

Creator Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
January 13, 2014

Present: Rexanne Graham, Ruth Perkins, Dave Anderson, Marcie Reid, Dean Ramberg, Tom Barr, Katrina Minton Davis

Absent (excused): Pastor Elaine Swigert, Keith Marshall

Guests: Mike Rutkosky, Ron Noborikowa, Tiana Gaulke

Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Devotions/Prayer: Katrina shared a devotion titled "Change" based on Proverbs 9:9. Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow because he is perfect. Katrina opened the meeting with prayer.

Transition Team Update:

Mike reviewed the Ministry Site Profile(MSP) and gave a broad overview. Top request by far was for strong preaching, education, and deep Lutheran theology. Youth Services was one of the top ministry areas. A sense of needing to participate in more community service. The MSP showed we want an experienced Pastor, and that we are a healthy congregation. Mike will craft a summary to share with the congregation. The transition team will continue to be available through the transition process and will work with the Call Committee and leadership to provide additional work around transition.

January 2 Call Committee met for a initial get-to-know you. Judi Richardson was elected chairperson.

Community Demographics on the MSP - will be updated to show Hispanic population as larger than 0 % since spanish is listed as 2nd language.

Ruth moved to approve the MSP for the synod as written with the minor modification, Tom seconded. Motion carried

Huge Thank you the Transition Team! Sincere appreciation for the work the team did to complete this document and help us prepare for the call process.

Staff Update: Tiana Gaulke - Sunday School is going well considering transition. Small group of kids who faithfully attend and show good bonding with each other and teachers. Average 15 - 25 in regular attendance. Music opening has been going really well. They are participating in theme days for each week - students get "Bible Bucks" for participating.

Multigenerational - 12th Morning Breakfast had about 40 people participate. Would like to do a similar event a couple times a year.

Vacation Bible School - Moved from early August to late July to allow time to plan between VBS and start of Sunday School, and Family Campout.

Minutes: Katrina made a motion to accept the minutes of December council meeting as written. Marcie seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: Absent but she will email to include in the minutes.

December was, as usual a very busy month. We shared Tuesdays during Advent which we called, "Breath of Heaven." They were well attended some weeks and sparsely attended others. Youth and Family Ministries would like to take it over next year. People who attended seem to like the quiet time in the sanctuary and everyone loved the Intergenerational craft time in the Fellowship Hall. Keith and I preached a sermon series during Advent on "Places of the Nativity" and utilized the gifts of Petra Karr to conclude each sermon with a vignette that brought the lesson into everyday lives.

We had several people in the hospital. I did a lot of calling on our homebound as well as those who have not been coming to church. We held a memorial service for Iris Strehlow. Keith and I continue to work with the confirmation class. There was a lot of planning for worship with Craig, Keith, Virginia, Terri, Petra, the Youth and the worship committee. The two Christmas eve services were well attended with a lot of good comments. The early Christmas service had 296 in attendance and the late service 95. We may need to consider an additional early service next year.

I took a three week break from our text study group of Lutheran pastors since we were not preaching the lectionary. I have resumed this meeting and will continue with Keith when he returns. It is great to discuss theology with other pastors (four Lutheran, two Episcopalian, and two Presbyterian)

Keith and I continue to work well together; he is learning and growing in wonderful ways, is beloved by the congregation. He is this week taking his last seminary class. Once a month Keith and I share the chapel service with the pre-school.

I continued to meet with the Transition team to be available to them if they wanted any guidance on transition questions. They have completed the MSP.

I officiated at two weddings and am meeting with two other couples who wish to marry in the Spring. They are not members of Creator. We baptized two children this last Sunday. I instructed two young children in First Communion (one who missed the class last spring and our newly baptized D.J.)

The Adult Ed team and I are discussing having a New Member class sometime this spring, possibly on a Saturday for 6-8 hours. We are continuing "Companions on the Journey" program. The first one was last night. We had 21 adults and 12 children. This will lead into our Lenten suppers (Holden Prayer service and member stories) during Lent and then Keith will introduce his Intern project for the month of May.

Intern Report via Email:

From January 11th - 18th I will be at Luther Seminary completing my final course. The title is "Exercises in Biblical Theology." During the course we will explore how our theology influences Pastoral Ministry and the ways we interact with the world. It is the final and culminating Senior class under the current curriculum.

Experiencing an Advent and Christmas season at Creator was wonderful. I found preaching off of the Lectionary during advent as a great exercise in my learning.

Preaching on Christmas Eve has been the highlight of my time at Creator. It was a tremendous blessing to proclaim the Gospel on that evening. Even though I will be preaching on Christmas Eve for years to come, it was a formative experience in my education and in development of my pastoral identity. I thank Pastor Elaine for giving me that opportunity.

I have begun setting up visits in people's homes. People are both excited and appreciative of the time spent together. I find it to be mutually uplifting for both myself and those who I call on. I look forward to continuing these visits during my time at Creator.

Teaching was less in December due to Confirmation and Thursday Morning Bible Study taking the Christmas season off. All the classes have started back up in January.

Beginning January 26th I will facilitate a three week class titled "Why Lutheran?" during the Coffee Talks. We are going to explore Lutheran practice and theology. There are cards in the Narthex with a fuller description of the class. Please join us!

