

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

April 13, 2010

7:30 P.M.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Cathy Berg, Gaylen Bierman, Linda Bloom-Scott, Pastor Bob Dahl, Jean Haug, Jeff Jorgenson, Betty Kauffman, Corlys Knudson, Brian Kruse, Shelly Maes, Marlene Nordby, Tom Nordby, Jason Peterson, Dawn Planting, Mike Ponstein, Karl Porisch, Beth Roelfsema, Pastor Jacqueline Rostad, Marie Sample, Rebecca Steilen, Jason Swenson, Tim Tomasek, Tonya Tomasek, Chris Ulrich, Christine Versaevel.

Guests: Tom Hey, Bruce Lamprecht, Bonnie Wasberg.

President Shelly Maes called the council meeting to order with the reading of the First Lutheran mission statement.

Pastor Dahl led the group in devotions from the book: *All Will Be Well* using Psalm 63 – “O God, my God! How I search for you! How I thirst for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water . . .” and the history of Wall Drug – begun in 1931 – which gave away ice water to thirsty travelers. Christ comes as the living water into our lives.

PASTORS’ REPORTS:

Pastor Jacquelin Rostad: She reported that she was attending the Beatitudes Prophetic Preaching Institute in Berkeley, California during the March council meeting. This was a very worthwhile experience; she was also able to visit her brother and family in Arcada while in California. During the summer, she and Pastor Dahl will be working with young adults to do some activities together once a month – Bible study, movie night, etc. It is hoped this group will continue with ongoing activities in the year(s) to come. This will be the concluding activity of her internship, which will end in mid-August.

Pastor Bob Dahl reported that attendance / participation was good during Holy Week. First Communion on Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday worship services were well attended. There were approximately 150 worshipers at the 7:30 a.m. worship on Easter Sunday, with around 600 worshipers at the other worship services.

SECRETARY’S REPORT:

Beth Roelfsema moved, seconded by Dawn Planting and carried to approve the minutes from the March council meeting.

TREASURER’S REPORT:

Please note: The \$400 for bulk mailing was deposited into the church’s bulk mailing account at the post office. The cost of an individual mailing is \$60+. Despite giving being behind \$32,000+ according to the 2010 Financial Plan, all bills have been paid and there has not been a need to transfer money from the savings account to cover expenses. Giving and attendance has been consistent. With the clarification of the \$400 for bulk mailing, Tom Nordby moved, seconded by Jason Peterson, and carried to approve the report as printed / given.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. **Church-wide goals:** Strategies are needed to meet these goals; committees are asked to discuss / brainstorm strategies to accomplish these goals and bring those ideas to the May council meeting. The 5 goals are:
1. Increase worship attendance
 2. Grow programming for “Lutheran Men in Mission.”
 3. Experience a revival of the Holy Spirit within the family of God at First Lutheran.
 4. Improve church-wide communication
 5. Improve new member sponsorship.
- B. **Ad Hoc Task Force Report:** Members are: Shirley Anderson – Porisch, Cathy Berg, Tom Hey, Bruce Lamprecht, Shelly Maes, Jason Swenson, Chris Ulrich. The task force’s goal is to heal the First Lutheran family. They have had 3 meetings and have written a survey consisting of 6 questions to be given to worshipers during the next 2 weekends. It was suggested that someone from the task force introduce the survey at each worship service. They have also written a resolution addressing actions of the 2009 ELCA Church-wide Assembly. After much discussion and some wording changes, a motion was made by Jason Swenson, seconded by Cathy Berg, and carried to approve the resolution. The task force will continue to research the benefits of staying with the ELCA, leaving the ELCA, joining another synod, etc. as well as interviewing those who have left First Lutheran.

NEW BUSINESS:

- A. **SW MN Synod Assembly Offerings and Resolutions:** A motion was made by Jason Swenson, seconded by Jeff Jorgenson to bring an offering of \$600 for Mission Partners, and \$500 for World Hunger to the synod assembly. These offerings will come from the sale of the church’s lawn tractor for \$1300. The motion carried.
- B. **Revised Staff Job Descriptions:** copies of the present job descriptions, and proposed job description were available for all council members. Council members are asked to ready these descriptions for discussion at the May council meeting.
- C. **Goal Setting Process and Staff Annual Review Process:** Staff members are going to be asked to set goals for the year, meet on a regular basis with an Personnel Committee member for frequent updating / feedback, with end of the year evaluation of the goals and the year. Council members are asked to look over this process.
- D. **Change in Pastor Wasberg’s Deployment Agreement with First Lutheran:**
He will be returning to First Lutheran on September 1st, instead of in July, due to additional duties as military chaplain. Jason Peterson moved, seconded by Tim Tomasek and carried to approve this change of dates. He will be notified of this approval.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Need for Council Action: Due to the resignation of several council members, approval was needed for these new council members:

Tom Nordby moved, seconded by Tim Tomasek, and carried to approve

Stephanie DeVos as the new member on the Education Committee.

