

Martin Luther Evangelical Lutheran Church

Church Council Support Ministry

July 24, 2008

Pastor cooper opened the meeting with Kyries (prayer concerns) and Glorias (thanksgivings). All members present also offered their Kyries and Glorias.

Members present: Pastor Stephen Cooper, Janice Knight, Mary Lou Hoover, Wayne Rimer, Peggy Oxendine, Gary Asleson, Pam Arnold, Joni Suggs.

Mary Lou called the meeting to order and began taking reports both oral and written.

Janice Knight gave the treasurers report. Concern voiced over excessive electric bill for month of June. It was \$991.00 which is approximately double our usual bill. South Carolina Electric & Gas was called out to do a meter check which was in good working order. The bill may have reflected the new A/C and some trouble with the thermostat which has been replaced at a cost of \$1200.00. Also, we hosted Bible School during this time. If next months bill is high, Wayne Rimer will call the A/C company and have them come back. Congregational giving is down for the month and some monthly payments had to be made with capital funds.

Wayne Rimer gave the property committee report. He is in the process of getting quotes to remove the dead tree from the playground. He will obtain the proper permit and insurance will reimburse the church \$500.00 for the tree removal.

Marcia Dark gave a passionate report on the status of the 'Mother's Morning Out' program that she has been investigating as an Outreach Ministry for our church. The program would be for babies up to three years of age and offered Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8am – 11am. It would follow the Charleston County School District schedule. Reasonable fees would be charged and 'scholarships' could be offered on an as needed basis. We would apply for a *synod grant* as this is considered Community Outreach. A detailed written report was submitted for council. Pastor Cooper made a motion to move forward with the program and Wayne Rimer seconded, on the condition that the Mission Ministry Council members also support it.

Pastor Cooper gave an extensive report on the proposed congregational program, *Growing in God's Mission, A Congregational Initiative*, which will be an intensive 12 month process of discovery, affirming, developing and acting on a strategic 3-5 year plan that will hopefully become the congregation's way forward in God's mission to their community and the world. The Vision Team along with the pastor will participate in monthly 'webinars' (conference calls combined with on-line seminars) lead by ELCA church leaders. Three times during the year they will gather with the vision teams of

other SC Synod congregations for overnight cluster retreats. The normal cost to us would be \$2000.00 dollars, but the synod will provide a grant of \$1000.00 as it is a pilot program. A motion was made by Wayne Rimer and seconded by Gary Asleson to find \$500.00 from undesignated memorial funds and the remaining \$500.00 to be included in the 2009 budget. The motion was approved by council.

The council retreat is August 2, 9am-2pm at the church. The next scheduled Support Ministry Council meeting is August 21, 7 pm. The meeting was adjourned and Pastor closed with a prayer.

Your sister in Christ,

Joni Suggs