

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL

March 09, 2010

7:30 P.M.

Council Members Present:

Cathy Berg, Gaylen Bierman, Linda Bloom-Scott, Kim Christianson, Pastor Bob Dahl, Jean Haug, Corlys Knudson, Pam Larsen, Shelly Maes, Dan Marks, Marlene Nordby, Tom Nordby, Dawn Planting, Lee Raske, Beth Roelfsema, Marie Sample, Tim Tomasek, Tonya Tomasek, Chris Ulrich.

Chair Shelly Maes called the meeting to order by having everyone read the First Lutheran mission statement together.

Pastor Dahl led the opening devotions by reading from Acts 10. Some things in our lives have changed too much, and some not enough. We need to call on the Lord for help to lead us through the changes in our lives / our church.

Pastor's Report:

Pastor Dahl reported that he and Pastor Rostad from First Lutheran, and Pastor Weeks and Pastors Travis and Brandy Gerjets from St. Stephen Lutheran Church have been participating in pulpit sharing for the Lenten worship services.

During Holy Week, the 5th graders will be receiving first communion on Holy Wednesday, worship on Holy Thursday with communion, and Pastor Rostad will be in charge of the Good Friday worship service. There will be no worship service on Holy Saturday.

Worship times on Easter morning will be at 7:30, 9:00, and 10:30 a.m. In the past, the early service on Easter morning has not been well attended. Depending on what happens this year, there may be 2 worship services on Easter in the future – 8:30 and 10:30 / 10:45 a.m.

There has been no date for the return of the 4 members from First Lutheran in the guard unit. A welcome home reception will be planned between worship services after the 4 have had time to rest and get acclimated to being home.

Letters will be sent to those leaving the church saying “thank you” for their partnership through the years, letting them know they will be missed and they are always welcome back. First Lutheran needs a Hands-on Mission(s) for 2010. A suggestion was to have a fellowship event with all proceeds going to the Haiti and Chile disaster relief. The women of the church will be making health kits, consisting of a towel filled with health / hygiene items. This will be open to the entire congregation for donations and help with assembly. Funds are needed to bring some people from our Companion Synod in South Africa to visit SW Minnesota. The Prairie Conference pledged \$5,000 to help with the traveling expenses for this visit.

The SW MN Synod gathering will be held in Redwood Falls on April 17th and 18th. Pastor Dahl, Corlys Knudson, Shelly Maes, Tom Nordby, Jason Swenson, and Marlene Nordby will represent First Lutheran. Pastor Rostad will go as a guest.

Pastor Rostad is attending a workshop and visiting her brother & family in California this week.

Secretary's Report: Tim Tomasek moved, seconded by Tom Nordby, and passed to approve the minutes as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Pam Russell was not present; she was volunteering her time to do tax work. It was noted that giving is down \$17,000+ according to the 2010 Plan. Tom Nordby moved, seconded by Jean Haug and carried to accept the treasurer's report as printed.

Stewardship Committee Report: This committee will send a letter to all members about the seriousness of this financial issue, which is the result of the synod vote and those who have had job changes / the economic situation. Members need to be made aware that staff cuts may need to be made if this situation does not improve.

There was a lengthy discussion on the hurts resulting from the assembly vote – members leaving; members who are not leaving feeling the hurt of seeing their church family dividing; children fearful that their families, friends, teachers, etc. will be leaving the church; the financial issue this has created; the time and energy that the staff has had to put into all of the issues / problems and the hurting people.

