

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
SEMI ANNUAL MEETING
February 4, 2024

The semi-annual meeting was called to order at 10:41 am by council president Bob Horn. 102 members were in attendance.

The opening prayer was led by Pastor Eric Wooldridge.

The **Minutes** of the June 11, 2023, semi-annual meeting were reviewed. The motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Committee Reports: Copies of reports were provided in the meeting packet. Committee chairs were asked to come forward for introductions.

Staff Reports: Pastor's report was included in the packet. He emphasized the current growth in membership. Tammy Rismiller provided the Deacon's report and emphasized the growth in staff hours in Youth and Family. This allows for additional events and programming. In addition, she encouraged unity and kindness among our congregation, no matter what the results of the vote today.

Approval of 2024 Budget:

Nina Body explained that the budget has been carefully put together over several months of work with input from many people. A question was voiced regarding salary guidelines in keeping with the Southwest Washington Synod. Ms. Body explained where our proposed salaries sit within these guidelines, and shared that we are in keeping with these guidelines. A motion was made to approve the 2024 budget as presented. Motion seconded. Motion carried.

President Bob Horn started the following discussion with a very specific prayer, thanking the people who came before us, and for wisdom in our decision. He then provided some context, recalling the history of the purchase of the 11-acre property in the 1990s, and more recent meetings where it was decided to look into the possibility of either building on this property or remodeling the current building. The firm of Snodgrass Freeman Architects was contracted to do a feasibility study of these options. Dollar figure estimates were provided in this study. Over the course of these meetings and studies, it became clear that the congregation did not want to put the church into debt for a very large sum. The reason for the 75% super-majority is to make sure the congregation is unified in its decision as much as possible. A yes vote for the property sale motion would initiate the formation of a task force to explore, list and consider offers. A low offer would not be accepted. A no vote would mean we would hold the land.

Opportunity for comments and questions was provided. It was noted that the issue of selling the property can cause anxiety and worry. But we emphasize the spirit of generosity and unity in the church. It was also noted that the 75% super-majority is a very high bar. If that motion should fail, a simple majority would prevail. The question was asked if the congregation could

vote on acceptance of possible future offers for the land. It was noted that this may not be feasible due to the timeline necessary to respond to an offer. A personal story was shared about feeling the presence of God with us today and through these upcoming changes. A comment was made asking that we honor the history of the current building.

75% Super-Majority: A motion was presented to require a 75% super-majority for the passing of the motion that immediately follows. The motion was made and seconded. This motion was voted by paper ballot. Motion carried. The vote was 65 yes, 28 no, and 1 abstain.

Motion for Property Sale: The following motion was presented and discussed, relative to the 11 acre property owned by Trinity Lutheran Church in Enumclaw. "To initiate plans for the sale of all or part of the three parcels of land at 24711 SE 440th St, 24631 SE 440th St, and King County Parcel #232006-9041, and to initiate plans for a remodel of our church building at 1535 Washington Avenue with the goal of completing without the need for a loan. Final approval and acceptance of an offer for the sale of the parcels will be made by the council". This motion was voted by paper ballot. Points of clarification were addressed. The motion passed by a majority of 84%. There were 82 yes votes, 13 no and 3 abstain.

Open Sharing: Comment was made that the coming together of the congregation even if there is fear for the future, there is also joy in these changes. Appreciation for the congregation and its history.

A motion was then added that we establish a committee to actively look for and research possible purchase of adjacent properties to afford us expansion room. The motion was seconded. Discussion and questions followed. It was noted that this has actually been part of past practice (with right of first refusal if sale of adjacent properties come up). It was then decided to ask the church council to more thoroughly discuss this possibility, and therefore the motion and its second were withdrawn. It was moved and seconded to ask the church council to further discuss this. Motion carried.

Thanks was expressed for the hours of prayer, worry, concern and thoughtful consideration that has gone into this process.

Closing prayer was led by Pastor Wooldridge. O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 am.