

Temple Talk by Ad Hoc Task Force on April 24/25, 2010

The goal of the Education Ad Hoc Task Force is to educate members on the 2009 ELCA Church Wide Assembly vote on the human sexuality statement, help determine how First Lutheran can respond to the assembly vote, and help strengthen our First Lutheran family.

The task force includes 7 people, all of whom have varying viewpoints on the sexuality statement and how approval came from the ELCA. Nevertheless, one main passion drives our activity —our sincere passion for First Lutheran – and how we as a task force can best assist the future of our First Lutheran family. In order for us to do that, I have two important items to share with you today.

THE FIRST IS THAT we seek your help by asking you to tell us what you need.

In the narthex is a member survey with information attached. If you didn't get a copy last weekend or as you entered the sanctuary today, please be sure to pick one up as you leave.

Your responses on the survey will help determine next steps for First Lutheran.

We want to hear from you about the ELCA assembly vote, what is working at First Lutheran, what isn't working, and if necessary, what needs to be addressed.

Although this survey comes at a time when First Lutheran (along with many ELCA congregations) is struggling with the assembly vote, we also want to hear about ALL issues. We hope you will be able to complete and return the survey by May 15th in order for us to report to First Lutheran Church Council in June.

The survey includes details on where to return it. If you have any questions, please contact one of the task force members—contact information is included on the ½ page flyer. We look forward to hearing from all of you!

THE SECOND ITEM I WANT TO SHARE IS INFORMATION REGARDING the resolution passed at the April, 2010 First Lutheran Church Council meeting in response to the 2009 ELCA church wide assembly vote on human sexuality.

- First Lutheran Church welcomes all people BUT has never recognized same sex relationships in terms of celebrations, blessings, or unions in the

church. First Lutheran Church has never promoted homosexuality as an option for youth. First Lutheran will continue in that direction.

- The human sexuality statement passed by the ELCA in 2009 is not a mandate to congregations, it is an option. The statement does not change anything about First Lutheran Church – what we've done in the past, what we're doing in the present, or what we will do in the future.
- The resolution passed by First Lutheran Church Council in April 2010 states that we have chosen NOT to use the option as outlined in the ELCA's human sexuality statement to call rostered pastors or lay persons. We will call pastors based on the decisions made here at First Lutheran and what will insure the best for our membership.

Today in April 2010, we are the same family of God that we were in July 2009. Let us go forward with that assurance and thankful hearts to continue our work in the name of the Lord!