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Church-wide Goals:** The goals laid out at the council retreat in February have been divided into 2 parts. Four goals have been assigned to committees for action, and the other 5 remain goals for the council / church members. The council's goals for 2010 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.
- The Stewardship Committee will work with the Worship & Music Committee to find ways to recruit worship servers (lectors, ushers, communion assistants, and coffee servers) that are less time consuming and more successful. It was suggested that temple talks be given with practice times after worship services so volunteers can see that the tasks are not difficult to do.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Distribution of the 10% of the 10% Fund:** It was suggested that the \$1200 available be distributed now to be of use. After some discussion, Jean Haug moved, seconded by Tom Nordby to give \$400 to the Prairie Conference for the Companion Synod Response, \$400 to the organization – Food for the Poor (97% goes to those in need), and \$400 to the ELCA Disaster Response (100% goes to those in need). The motion carried.
- **Ad-hoc Task Force:** This group has met once and is brainstorming ways to deal with the assembly vote and the issues it has created. Council members on this task force are: Cathy Berg, Shelly Maes, Jason Swenson, and Chris Ulrich.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Committee: Allison Winkelman, a newly-elected committee / council member, has resigned, so a replacement needs to be found. Upcoming events on which this committee is working are: acolyte training on March 24th and March 31st; palm branches for the Sunday School children for Palm Sunday, March 28th; First Communion for 5th graders on Wednesday, March 31st; confirmation reception on April 25th at 6:30 p.m. for 25 confirmands, followed with worship, practice, and pictures. Confirmation will be on May 1st at 2:00 p.m. The last day of Sunday School will be May 9th with a summer safety presentation. A Teachers' Appreciation Brunch will be held on May 16th from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. using a spring theme. VBS will be held June 7th – 11th; 8:30 – 10:00 a.m. for 3 year olds through 1st graders; 10:30 – 12:00 for 2nd graders through 6th graders.. The theme is

“High Seas Expedition – Explore the Mighty Love of God.” Coordinators will be: Shelly Moe, Karla Luther, and Corlys Knudson.

Evangelism Committee: Three new families, presently attending the new member classes, will be joining First Lutheran later in March.

WELCA: the women are thinking of selling Lutheran World Relief coffee – both the whole bean and ground. There will be an event for all women the morning of March 27th. There are plans to invite the women of St. Stephen Lutheran to events such as this. There is hope that a Prayer Shawl Ministry can be started.

Property and Management Committee: Ray Schmidt has again volunteered to take care of the church’s lawn, shrubs, etc. Council members are encouraged to thank him for this very generous donation of his time, talents, equipment, and energy. An estimate from Marshall Decorating for \$10,425 to replace the fellowship hall, hallway, fireside room and TV room carpeting was accepted by the committee. By tearing out the old carpeting and hauling it away, this cost can be lowered. This project will use \$6,000 from the WELCA, with the remaining funds coming from other funds. Tim Tomasek moved, seconded by Lee Raske to use some of the money set aside in the Fireside Room Improvements Fund and some from the Lunde Fund. The motion carried. The committee is still investigating what to do with the countertop in the kitchen under the coffee machine.

Social Ministries Committee: This committee continues to work on serving at Esther’s Kitchen, serving at the Banquet in Sioux Falls on April 26th, and has reserved a garden spot for the summer. Volunteers will be needed to help with all of these projects. The emphasis for the Food Shelf in April will be April showers – soap and laundry products.

Worship & Music Committee: Jill Kontz, a newly-elected committee / council member, has resigned, so a replacement needs to be found. They continue to work on the construction of a sound shell behind the choir loft. The praise team has lost many members, so expanding contemporary worship to every weekend will not be possible in the near future.

Youth & Family Ministry Committee: John and Kris Campion have resigned from this committee. Cynthia Booke has agreed to fill this vacancy. The committee is working on the Lenten suppers and the Silent Auction.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted:

UPCOMING DATES:

Lenten Suppers and Worship:	March 17th and March 24th – worship at 6:30 p.m.
Palm Sunday:	March 28th – worship at 8:30 & 10:45 a.m.
Maundy Thursday:	April 1st - worship at 7:00 p.m.
Good Friday:	April 2nd – worship at 7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday:	April 4th - worship at 7:30, 9:00, and 10:30 a.m.