

Creator Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
March 10, 2014

Present: Rexanne Graham, Ruth Perkins, Dave Anderson, Marcie Reid, Tom Barr, Katrina Minton Davis, Sara Mahnke, Pastor Elaine Swigart, Keith Marshall

Absent: Dean Ramberg

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

Devotions/Prayer: Sara shared a devotion based on Psalm 5:11 and Ephesians 3:20-21. God is the foundation on which you can dance and sing and celebrate and enjoy peace in the presence of the Lord. Sara opened the meeting with prayer.

Staff update: Julie Ehle

Everything in the office is going really well, very positive environment, supportive and mutual respect. We are getting a lot of work done and are anticipating the coming transitions with anticipation and not trepidation. Good communication among the staff. Some time challenges with learning new technologies, web site and all congregation email, not working quite as smoothly as we had hoped by this time.

Bookkeeping: Julie shared her concerns that financial issues are becoming more critical.

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

Pastor's Report:

February did not seem like a short month. It was a busy month, but nothing extraordinary in the life of the church happened. Keith and I continue to enjoy text study group together. We continue to plan and coordinate our worship planning together and once a week we meet with Craig. With so many changes in worship and planning for all the special services, we find that coordinating all we do together is very helpful.

Preaching and teaching are still primary ways that I connect with the Creator family. Craig, Keith and I are planning (along with others) a "more contemporary" service for March 30. Ash Wednesday was a well-attended service and seemed to be meaningful to all who came. We are well ahead in planning for Palm/Passion Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. Lenten Soup Suppers and Holden Evening Prayer services will continue throughout Lent on Wednesday evenings.

It is still challenging and fun to be with the Thursday morning Bible Study group. Having finished Acts, we moved into First and Second Peter. I continue to delight in the insights and questions of these women.

I continue to attend as many of the ministry team meetings as I can. It is especially important for me to be part of Stewardship, Adult Education and Worship as these are central to our work together. It really is wonderful to see our teams work so diligently to accomplish the work of

Christ here at Creator. It is especially rewarding to see so many of our new members joining teams and adding their voices and gifts to our work together. I am impressed with the direction and vision of the Foundation Team and am glad to be a part of their visioning together.

Keith and I have finished our formal teaching sessions with the Confirmation Class. How delighted we were with how much they knew of what we had taught as they demonstrated when we held our review as the last session.

We have a potential thirty people for our new member class on April 12 (eleven have signed up.) We have two families who want to join but cannot make a Saturday meeting. The two families who wanted to join last fall but who could not commit to four Sundays will be in this class. We have one family who wants to join the church and all be baptized. We have another infant baptism planned and the parents of the child will be in the new member class.

Sadly, one of our members, Corrine Hilde left us for heaven this past week. It was a privilege to be with this family during the last week of Corrine's life. I was very impressed with the Franciscan Hospice House in University Place where Corrine spent the last week of her life. Creator meant a lot to her and she will be missed. Her service will be on Friday, March 14 at 2:00 pm.

I continue to meet with Mike Rutkosky and Judi Richardson working on ways to continue with our transition work. We hope to hold more fireside chats this spring. The emphasis will be on worship, leadership development and finances.

We continue to hold staff meetings every other week. All but two of the Collaborative Reviews have been completed and those will be done this week. It has been a positive experience for all of us. What a dedicated staff we have here at Creator.

I went to a Valentine breakfast for Auburn Youth Resources with the Church and Society committee and a lunch put on by Thrivent Financial. Both were enjoyable and educational. Several of us from the church went to a documentary and panel discussion about Homosexuality and the Church at PLU. We found it both interesting and informative.

I will be in Southern California for a brief time away next week and am planning a retreat to Holden Village in April. Keith will have a chance to do the entire worship service alone on March 23. We have received permission from the Bishop for him to celebrate communion alone. I have invited Loren Leapoldt, a newly retired Lutheran pastor who has been worshipping with us, to preach on April 6.

Intern Report:

- Completed the "Why Lutheran?" coffee talk class. I have received positive feedback from the those who attended. This teaching experience has been formative for me as I grow into my pastoral identity.
- In response to that class, I am currently preparing a follow up series on the Augsburg Confession. This is currently scheduled to be taught March 30 - April 13.
- Pastor Elaine, the Lay Intern Committee and I have completed my Mid-Term Evaluations. These evaluations went very well. This process was affirming for me.
- At the end of the month we completed the final confirmation lesson. Had a night to review the entire year of teaching of the students.
- In light of confirmation ending, I am going to take that time to attend more Ministry Team meetings. It is my intention to attend every committee at least once before internship is completed
- Looking ahead to a new member class on Saturday April 12th.

- At the end of the month I will be attending two day long trainings. The first will be held at PLU. The speaker will be Andrew Root, a professor from Luther Seminary. He will be speaking on relational ministry specifically in the area of YM. I will be attending this with Terri.
- The second event will be the Northwest Ministry Conference at Overlake. I will be attending this with Tiana. It provides good practical ideas for ministry. I have attended it in the past as a Youth Worker. I look forward to attending looking at the various workshops and offerings as a pastor
- One of my goals for the remainder of Internship is to find areas of church life which I have not been engaged with either at Creator or at Christ Lutheran. I want to seek areas that will challenge me and assist my continued growth.

