

Temple Talk -- May 8/9, 2010

Initially, the main purpose of our Temple Talk this weekend was to remind everyone to complete and mail their surveys by Saturday, May 15th. We have thus far had a great response and hope to receive many more during the coming week. Your input is extremely important and will be used by First Lutheran church leaders to re-build ministry and focus on the future of our church family.

But, over the last couple weeks, we have appreciated the many questions and those have prompted some additional information for this Temple Talk:

- First, we have received many inquiries about the work of the task force. We take all questions and comments seriously, and want to help you better understand what we are doing. To that end, we have created a handout entitled “Q&A with the Ad Hoc Task Force”. It is a 2-sided document that you will find on the table in the narthex. It is also posted on the church’s website. It addresses questions such as why is there a task force—who is on it—what led up to the passing of a resolution last month—why another survey—and what will happen after the survey. Please be sure to take a copy as you leave the sanctuary today. We sincerely hope this helps answer your questions—but if you have other questions, please continue to contact task force members.
- Second, I urge you to keep praying for First Lutheran. Because of the church-wide assembly vote last summer, this is a difficult time for First Lutheran and a majority of ELCA congregations across the nation. We ask for your continued prayer for the ministry at First Lutheran, for our church leaders, and for our Pastors.

With God's help, First Lutheran will pull through all of this and create a future overflowing with serving, praising and loving God and one another....with a ministry that will be welcoming for all.

As a reminder for prayer, we are distributing "prayer dots" also on the table in the Narthex. Please take a dot and put it on your watch, your cell phone, wherever.....and each time you see it, take time for a quick prayer for First Lutheran.

Philippians 4: 6-7 says, "Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank Him for all that He has done. Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus."

As I close this Temple Talk, please join me in prayer:

Heavenly Father, You are intimately aware of the struggles we are experiencing -- the pain and the despair. You know the desire of our hearts to be healed of this. We ask now for Your healing touch on our family at First Lutheran. We know that You are able and that just like in Bible times, You can heal us and make us whole again.

We also understand that You will choose what is best for our congregation. We pray that through our trials that we will draw close to You -- that You will be our comfort and strength. We pray that ultimately, whatever happens, You will be glorified through each and every one of us. And we ask you to be with our Church Council, the Ad-Hoc Committee, and our Pastors as they lead us through these trying and unknown times. May your Holy Spirit continue to work and flow in our Church and within ourselves. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.