

Congregation Council Meeting: March 21, 2012
Approximately 7:45 PM

Opening Activities

Call to order 7:45 pm (in attendance: Steve Schmidt, Paul Anderson, Tom Baudro, Mitch Robinson, Jennifer Gilletti, Peggy Beale, Doug Meyer, Brian Roush, Anne Confer, Felix Vajdos, Mark Larson)

Devotions - Vicar Anne

Snacks: Vicar Anne

Recorder: Felix

Approve Agenda

New agenda item—mortgage refinance.

Approve Minutes of Feb. 2012 Council Meeting

Leadership Activity – Some questions from “Externally Focused Church”

1. When was the last time you were really proud of what St. Luke was doing?
2. What are some of St. Luke’s current outreach and focus ministries?
3. Is St. Luke Lutheran a “serving church”?
4. Why are we often so hesitant to serve?

Eagle Scout Project Proposal: Dan Candler & Mike Murphy, Boy Scouts of America Troop 16

Develop an outdoor worship space for St. Luke Lutheran Church

- ***Wants to build outdoor chapel behind church***
- ***Clear out area, trim back one tree***
- ***Construct altar (wood with concrete base), path (stone/gravel), benches, cross (to be hung from tree)***
- ***Needs ~1month for project approval***
- ***Hopes to recruit volunteers from Emmaus, church, Boy Scout troop***
- ***Will paths be wheelchair accessible? Dan envisions steps along with a gravel path (for people who have trouble navigating stairs)***
- ***Estimated cost \$200-\$300. Dan will raise \$.***
- ***Steve expressed concern about drainage/runoff from project. Council could allocate \$\$ rather than do fundraisers.***
- ***Dan estimates 6 work sessions to complete project. 3-4 months total.***
- ***Will clear ~2000 square feet. Brush to be taken to dump.***
- ***Scope is to clear area, install altar, cross. Benches to come later.***
- ***Community garden to coexist (not in scope of project)***
- ***Steve expressed concern that we don’t encroach on wetlands. Doug M answered that the project will not extend that far.***
- ***Dan will present a detailed plan, requires a signature from a council representative***
- ***Motion presented, seconded. Discussion: Dan to seek guidance on wetlands issues. Motion passed unanimously.***

PURPOSE TEAMS:

• **WORSHIP TEAM**

- Worship Team - Brad Dame chair, Mitch Robinson, Worship Team liaison
 - Updates on ushers and their responsibilities
 - Setting 8 will be used for worship after Easter, followed by Setting 10
 - Narrative Liturgy planning is continuing.
 - Discussion begun on how to implement Vision and Mission report recommendation.
- ***No corrections to submitted report***
- ***Paul suggested that assistant ministers get a heads up on setting changes a couple of weeks prior***

- Director of Music – Terri Meyer
 - Bell choir schedule rearranged for Easter Sunday
 - Tech/projection team is being built slowly
 - Concert Handbell Choir (CHC) silent auction was HUGE success. Tithed \$800 to feed others.
 - CHC will be competing in “Music in the Parks” festival in May
 - CHC tour plans are proceeding well.
- ***No corrections to submitted report***

• **MINISTRY TEAM**

- Pastor's Report
 - Director of Youth Position has been filled.
 - Several members have expressed interest to join small groups. Will be meeting with the original incubator group at the end of March.
 - "Faith @ Home" initiative
 - Honduras Mission trip is a "go". 18 individuals will be traveling and working April 9-15, 2012.
 - **Action Item: "Buy a Brick" campaign to help rebuild St. Mark Episcopal Church in San Marcos. Each brick will cost \$20.** Fundraising to take place over the next 2 weeks.
 - Holy Week schedule is finalized.
- *Steve elaborated on the launch of the "Faith @ Home" initiative.*
- *Steve requested that we approve a request for \$20/brick campaign for Honduras church campaign. Also solicit children's clothing or shoes. Motion passed unanimously*

Anne has received approval for ordination.

