

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL RETREAT
February 9, 2010
5:30 p.m.

The annual council retreat began with a light supper in the church's fellowship hall. Vice President Jason Swenson gave a Garrison Keillor reading about being Lutheran, after which President Shelly Maes called the meeting to order with the reading the First Lutheran mission statement.

Council Members Present:

Staff Members: Pastors Bob Dahl & Jacquelin Rostad, Corlys Knudson, & Tonya Tomasek.

Education Committee: Kim Christianson, Sue Strautz, Pam Sukalski, Christine Versaevel, and Allison Winkelman. Absent: Shelly Moe

Evangelism Committee: Amme Houseman, Pam Larsen, Lori Babcock, Tami Doom, Tracy Peterson, and Heather Rokeh.

Executive Committee: Shelly Maes, Jason Swenson, Marlene Nordby, Pam Russell, and Jeff Jorgenson.

Property & Management Committee: Bob Knudson, Lee Raske, Gaylen Bierman, Roger Marks, and Dan Marks. Absent: Mike Ponstein

Social Ministries Committee: Linda Konn, Donna Reaves, Kathy Bartz, Rebecca Steilen, Cathy Berg, and Bea Olson

Stewardship Committee: Jean Haug, Linda Bloom-Scott, and Chris Ulrich. Absent: Jason Peterson, Sheldon Kimpling, and Karl Porisch.

Worship & Music Committee: Betty Kauffman, Tim Tomasek, Shana Zahrbock, Tom Nordby, Jill Kontz, and Brian Kruse.

Youth and Family Ministry Committee: John & Kris Campion, Marie Sample, Renee DeAustin, Laura Atkinson, and Beth Roelfsema. Absent: Deb Werpy.

Opening Devotion: Pastor Bob Dahl gave a devotion using the *Book of Comfort* by Alvin Rogness. Rogness stated that the purpose of the Bible is for God to reveal his love for us. He suggests that those new to reading the Bible begin with the Gospels, telling of the goodness of God's Son, rather than Genesis.

Secretary's Report: Betty Kauffman moved, seconded by Amme Houseman, and carried to accept the minutes from the January council meeting as printed.

Treasurer's Report: Giving was around \$11,000 short for January according to the 2010 financial plan. Insurance premiums, heating costs, and the 2 seminary sponsorships were some larger bills paid during the month. The report will continue to be e-mailed to council members prior to the council meeting. Tom Nordby moved, seconded by Jean Haug, and passed to approve the report as printed and given.

Retreat: A calendar of upcoming meeting dates was handed out. Council members were asked to put the dates on their calendars. This will be helpful in knowing what happens quarterly, etc.

Council members were given council job descriptions; further information on committee responsibilities can be found in the by-laws.

A map of the southwest corner of the state showing the SW MN Synod as well as the Prairie Conference and other conferences that make up the SW Synod was also handed out.

Some time was spent brainstorming the Church-Wide Goals listed below:

1. Spiritual renewal
2. Growing Lutheran Men in Mission / increase the involvement in men's Bible study.
3. An adult mission trip (Youth Works has family mission trips, as does Shetek LM)
4. Nametag Sunday / becoming more familiar with members of our church family / build fellowship through special events.
5. Increase volunteerism: Esther's Kitchen, Meals on Wheels, perhaps bring back the Time and Talent sheets. Requests from several were made to have more information given on what is involved in each volunteer opportunity.
6. Explore praise / contemporary and traditional worship styles. Many requested a weekly contemporary worship service, with several praise teams being formed committed to this weekly worship format.
7. Church maintenance and upkeep.
8. Increase weekly attendance and more involvement in all areas of the church's mission.
9. Do a better job of communicating in all areas.

The committees broke into their own groups, electing chair and secretary, setting meeting time and place, defining goals for the year ahead, and designating council meeting attendance.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ad-hoc Task Force: The members of this task force were given the task of providing education on the history of the synod assembly vote, providing opportunities to hear and read about the issue, defining the Call to Common Mission and the formation of the ELCA, and how does this decision affect our curriculum. The task force was unable to work together.

Council members were invited to serve on a new task force to work on these issues as well as: What are the consequences / options at First Lutheran? The formation of resolutions First Lutheran can make that ground us as a "priesthood of believers."

NEW BUSINESS:

Benevolence: 10% of the 10% of donations is set aside for some special benevolence projects. The balance in this account at the end of January was \$921.00. Some suggestions for the recipients of this money were: "Food for the Poor" (an interdenominational international organization from which a pastor will be here in 2 weeks to speak to First Lutheran about his organization, followed by a fundraising concert by "Dakota Road" that Sunday evening.), the Marshall

Homeless Shelter, (Traveler's Lodge has entered into an agreement to rent 6 rooms to begin the process of serving homeless people. There is also a house for sale that the owners would like to be used to serve the community.) and the cancer fundraiser in August.

Prairie Conference Meeting and the SW MN Synod Convention:

St. Stephen Lutheran will be hosting the **Prairie Conference** meeting on February 21st. First Lutheran may send up to 10 delegates to this meeting. At this meeting, a representative from the Prairie Conference will be elected to attend the ELCA (church wide) Synod Assembly in Orlando, Florida in 2011.

The **Southwest Minnesota Synod Convention** will be held in Redwood Falls on April 17th and 18th. Pastor Dahl and Corlys Knudson will be attending, and First Lutheran may send 5 lay voting delegates from its membership.

Council members are encouraged to attend either / both of these meetings. Those wishing to attend are asked to e-mail Shelly Maes, Pastor Dahl, or the secretary of their interest in attending.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Committee: This committee will meet the first Monday of each month at 5:15 p.m. in the church's library. Kim Christianson and Sue Strautz will co-chair this committee. Some of their goals include a family Bible study, and adult forums during coffee hour with topics such as funeral planning, etc.

Evangelism Committee: Amme Houseman chair, Tami Doom secretary. This group will meet the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the nursery. Their goals include a quarterly fellowship event and the exploration of visitation opportunities of inactive members.

Property & Management Committee: Chair & sec. - Gaylen Bierman; the committee will meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Some of their goals include the strategy to get the maintenance projects done, solving the sidewalk ice issue on which 2 members have been seriously hurt in the last year, and restart the recycling program in the kitchen and youth areas.

Social Ministries Committee: Linda Konn – chair; the committee will meet the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Their goals include doing temple talks on what is involved in many of the activities / volunteer opportunities.

Stewardship Committee: Three / half of this committee's members were absent so they will be meeting some other time when all members can be present.

Worship & Music Committee: Tim Tomasek will serve as chair. The committee will meet at 9:45 a.m. / between worship services the first Sunday of each month in the old nursery. Their goals include taking a congregational survey about the congregational members' worship style preferences, resurrecting the Time and Talent sheets,

and the construction of a choir loft shell.

Youth and Family Ministry Committee: Beth Roelfsema will serve as chair; the committee will meet the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Youth Room. The committee is currently working on the upcoming Lenten suppers, organizing a youth praise team, and brainstorming youth service opportunities.

An ink cartridge recycling program is available to everyone. Items can be left in a box in the entry by the office, mailed to a company, and the church will receive money for items.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned and closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Nordby, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS:

***Prairie Conference Meeting: Sunday, February 21st at St. Stephen Lutheran Church**

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, March 9th - 7:30 p.m.

***SW MN Synod Convention: Saturday, April 17th and Sunday, April 18th at Redwood Falls**

*Please e-mail Pastor Dahl, Shelly Maes, or the secretary if you are able / willing to attend these meetings.