Secretary December 21, 2015		