- Vicar's Report
 - Participated in interviewing the Director of Youth Ministry candidates.
 - Planning the upcoming Women's retreat at Camp Wightman, May 11-12, 2012.
 - *Vicar Anne: 19 women signed up for women's retreat.*
 - Confirmation classes are coming to end for the year. Spring service project for 7th and 8th graders is cleaning up Route 12. 9th grade service project was helping serve the Ash Wednesday dinner.
 - Has enjoyed being on team for the upcoming Emmaus weekend. St. Luke has six candidates for this weekend: Emily Anderson, Jalen Chambers, Rachel Gernert, Joaquin Lopez-Watson, Ellie Phetteplace, and Brenna Robeson.
 - Continues to plan Narrative Liturgy for scheduled for May 6, 2012.
 - Helping lead Lenten discussions on "Making Sense of the Cross"
 - Continue to fulfill all pastoral duties as needed.
 - Recommended for approval to become a pastor by seminary faculty. Approval interview with candidacy committee is scheduled for Wednesday April 11, 2012.

Ministry Team

- Team Leader – Carol Croteau—Team Leader; Peggy Beal, Ministry Team Liaison
 - Ministry Team meeting held on February 26, 2012. Need is great and always looking for more individuals to serve and help with projects and ministries.
 - Furniture Bank—Over 200 volunteer hours in Jan and Feb. Served 45 families.
 - New London Meal Center—132 hours of cooking and 216 hours of serving meals each year are volunteered by St. Luke members.
 - Friends of Maria---Informational meeting on March 11, 2012. Approximately 24 individuals attended the presentation and several signed up to receive more information.
 - Prayer Shawl Ministry—See April Scroll for article.
 - Meal Ministry—Provides meals for St. Luke members in need. Pastor Steve provides names of individuals.
 - Fair Trade Coffee, Chikumbuso bags, Bags for a Better World are providing global mission support.
 - **Action Item: Council approval for use of land to create a Community Garden with produce being distributed to soup kitchens and food pantries in the Norwich/New London area.** Dawn Chapman and Rudy Croteau have agreed to head this ministry.
 - Kidscare—Sponsored by Ledyard area churches. Goal is to raise \$12,500 (each church has pledged \$2500), enough to provide 50,000 meals to New London County.
 - Tree of Life Project—Penny Heller is looking for volunteers to help with quilting project.
 - The Missy Project—Request from Mary Ellen Robeson for support for this project in the fall. Goal is to raise awareness and funds for treatment of aneurisms in children.
 - *Action item: Dawn Chapman/Rudy Croteau want to start a community garden with produce distributed to soup kitchen and other areas of need.*
 - *Paul asked about St. Luke's liability in case someone becomes ill after consuming food grown here. Mark Larson suggested having soil tested prior to start.*
 - *Motion passed unanimously*

- **DISCIPLESHIP**

- Discipleship Team – Leigh Sammons—Team Leader; Mark Larson, Team Liaison
 - No report at this time.
- Jess Dodson – Director – Discipleship for Children & Families
 - Children offering’s—feel children respond better to concrete service projects.
 - Good Friday plans are continuing. Theme is symbols of Easter. How do these symbols relate to Christ? Needs egg cartons. Livy Jones is helping lead the worship component. 7th and 8th grade confirmation students will help at individual stations.
 - Parent breakfast during learning hour on May 5, 2012 to survey needs/wants regarding Family Ministry
 - *Confirmation. Take a look at curriculum (current= Reform). Will probably keep, but needs to be supplemented with Lutheran theology. Will ask Pr. Steve to be lead teacher for 1st and last session. Will ask 2 adult leaders to lead each session.*
 - *Learning hour. Need flexibility, encourage “dropping in”.*
 - *See Mark’s report.*
 - *Fellowship has approached Discipleship about co-hosting the World Hunger Pot-luck*
 - *Jess Dodson: response to children’s offerings. FFV asked the council to formulate a response to this issue. Steve suggested that a greater emphasis on financial stewardship might be appropriate for confirmation age and up. Paul will discuss matter with Jess Dodson*

