

MARTIN LUTHER LUTHERAN CHURCH

COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 21, 2009

The meeting opened with Pastor Cooper discussing 'PAWN Analysis'. PAWN stands for Purpose, Assets, Wows and Needs. Pastor discussed the 'Wow's' – looking at "The good stuff that God got started" in our congregation and our community. He talked about the key word being "started" because it is our responsibility to build on what God has started. There are 'Wows' happening around us all the time; we need to look for those moments in our lives and in our church. He then offered the devotion, a reading of the beginning of Acts 2 – the 'Wow' of the coming of the Holy Spirit with tongues of fire. Following the devotion, Pastor offered a prayer and Holy Communion.

The March council minutes were distributed at the meeting and reviewed. One correction was made on page 3 – the SC Synod Assembly is being held May 28th through May 30th at Newberry College.

No known correspondence was received to be read. Attendees of the council meeting included: Pastor Cooper, Mary Lou Hoover, Peggy Oxendine, Janice Knight, Beverly Weed, Marie Putney, Jan Carter, Gary Asleson, Wayne Rimer and Linda Jantzen.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance: Janice Knight, treasurer, offered an oral report. The Finance Committee met on Sunday (4/19). The budget was distributed at the council meeting for the 1st quarter of 2009, and also for the month of March. Two payments have been made on the new copier; one remaining payment of \$1,415.06 is due on May 23rd. The donations collected for the copier will not cover the remaining cost, so the old copier has been placed back in the Narthex to try and get more donations.

Congregational Care Team: Team leader, Beverly Weed offered an oral report, as well as a written report for WELCA. Beverly has turned in the annual report for the Congregational Care Team. Beverly noted on the WELCA report that WELCA is collecting miscellaneous items that can be used as bingo prizes for the SC WELCA Conference being held June 26th and 27th. Church members are encouraged to donate any small items they may have laying around the house (in good condition) that they don't have a need for. A list of suggested items is being included in bulletin announcements and Connie Gibson has set up a box in the Narthex for all bingo prize donations.

Learning Team: Team leader, Linda Jantzen, gave an oral report. The Easter egg hunt was a huge success at the church. The Learning Team is busy with all the planning going on for the upcoming months (Luther Roads, VBS, etc.).

Mutual Ministry: Pastor reported that Mutual Ministry had a meeting last night and he attended. The main item of business was reviewing the job description for the summer coordinator. Pastor asked for permission to hire Marcia Dark for this position, which runs from May 1st to July 31st. Pastor made the motion to offer the position to Marcia Dark, Linda Jantzen seconded the motion and it was approved by all. Planned events include:

- Morning VBS June 15 – June 19 9:00 am to noon
- Luther Roads Day Camp June 29 – July 2 9:00 am to 4:00 pm
- July 3 9:00 am to noon

Luther Roads Day Camp will kick-off with a dinner for the youth leaders on 6/28

- Mission Trip (W VA) July 12 – July 18
- Evening VBS July 26 – July 30

The committee also discussed that reviews are planned to take place with each of the staff members in August.

Property: Wayne Rimer reported that he has a replacement thermostat that he will get installed. Another clean-up day was held before Easter – raked up a lot of leaves. We now have some lumber and plan to make a border. Special thanks go to Jimmy Knight for all he has done.

- Jan Carter brought up a concern about possible liability issues with unattended children playing on the playground, which she has observed. Pastor stated that, although he is certain our insurance would cover any liability issues, we would not want anyone to get hurt. Therefore, it would probably be good for us to go ahead and put up some type of signage stating “Playground Rules”. Wayne will look into this.
- Dumping of yard debris is still being done on our property from the apartment complex. Sherry Fowler has talked with the complex, but they continue to pile up debris on our property. Sherry has called the City and they are supposed to be coming out to look at the situation, and probably talk to the owners of the apartment complex.

Service: Jan Carter reported that respite care is down to three persons now. Jan is working on e-mailing another grant proposal to MetLife. In addition, some funding may be available from Thrivent (“identifying a need”). Jan is also working on sending in to Thrivent and will see what happens with that request as well. The Alzheimer’s’ support group meetings are being well attended and the group is getting to know one another and sharing concerns and support for each other.

Vision Team: Marie Putney stated that the team is meeting for the A Renewal Enterprise webinars. Also, Pastor, Joanie, and Peggy are attending an ARE retreat this coming weekend in Columbia.

