

Minutes of Holy Trinity Vestry Meeting May 5, 2025

See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland. [Isaiah 43:19]

HOLY EUCHARIST

Present: Nancy Waugh, Dave Monroe, Jean Frost, John Grant, Eileen DeMings, Lynn Garland, Susan Howland, Robin Yates, Pastor Dan, Cat Reith-Lowery, Jace Lowery – guest, and on Zoom - Ryan Bousquet

Regrets: none

OPENING BUSINESS

- Acceptance of Minutes: April 9, 2025 Jean Frost **A motion was made to accept the minutes from the April meeting, it was seconded and carried.**
- Treasurer's Report: Nancy Waugh Nancy did not receive any questions about the financials she sent out via email. We did receive the invoice from P&P Contractors for \$35,950. Nancy moved moved \$8,006 from the savings account to the building fund. After paying the invoice, the Building Fund will have \$0. The monthly income from Food Share and the Recovery group is \$1600. **A motion was made to accept the treasurer's report, it was seconded and carried.**
- Pastoral Care Check-in Thank you very much to the meal train team working quietly in the background. The recipient is very pleased.
- What have we done well? The services during Holy Week and Easter were well attended. There were close to 30 people at the Easter Vigil at BLC. The Stations of the Cross at St. Anne's outdoor setting on Good Friday was done at noon, along with the parishioners from St. Anne's. In previous years the Family Worship group have gone at 11 am. It was adult oriented, but the kids did very well. It was outside and it was a nice day. The ecumenical sunrise service on Easter morning at Old Sturbridge Village in the Meeting House was very well attended. The generous offering collected was designated for St. Luke's Guest House. The Maundy Thursday overnight prayer vigil at Holy Trinity went well. All hours were covered, three in a row by a single person. The Landscaping Committee took care of making sure the grass seed around the retaining wall project was watered.
- What could we have done better? Nothing was mentioned.

PRIEST'S REPORT:

- Update on Lorraine's diaconate training – Pastor Dan read a letter from Jane Griesbach, the Diocesan Archdeacon, about Lorraine's training for becoming a deacon. Lorraine will remain at Holy Trinity a bit longer before being sent to another church in the Diocese to complete her training. Susan recommended the letter be included in next month's Tidings and the Vestry agreed.
- Confirmation is this Sunday, May 18th. Pastor Dan met with Bishop Fisher last week regarding the service. Bethlehem's Confirmation will be June 29th, instead of in October. There are some confirmands that are going to college in the Fall. The fifth Sunday in June, June 29th, will be a shared service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.
- The Collaboration Committee met recently. They have been talking about doing a shared service once a month, on the first Sunday of the month. The Family Worship people on Vestry would like to save the first Sunday of the month for the Family Sunday service, when the youth get to read, usher, and acolyte. A suggestion was made to hold the shared service on the last Sunday of each

month. The monthly service wouldn't start until Fall. Another joint activity, Fellowship around the fire pit, will take place on June 7, July 26, August 9, and September 20, from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm. In addition to S'mores there will be informal potluck refreshments. A shared service will be held on October 5th to celebrate Bethlehem's 40th anniversary. There will be an opportunity for some game time during the 40th anniversary celebrations. There was also discussion about going to a WooSox game. A Bravehearts game would be another option. Rosilda's Kitchen would like to have the kids back to help serve, possibly the Friday after Memorial Day – dates to be discussed further since some graduations will be happening that weekend and the next. June 6th may be better than May 30th

- For the warmer weather fans will be brought up into the sanctuary, and no vestments will be worn starting Memorial Day. Pastor Dan will be at Lutheran Synod meeting May 30th and 31st.
- Easter crosses outside and the Alleluia banner will remain displayed throughout the Easter Season.

FOLLOW-UP TO PREVIOUS BUSINESS

- Review of Holy Week services – already done
- Retaining Wall final report project has been completed, looks good

NEW BUSINESS

- Plan for Bishop's visit on 5/18/2025 - The Bishop is adding a statement to the Baptismal Covenant for the service, a commitment to caring for the environment. Saturday there will be a pre-confirmation vigil, and they will go over what will happen the following day. The confirmands will meet with Bishop Fisher in the Undercroft at 10:15 am Sunday. Confirmands process in together and will sit together in a pew. After the Sermon hymn the confirmands will be invited up front. (Cat will move a chair for the Bishop before the service.)
- Plan for confirmation / prayer shawls and scarves/cake – Prayer Shawls were chosen for the confirmands and the person being received into the Episcopal Church, three of the confirmands will receive prayer scarfs, instead of shawls, in their school colors.
- Review of how many "Forward Day by Day" copies we need to order after some discussion we will continue to order 10 copies of Forward Day by Day.
- Plan for next 5th Sunday gathering at BLC on 6/29/2025 – confirmation at BLC.
- Hope Wilson asks if we would be willing to donate our tall revolving brochure rack to Catholic Charities – yes, that is OK.
- The Board of Health sent an email out with the information about a new town mandate. By January 2026 there must be a person with certification in "anti-choking techniques" present when there is a group eating together at the church. The person or persons who are certified need to be registered with the town.

MINISTRY REPORTS (as appropriate)

- Communications: Susan Howland, Cat Reith-Lowry, John Grant Cat sends out mailchimps when asked, she can set up the email ahead of time, and then send it later. Events discussed by the collaboration committee and the dates they will take place can be done via MailChimp. Susan informed the vestry that the weekly bulletin is no longer being posted on the website. The focus of the website is on what visitors would want to see, and the members page (password protected) is focused on what parishioners want to see. Susan keeps the website up to date.
- Building Committee: Jean Frost There was a Building Committee Report, but it was not sent out before the meeting. Two items that need the Vestry's approval are the recommendation of the Building Committee to take advantage of Tasse's 15% discount on projects quoted if they are

signed and a deposit paid by June 1, 2025. There were separate quotes for the 3 pieces of the full project given in January relating to the heating system in the undercroft. The first piece is the work to be done on the small boiler. **A motion was made to approve taking advantage of Tasse's 15% discount for the re-piping of the small boiler, seconded and carried.** The second item was a recommendation by our Sexton, Greg, to replace the carpeting in the upstairs bathroom and replace it with tile. An estimate was requested at the time the estimate was done to replace the carpet in the Dirlam room in the ministry wing with tile. **A motion was made to have the carpet removed from the upstairs bathroom and replace it with tile, it was seconded and carried.**

- Endowment Committee: Susan Howland
- Landscaping Committee: Lynn Garland, Dave Monroe. A new member has joined the team and is enjoying it. Plants are coming up and blooming. Some hosta's were donated and planted. The grounds look good.
- Family Worship/Faith Formation: Eileen DeMings - report given earlier.
- Youth Program: Dave Monroe and Ryan Bousquet – no report
- Daughters of the King: Robin Yates The closets downstairs for the Liberia project are now empty. It was a very worthwhile service project.
- Stewardship: Nancy Waugh, Lynn Garland The theme for this year's stewardship season is Tell Out my Soul
- Hospitality: Lynn Garland - Overall, things are going well. A few people have left the rotation, but there is no lack of refreshments on any given Sunday.

Closing prayer - Jean

Motion to adjourn 9:12 pm