



June 14, 2010

Dear Members of First Lutheran:

Thank you to all who took the time to complete the recent survey conducted by the Ad Hoc Task Force. We listened to all comments received, and it was apparent that we are all very passionate about First Lutheran Church.

The task force presented its report to the Church Council on Tuesday, June 8, 2010. The report was accepted as presented. Recommendation #5 in the report asked for council direction—and with that request, the council decided that at this time our congregation will remain a member of the ELCA and focus on the First Lutheran family and our mission. The council heard you —and is ready to move forward trusting we can live together by agreeing to disagree and that all can still find their place at First Lutheran. Abiding by our mission – We are believers seeking to invite all into the caring, sharing and growing ways of Christ – will serve as a guide as we continue our ministry at First Lutheran.

Despite the trials and tribulations over the past 10 months with regard to the 2009 Church-wide Assembly vote, we have much to be excited about at First Lutheran Church. The task force recommendations call for some unique opportunities for members to serve. If you have interest in becoming more involved in the future of our church family, please contact me, a council member, or the church office. Survey results also highlighted the strengths of our church—youth opportunities, music, and more—things we should be extremely proud of!

As we look to the future, please remember the actions of our national church do not have to fundamentally change all that we do at First Lutheran. We still have the sole right and authority to call our pastors. We still have the sole authority to use the Sunday School and confirmation material we want. However, we are left with a question that will be answered in the weeks and months ahead: Will we have the financial resources for our ministry as we have had in the past, or will we need to make major adjustments, including staffing cuts? Based on current giving, we will be forced to make some tough decisions in the months to come. Remember, we all have an important role to play within our church family. Your continued presence at worship, Bible study, and the giving of your time, talents and treasures will help us determine what our ministry will be.

I am hopeful for our future, and I hope the focus on the future will also re-energize you and your commitment to First Lutheran Church.

Sincerely,

Shelly Maes
Church Council President