Marie Sample moved, seconded by Beth Roelfsema, and carried to approve Cynthia Booke as the new member on the Youth and Family Ministry Committee.

Tim Tomasek moved, seconded by Betty Kauffman, and carried to approve La Oeltjenbruns as the new member on the Worship and Music Committee.

Worship and Music Committee: Russ Svenningsen has taken a job at Augustana College in Sioux Falls so a new Chancel Choir director will need to be found.

WELCA / Women of the ELCA: Dawn Planting reported that the carpeting for the Fellowship Hall has been chosen and a sample was present. The lower part of the walls / the salmon colored areas, plus the ceiling beams will need to be painted before the new carpeting is installed. Volunteers will be needed to remove the carpeting and do the painting. Needed: Donations of items and / or money for the health kits that will be assembled on May 1st. Volunteers are needed to help with the assembling of these kits for Lutheran World Relief.

The meeting closed with prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Nordby, Secretary

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT:

Acolyte Training: Wed. – April 14 3:30 – 4:30 and Mon. – April 19 3:30 – 4:30 p.m.
Acolyte Installation: Sunday, May 2 – the acolytes will receive a cross.

Confirmation Reception: Sunday, April 25 at 6:30 - 9:30 p.m.; worship, practice, and pictures for the 27 8th graders.

Confirmation Sunday – Sunday, May 2nd at 2:00 p.m.

Sunday School: Last day of rotation Sunday School – April 25th for 3 year olds - 6th grade
Summer Safety Program: May 2nd for 3 year olds - 6th graders and their parents; Rob Yant, Chief of Police, will present a safety program on biking, swimming, walking, summer activities, etc. in the Gethsemane Chapel.

Appreciation Breakfast to thank Sunday School Teachers and Confirmation Team Captains for a job well done – Sunday, May 16th from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. in Rooms 2, 4, 6, & 8.

Vacation Bible School: June 14 – 18 with the theme: “High Sea Expedition – Exploring the Mighty Love of God.”

Stephanie DeVos has agreed to fill the vacancy / serve on the Education Committee.

EVANGELISM COMMITTEE REPORT:

1. We welcomed new members last month / in March.
2. **Spring Activity** - May Day Baskets. We will plan to make and distribute May Day baskets to members at Morningside Heights, Boulder Estates, and Hill Street Place. We will meet on April 20th at 6pm instead of our usual date and time. We will put together the baskets and will plan to distribute the baskets on May 1st. We welcome anyone who'd like to join in the fun!
3. We are planning to have an activity hosted by us on a quarterly or seasonal basis. Some ideas are a Summertime Ice Cream Social, a Fall Festival with hayrides and a Winter Blues Potluck.

SOCIAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE REPORT:

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT:

WOMEN OF THE ELCA REPORT:

We continue to offer activities to increase participation of all women; we encourage greater participation.

- “Healthy Heart Event” – Saturday, March 27; 20+ women attended including 1 woman from St. Stephen’s. Feedback has been good; looking at possibly holding another such event next year during Lent.
- Health Kits for Lutheran World Relief: donations of items or money are being accepted from April 5 – 26. Kits will be assembled on Saturday, May 1st beginning at 9:00 a.m. Volunteers are needed for the assembly. The assembled kits will be taken to St. Paul.
- Summer Bible Study Event using the June – August “Lutheran Women of Today” magazine. All women are invited to participate; more information coming.
- \$6,100 is being donated for carpet replacement in the Fellowship Hall, hall, Fireside Room, and movie room. This money had been set aside for the new kitchen, but they wish to donate it now for the immediate need of First Lutheran.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC COMMITTEE REPORT:

YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY COMMITTEE REPORT:

We finished up the Lenten suppers. Attendance was down but with some cuts in expenses we were able to make about as much as last year. Thanks to everyone who came.

Our spring fundraiser (Silent Auction and Meal) was successful bringing in almost \$4,000. Thanks to everyone who participated. People enjoy this I think.

Those who come to the parent video forums on Sunday morning are enjoying them. We finished up "The Parent Adventure". April is "Winning at Parenting" with Barbara Coloroso (She spoke at the high school in March.)

Normal monthly program is still going well. Now with Lent over, Junior High Alive and Little League has started up again. Those are two programs that take a break during Lent due to change in schedule and to encourage them to be in worship.

The Good News Bearers group was also challenged to family devotions during Lent with "Safe Passage" booklets. Younger families were encouraged to take a Lenten Activities Calendar for the season.

We had two groups who formed teams for the Big Buddies Bowl-a-thon. (the Holy Bowlers and FLYing Strikers) ☺

Our junior high youth will be doing our Adopt a Highway on May 5th (grades 7 and 8)

Kids are starting to sign up for summer camp at Shetek. New program is ABC Camp (Activities Building Campers) for grades 1-3 (youth with parent or other adult).

There is a Discovery Day at Shetek on May 1st for grades 1-3 to get a little taste of camp before summer.....