- *Break 8:59-9:05*

- **STEWARDSHIP**

- No report at this time

- **FELLOWSHIP**

- Fellowship Team– Sue Conley- team leader, Brian Rousch - Fellowship Team Liaison
 - Easter Morning Breakfast is being coordinated by Dick Swiontek. Yellow page ads have gone out. Scrip cards will be used to help purchase supplies.
 - Potluck Dinner for World Hunger—Janis Vajdos is coordinating this event. Multi-disciplinary event with Discipleship and Ministry teams. Potluck meal will feature dishes that cost \$5 to feed a small family of four. Free will offering given to ELCA World Hunger Relief.
 - Zumba Fitness for Women—potential of class to held weekly in the Fellowship Hall
 - **Action Item: ????**
 - Congregation Picnic scheduled for June 10, 2012 in parking lot at St. Luke Lutheran Church
 - Progressive Dinner/Dinner for 6 to 10 postponed until fall.
- *Pot-luck for World Hunger. ½ of donations to ELCA World Hunger, other half to KidsCare. Scheduled for Friday April 27. 6pm.*
- *Zumba. An outside organization cannot claim the membership rental rate simply because a member is taking part in the activity. St. Luke has created a sliding scale to ameliorate the financial hardship of the \$20 rental fee. Motion to allow for classes on Thursday nights passed unanimously.*
- *Congregational picnic to be held at church.*

- **EVANGELISM**

- Evangelism Team – Dave Etris, Team Leader, Tom Baudro, Evangelism Team liaison
 - No report at this time.

SUPPORT TEAMS:

People Support Team – Felix Vajdos

- **Action Item: Accept Continuing Resolution 3.09: Director of Youth Ministry**
- *CR 3.09. Minimum education requirements—will this hamper efforts to identify candidates in future given the part time nature of the job? If we find this to be the case in future, we will modify job description in future.*
- *Motion to accept passed unanimously.*

Planning Team – Pastor Steve

- **Action Item: Appoint Kay Lautzenheiser to the Director of Youth Ministries.** This is the unanimous recommendation from the interview team. Start date is April 1, 2012. Probationary period is 90 days.
- **Action Item: Receive the 2009 and 2010 audit as presented**
- Discussed Vision and Mission Team's report regarding a Discipleship/Outreach Coordinator.
- **Action to appoint Kay Lautzenheiser as Director of Youth Ministry. Motion passed unanimously.**
- **Audit report (2009, 2010). Finance team met this past Sunday to discuss recommendations of audit report. Goal is to have ~75% of the recommendations complete by end of year.**

Financial Support Team – Jen Gilletti

- Have a small surplus. Revenue slightly below budgeted amount. Expenses are below budgeted amount.
- Finance Team met to review audit report and results.

- Bookkeeper's report
- **Mortgage refinance will incur a pre-payment penalty if we refinance through another vendor (2%-5 yrs for building note, 2 yrs for organ). No prepayment penalty if we pay off through a capital campaign. Mortgages cannot be bundled together without a penalty, so we won't be saving as much as anticipated. We are probably underbudgeting for mortgage payments in the annual budget.**

Facility Support Team – Doug Meyer

- Carpet runner installed in hallway
- Removable step installed by bell table
- Hooks to hang children's worship bags
- New rod and shelf in sacristy closet
- Several minor repairs made

Parish Report – Ruth Dirlam

- Average attendance down compared to last year.
- **Motion to approve transfer of Margo (Long) Beach to First Congregational Church, Waterville, ME. Motion passed unanimously.**

Motion to accept all reports

- **Old Business –**
- **New Business –**
- **Coming Activities and Announcements:**

April devotions: Jen Gilletti
April refreshments: Paul Anderson
April Recorder: Anne Confer

- **Motion to adjourn**
 - **Meeting adjourned 9:50 pm**
- **Closing Prayer**

Respectfully submitted,
Felix Vajdos