Treasurer's Report:

Giving was low again in February, giving is below budgeted by \$23,000 for the year to date. We need to address the general downward trend of the past two years soon. Pastor Elaine will give an update to the congregation at service on Sunday and ask for prayers, and support as folks are able. Dave made a motion made to move \$15,000 from the savings account so that the money that belongs to the Foundation fund will returned and if any money left from fund raising from India can be sent to the orphanage. Marcie seconded. Motion carried. (Verified the India fund surplus was sent to the Orphanage in India)

Ministry Team Reports:

Church in Society - The team met in March and donated funds to the following organizations: Bonney Lake/Prairie Ridge Food Bank and Backpack Program, Sumner Food Bank and Backpack Program, Living Stone Prison Ministry, and Lutheran Community Services. The team also discussed the scheduled dinner at Peace Lutheran Church on April 11th. The team is also scheduled to help with set up and clean up for the Lenten Soup Supper on March 19th.

Stewardship - Stewardship met and discussed the concern of the council regarding finances. Thoughts and ideas were shared with the council. We want to continue the journey living out of abundance and gratitude for all that we are given to steward in this world.

Fellowship - Planning for Spring Tea on Thursday evening at 7:00.

Youth & Family - Youth Events have been popular and fun. March events are Pajama Roller Skating and High School Murder Mystery. They are planning fundraising events for New Life Mission in Kenya, Harvest Today in India, and El Sauzal Orphanage in Mexico. Monthly "noisy offering", Potato Bar in the spring and Chili Cook-off in the Fall. They will coordinate with other to try to keep from overriding other fundraising events.

Mission Trip 2015 - Family Mission Trip to a rural area. Mission Trip 2014 Adult Leader Policy; Would like to ask adults who want to be Youth Ministers and willing to fully support Creator's Youth and Family vision of Youth Missions. Applications will be accepted once the number needed is determined. Terri and Keith will be the first two adult leaders.

Family Event - Father's Day Mariners game on Friday, June 13. \$11 per ticket.

Terri will contact Virginia and Craig about training for 4-12 graders to serve as worship assistants in the hope to get more young people involved in worship.

Property -. Watch for information about upcoming grounds clean-up day to get the church ready for Easter.

Small Groups - Men's Group will meet Wednesday evenings after Lenten services at Al Lago to enjoy fellowship time and get to know each other better. All men in the congregation are invited to join them.

Worship Team - Sunday School opening will be taken off of Craig's plate as it is not one of his contract duties. Also, some of the communications and reminders to musicians will take place through the volunteer coordinator/office reminders.

Adult Education - Scheduled out through end of year. Dan Peterson will do the final series of classes.

Invitation and Outreach - They continue to refine the web page. They have changed the way they record visitors to a card system. They also plan to move the information from behind the welcome center to out in front so more people will take advantage.

Finance - No update this month.

Stephen Ministry - continues to work with current group and are looking for more care receivers.

Advocacy Ministry - went to Bread for the World offering of letters training on March 1st, with the hope to use this here at Creator later in the year. FAN will continue to support Initiative 494 to address gun violence and will be staffing phone banks through November. They can be contacted for dates and locations if anyone is interested in volunteering.

Foundation Fund Ministry - The Foundation Fund team meet on March 4 to discuss how to incorporate suggestions from two books on stewardship that the team had read. They also addressed ways to utilize the fund monies each year. The team plans to continue to look at ways to maximize the projects the Fund is able to assist each year. The team is seeking requests for the use of funds for 2014. The applications are available on-line and there is also notification in the Sunday Bulletin. The applications must be in by March 31, 2014 and disbursements will be made by June 30, 2014.

Call Committee - Currently the Call Committee is meeting on a weekly basis. They have been meeting with Melanie Wallschlager, Synod representative to the Creator team. The team has developed telephone interview questions for all the candidates who are referred by the Synod. They have also been developing interview questions for face to face meetings with candidates selected for further interviews after the telephone interviews. These questions include specific questions to elicit information from the candidates based on the priorities for ministry at Creator as identified by the congregation. The team will receive the first slate of candidates for consideration on March 6.

Old Business:

Audit Status: Not yet completed

Puget Sound Energy Audit: Marcie checked with PSE. They no longer have a formal program for energy audits but they will have one person come out and look at our system and give us information on areas we can be more efficient and also share some information on grants we could apply for.

Constitution: Tom reviewed the ELCA recommendations and did not see any issues. Ruth will continue working on the updates recommended by the ELCA for the April Meeting.

New Business:

June council meeting will be rescheduled to June 16, Monday evening at 7:00 pm due to scheduling needs of council members.

Intern fund is doing better, only \$1700.00 left to raise by June.

Sermon on the Amount: We will add back to the weekly bulletin in an effort to keep the congregation aware of giving and financial health of the church.

Nominating Committee: No members were elected to the Nominating Committee in elections of officers and Ministry team leaders last spring as no persons volunteered for the position. Rexanne will serve as outgoing council member and will look for a couple of additional people to help her.

Lent Offering; Tom moved to donate Lent Offering Half to ELCA World Hunger Relief and half to local hunger (food banks) Dave seconded. Motion carried.

Katrina shared information on Fred Meyer charity plan - Need to sign up W-9 organization. Then give information to the congregation to link their cards. Pastor Elaine will have office take care.

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

Tom made motion to adjourn.

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

In His Service,

Ruth Perkins

Council Secretary

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: April 14, 2014

Snacks/Devotions - Ruth