I will be attending the SWWA Synods Bishop's Convocation January 28-29. This is an annual event for Pastor's and other rostered leaders. Interns are invited to attend, too. Pastor Elaine encouraged me to attend and Rexanne gave me approval, on behalf of the council, for Creator cover the expense. Thank you!

On a personal note, I want to reiterate how thankful I am to be at Creator during this year as an Intern. I have been stretched and have grown as a Pastor. I appreciate your ongoing prayers and support of my family and my ministry.

Treasurer's Report: Thanksgiving Eve offering was \$598; approximately \$200 each was dispersed to local food banks, Lutheran Disaster Relief for US flooding and for Typhoon victims. Christmas Eve offering was \$3348; \$1116 was dispersed to local food banks, Living Stone Prison Ministry, and Lutheran World Relief. Intern fund still needs \$8875. Thank you for giving in the past month! General Fund balance was in the negative at the end of 2013 in spite of revenues being higher than expenses. Need to continue to monitor closely and trust that what God supplies will always be enough.

Ministry Team Reports:

**Church in Society** - The team met in December and donated funds to the following organizations: Bonney Lake/Prairie Ridge Food Bank and Backpack Program, Sumner Food Bank and Backpack Program, Bread for the World. Auburn Youth Resources. Team discussed representation at the Auburn Youth Resources annual fund raising breakfast on February 14. Dinner at Mt. View was served on January 9.

**Stewardship** - Next meeting January 22

**Fellowship** - Next annual event is the Women's Spring Fling and fashion show and after that Oktoberfest. Outside of helping clean up/set up at events I don't think there are any other regularly scheduled event planned. Ideas for things I would like to do;

"Celebrate spring" picnic and softball game!

Movie nights where we set a theme and bring in potluck and co-ordinate food to the movie?

Board game nights -have people potluck some snacks

Would love to see if we could set up some sort of "angel brigade" thing and put together inter generational groups to go out once a month and work in someone's yard , help clean out a garage, trim trees, do stuff that they need help with.

I have a meeting scheduled with prospective fellowship team members on the last Sunday of this month after church see report.

**Youth & Family** - Campout Aug 8-10, Kid and Youth Council will meet Jan. 19 to plan event for February, they are scheduled for a servant event. Caroling in December had very low participation, may be too busy a time of year. Marcie will check Proposed date for Youth Trip June - Center for Student Missions. Terri needs to fly down and check out program. The team is looking at day time meeting as it works better for current team member; however they want to be careful not to exclude anyone who might be interested.

**Property** - Cameras installed, looking for place to put monitor. No other report.

**Small Groups** - A new chairperson is needed, will ask if one of the small group leaders would be willing to take on the role of chair of small group, The Small Group (Adult) Bible Study is studying the Book of John from Faith Foundations Study Guide. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of every month at the Heckroth home. Please keep them all in prayer (That they continue to invite new people to the group and for personal challenges that members go through).

The Monday Night Women's Bible study started up again after taking a break over the Holidays.

Monday Jan 13th we will begin with the first lesson from the ELCA Book of Faith study Guide.

They are studying the book of John through May. They do will half of the lesson each week. They are now meeting weekly to promote continuity of study practice and because they enjoy each others fellowship so well. By only do half the lesson each week we there is plenty of time for fellowship and prayer. The study can be entered at any time and consistent attendance is not required. They are excited to have had several new members join the study last week.

Men's group is just finishing up with a study on the Book of John. They will be starting a new study on the Book of Romans in two weeks. Men's group is going on their annual retreat 2/7 - 2/9.

**Worship Team** - Discussion about Easter planning,. Fifth Sunday will be attempt to put together contemporary worship examples and solicit response. Craig will work with Petra, & Pastor Elaine to develop engaging, multidisciplinary service and have clear, intentional outreach with this service.

**Adult Education** - Keith will lead session in February,

**Invitation and Outreach** - Still need volunteers for welcome center. Discussing options for advertising.

**Finance** - will begin audit of 2013

**Stephen Ministry** - Still have Steven Ministers not being used. The group continues to meet and be strong. If someone would like to to access this group they would speak to Pastor Elaine.

**Advocacy Ministry** - Interfaith Ad.Day January 30

**Foundation Fund Ministry** - Will meet on January 23 to discuss the two books for the Giving Seminar and will begin to look at how they will approach fund raising in 2014.

Old Business:

Security Update - Camera is installed to help view the parking lot activity during services. Thanks to Dean and Leah. Decisions that still need to be made; who to monitor during service?.Perhaps update Greeter Responsibilities - need to discuss this further. Will discuss with Virginia as well.

Keys to Copier Room - Julie has them and will check them out to council as needed.

Elaine continuing to work on staff partnerships;

Alcohol/Insurance coverage, -it is part of our policy we do have coverage if alcohol is served at a church event.

Puget Sound Energy Audit - Marcie will contact PSE to discuss starting the process.

Bylaws change request went to Synod - we are now waiting for formal response.

New Business:

Prayer Ministry - Janice Pendergast would like to explore starting a prayer ministry here at Creator. She would like councils blessing. Council approves her calling to work on this project.

Katrina would like to explore starting a before/after-school program here at Creator. No formal plan to do so at this time but would like to begin gathering information and seeing if it is feasible to do here. It would be a great community asset.

Prayer concerns of the group were shared and meeting closed with prayer.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 9:00 p.m.

In His Service,

Ruth Perkins

Council Secretary

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: February 10, 2014

Snacks/Devotions - Katrina