

# TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL

## *Voters' Meeting*

May 19, 2024

Chairman Bob Locke opened with a devotion.

Minutes from May 21, 2023, Voters' Meeting approved with no corrections.

Sign in sheet attached; 61 voting members present.

### BOARD & STAFF REPORTS

**School Board** (See attached – p. 4): Rick Thomas expanded on his written report. May is a very busy month at TLS.

**Board of Elders** (see attached – p. 5).

**Pastor Keinath** (See attached – p. 5).

**Youth** (See attached – p. 6-7)

**Director of Operations** (See attached – p. 8).

### TREASURER'S REPORT

- See attached (pp. 9-10)
- Treasurer David Ottolino gave a brief overview of the budget and explained the “cash on deposit” figure, most of which is already allotted to cover certain expenses. This includes the \$1 million bequest, which will be further discussed later in the meeting.
- Report on the use of “Council Directed Funds” in the previous year (p. 11).

### ISSUES FOR DISCUSSION and/or ACTION

#### **Election of 2024-2026 officers and board members (p. 12)**

- **Vice President of Church Council:** This is the only position for which there are more nominees than openings. Tyrel Keller: 33 votes; Mike Larson: 22 votes.
- Motion made and seconded to accept the rest of the slate. No further discussion. Motion carried.

#### **2023-2024 Budget -- pp. 13-14 (David Ottolino)**

- 80% of our budget is for people (salaries and benefits).
- General contributions are down. This has been offset by two major vacancies, but we may need to re-evaluate and renew our individual stewardship commitment in light of the missions and needs of TLC. The proposed budget assumes an increase of 2% in contributions and a 7.5-9.5% increase in school income. Enrollment will likely stay the same since we have no room to grow. We don't know who/when the vacancies will be filled, so can't predict exactly what those costs will be.

Q: Is music director funded out of the church or the school budget?

A: Church budget.

- **Resolution 1: Adoption of General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2025 (p. 14).** Motion made and seconded to adopt Resolution 1. No further discussion. Motion carried.

### **Solar Project for Trinity Lutheran School (p. 14)**

- Motion made and seconded to approve Resolution 2: Funding Solar Panel Project at Trinity Lutheran School.

Q: Where will panels be installed?

A: South-facing part of gym. It's the perfect slope for solar panels.

Q: Does the 25-year warrantee cover hail damage?

A: Part of the research included talking to SD2, which has hundreds of solar panels installed on schools around the city. In 10 years, SD2 has lost only one panel to hail. Panels now are more durable than they used to be.

Q: Will there be net metering (can we sell what we don't use)?

A: Over-production will be banked for our own use.

Q: How would the "federal tax credit" work in this case?

A: A federal tax credit for non-profit organizations comes in the form of a check from the federal government at the end of the fiscal year.

Q: Would accepting a federal tax credit require us to abide by federal policies with which we don't agree?

A: No.

Q: Will our insurance premiums go up?

A: Probably, but it would be minimal compared to the benefits.

Q: Does building insurance cover hail damage?

A: Yes.

The warrantee would cover defective panels, and the installation company (possibly A-Team Roofing & Solar) would guarantee workmanship/installation. Installation company would handle any warrantee claims.

Motion carried.

### **2024-2025 Ministry Plan**

- **Staffing update and Q&A (p. 15):** Pastor Keinath complimented our phenomenal staff and what they do to keep our ministry moving. Party set for June 9 for those who are retiring. We are blessed to have such a long-term staff, especially considering the shortage of church workers.
- Our call committee has invested a lot of time and effort to find a new principal. They talked early in the process about the merits of an interim principal but were not optimistic about finding one. Two individuals were called to fill the position permanently, but both declined. Fifteen other people from the roster were contacted, but none were available. In the meantime, the committee became aware of a synodically-trained principal in Laurel whose contract is not being renewed. Her husband is the pastor at Joy Lutheran (LCMC). Decision was made to hire her as interim principal (two years). She will not have some of the authority that a permanent principal would have, such as decisions on curriculum or staff hires, and understands that the position is not likely to become permanent because she is not a member of the LCMS.

Q: Which school staff must be rostered?

A: Teachers

- **Long-range planning update:**

- **Core values and mission statement (pp. 16-17):** Pastor Keinath acknowledged the work done by the Long-range Planning Committee which reviewed and refined our core values and mission statement. This work will help us focus our ministry efforts and address facility needs. They found that our values haven't changed, but the way we minister has. Our current mission statement emphasizes knowing Christ, but the proposed revision emphasizes living for Christ. We are not only IN God's word, but we also live it out. Congregation is asked to provide feedback on the proposed mission statement.
- **Facilities Planning (pp. 18-20):** Jonathan Boll provided an overview of three options. Estimates were done in the last few weeks and include an inflation factor.
  - **Option 1 (Stay in current location):** Assumes that TYM would stay intact. "C" would take about 30% (20 out of 80) parking spaces. "A" is new office space.
  - **Option 2 (Move church to school campus):** This would put TLC/TLS ministries together. Church could use the gym and classrooms, and the school would gain a chapel. New sanctuary would be about 4,000 sq. ft, compared to our current 3,400 sq. ft.
  - **Option 3 (Build a new church and school at a new location)**

Each table spent some time listing pros/cons to each alternative. Voters got a sheet to fill out at home to provide feedback on mission, core values and facility options. Please return by June 15.

- **Use of major gift:** The gift is currently in a CD, which matures this week. Church council recommends placing the funds in the LCMS endowment fund for capitol improvements. Motion made and seconded to place the funds in the endowment fund.

Q: Do we need to tithe this gift?

A: The donor gave no restrictions except to say that the entire amount should stay with TLC.

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Pastor Keinath closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

*Ann Boucher*

Ann Boucher  
Congregational Secretary