Youth Report: Pastor reported that there will be a meeting on Sunday after the 11:00 service regarding the mission trip to West Virginia. Also looking into possibly having the youth host an end of the school year picnic.

Pastor: Main issue is the Capital Campaign detailed below under ‘New Business’.

Building Committee: See information below under ‘New Business’ on the Capital Campaign.

Evangelism: No report

Worship Team: No report

New Business

Lutheran Men in Mission: Pastor discussed looking into recycling more than just aluminum cans in the LMM trailer. The church may look into options for recycling electronics, helping out with the recycle of cell phones, etc.

Capital Campaign: Richard Jantzen has been working with the architects to provide preliminary drawings and cost estimates for renovations. The projects that are being looked at can be broken down as follows:

1. Narthex expansion – extend the glass wall and build a new patio (to create a gathering space). Also would include a set of double doors in the center of the new glass wall, and adding a glass wall (or partial glass wall) between the narthex and the sanctuary that could then be used as a “cry room” or an overflow area. Rough estimate - \$109,000.
2. Restrooms – improve/enlarge the restrooms. The set of restrooms near the kitchen would be enlarged (possibly into some of the storage area) and create a handicap accessible restroom for the men. The restrooms on the other side of the church (near the choir room) would also be enlarged and a handicap accessible restroom added for the women. Rough estimate - \$190,000.
3. Sprinkler system – just in case this become a necessity at some point, the architects also got a price for putting in a sprinkler system. Rough estimate - \$100,000.
4. Sanctuary upgrade – Renovations would be to square off the corners, renovate choir area so they are facing the congregation, lowering the altar area so it is more handicap accessible. Rough estimate - \$400,000.
5. Electrical upgrade – Upgrading the electrical work would be included in each of the above areas as that area is renovated.

The whole project is estimated in the \$800K - \$900K range. Karen Summers, Regional Building Consultant, has taken a preliminary look at our situation and history and basically said that we should be able to raise enough money to pay interest and some principal to borrow the money.

- The next step would be to talk with the ELCA about a key steward leader. These key steward leaders from ELCA have typically retired or previously worked for a large accounting company in the past and offer their services for a lot less through the ELCA. The maximum flat rate fee that it appears we would be charged would be \$8,500 (based on the size of our congregation).
- We can do the project in phases (Narthex and restrooms would likely be first and second on priority list).
- We could also borrow the money from the Mission Fund which has a better rate than the banks. The amount of money borrowed would be based on what is received in the way of pledges.
- The capital campaign could begin around August/September and be complete and separate from the annual finance campaign.

- We will have a forum on May 3 to discuss the capital campaign and the council's recommendation that will subsequently be made at the Congregation Meeting on May 17th.

Motion was made by Pastor to give the Capital Campaign Committee the authority to negotiate a contract with the key steward leaders pending final approval at the Congregation Meeting on May 17th. The motion was seconded by Jan Carter and approved.

Harbor View Road Accelerated Reading: As an information item, Harbor View School will once again be holding their end of the year party at the church for the Accelerated Reading group on May 26th. They were here last year and enjoyed the church facilities and were excellent in cleaning up after their party.

Old Business

The Spiritual Gifts Nominating Committee members will be voted on at the Congregation Meeting on May 17th. It was also noted that if there are any council members that feel they cannot continue in their present office due to other circumstances, then the Spiritual Gifts Nominating Committee could meet before May 17th to discuss a replacement. Sherry Fowler will be contacting some council members to find out if they wish to continue on council or cannot at this time. In addition, we are looking to find any youths that want to serve on council as there currently is a vacancy.

Annual committee reports are now overdue – if you have not turned yours in – please do so as quickly as possible. The following reports have been received: Building, Congregational Care, Finance, President's report. If you have turned in your report, but it is not listed here, please contact Mary Lou Hoover.

Ashley River Parish: Pastor reiterated that Faith on Johns Island is struggling with financial problems and the grant has been submitted. We expect to hear in June if the grant is approved, but the earliest that any money would be distributed would not be until September.

The next council meeting is May 19th.

The congregational meeting is planned for May 17th at 10am between the 8:30 and 11:00 services.

Pastor Cooper closed the meeting with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Oxendine for Joni Suggs, Secretary