

**Creator Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
April 14, 2014**

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

Absent: Ruth Perkins

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

Devotions/Prayer: Tom shared an Easter devotion and opened the meeting with prayer.

Staff update: Craig Neumiller

Craig provided an update on music ministry. Everything is going really well. He and Lynette really enjoy Creator and working with our members.

Audit update: Janice Pendergrast

The Annual Audit is 80% complete. The goal is to have it entirely complete by May. There have been challenges locating data and no single individual appears to understand the entire work flow. Proposal to have audit staff complete a questionnaire regarding the process to improve future audits. Janice is identifying gaps and creating reports for future audits. Staff may need training on Quick Books and how to set up reports. Janice will meet with Chris and Julie. Marci volunteered to assist with Quick Books and creating reports for future audits.

Previous Meeting Minutes:

Dean made a motion to accept the minutes of the March council meeting as written. Dave seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report:

This has been a wonderful month at Creator! Preparation for Lent, Holy Week and Easter seems to take up a majority of the time this time of year. There is a lot of coordinating to do with Keith, Craig, Terri, Virginia and Julie about what each service or program will be, but the results were all that we hoped for. With just Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter services yet to go, it seems as if all the planning and work are worth it. The Holden prayer services on the five Wednesday nights was, as usual, a powerful testimony to what God is doing in the lives of our members, and a very special way for the body to worship during Lent. Palm Sunday with the different format of reading the Palm/ Passion narrative was well received.

I am still meeting with Mike Rutkowski and Judi Richardson for planning more transitional work. We will be holding three more Fireside Chats in May. The chats will focus on Finances/Stewardship, Worship and Leadership in a time of transition.

I worked closely with the Stewardship Team this past month to coordinate Stewardship emphasis. The budget shortfall is still an important focus for ministry, but the trend downward is not as fast as it was.

Keith and I continue to attend as many team meetings as we can. It is great to have the Fellowship Team up and running with Petra as the leader. They are planning some really good things for the future in addition to the usual three events. The only team that is lacking a leader is the Small Group Ministry Team and I would like to work with Council to find someone to lead that team and revive the emphasis on small groups and perhaps start some new ones.

Keith and I continue to meet with the text study group of pastors at Messiah Lutheran Church most Tuesdays. I have also started meeting with a support group of clergywomen. I also attend regularly the Interim Ministry support group started by the Synod. These are great ways to keep my spirit and mind focused on what I am called to do and be.

I have been spending quite a bit of time lately with prospective new members. We held a class all day Saturday this past week and introduced eight new members. We have three others who are taking instruction for baptism and will become members over the next few weeks along with their spouses who either took the class, or had instruction with me. We have also scheduled the baptism of one infant and five children of new members. I am hoping to coordinate a "First Communion Class" with Terri in the near future.

I am still working with the Stephen Ministers and really hope to strengthen this ministry and keep it vital. I am so pleased with the leadership of Cindy Totten and Deborah Anderson and the wonderful work that they are doing with the Stephen Ministers in their ministry to our members.

Looking forward to whatever time I have left with this wonderful congregation.

In peace and joy, Pastor Elaine

Intern Report:

With much currently going on, along with looking ahead to Holy Week, this month I felt the day-to-day grind of pastoral ministry more than any other. I can understand why many pastors take vacation shortly after Easter!

- I have begun attending different ministry teams and have found that to be fruitful. It gives me a glimpse of what my role with ministry teams will be in the future congregations I serve.

- Been working hard on getting all the preparations for my Intern project complete. I believe that this is going to be a blessing to all who attend.

- The new member class last weekend went very well. I look forward to evaluating it with the Adult Ed team.

- With Pastor Elaine's vacation I was provided with two new experiences. The first was conducting the graveside service for Corrine Hilde. The second was leading an entire Sunday service on my own. Both of these experiences I will conduct regularly as a solo pastor, but they were formative experiences to have had on internship.

•Pastor Elaine and I were blessed by the staff with an appreciation breakfast this past week at staff meeting. I was both surprised and flattered at this meaningful gesture by this talented group of servants.

•At the end of this month I will be 2/3 of my way done with Internship. The time has gone by so quickly!

•This past Wednesday I was approved by the Luther Seminary faculty for graduation. Also, on May 25th I have been asked to preach at Trinity Lutheran Church in Enumclaw.

Treasurer's Report:

Giving improved dramatically in March, making up some of our previous shortfall. Giving is below budgeted expenses by \$12,174 year to date.

Due to increased giving in March we were able to move funds into the Foundation Fund without drawing from savings.

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, Lutheran Community Services, Open Hearth, Empowering Faith, Exodus Housing, Olive Crest, Auburn Youth Resources, and Tacoma Rescue Mission.

Stewardship - No update

Fellowship - Planning Ladies Spring Tea, Saturday May 3rd and Planning for Family Movie Night (The Princess Bride) May 31st.

Youth & Family - Some overlap between ministry teams. May need to define responsibilities. More discussion needed. Family Event - Father's Day Mariners game on Friday, June 13. \$11 per ticket.

Property - Six people volunteered on grounds clean-up day to get the church ready for Easter.

Small Groups - Discussion regarding role of small group leader - passive support vs. actively working to help create new small groups. Elaine and Katrina will meet to discuss vision for Small Groups.

Education - Youth/VBS - Everything is going well. They are beginning preparations for VBS.

Preschool - Kids did their own church clean-up before Easter and planted flowers. Club 56 room has no heat. Marci volunteered to contact PSE.

Worship Team - Met on April 13th - planning for Summer months, thematic Sundays and potentially earlier service (8 am) in addition to 9:30. They will meet again May 4th.

Adult Education - Dan Peterson will begin a new series of classes on April 27th.

Invitation and Outreach - Emailed to Ruth

Finance - Emailed to Ruth

Stephen Ministry - Emailed to Ruth

Advocacy Ministry - Emailed to Ruth

Foundation Fund Team - The Foundation Fund will meet on April 24th. At that time they will discuss the disbursement of funds for 2014, based on the requests received for funds.

The Team will also continue looking at how the Fund can best support the additional work and ministry in the community as well as for special projects at Creator.

Report from the Call Committee

Currently the Call Committee is meeting on a weekly basis. The team has been working with Melanie Wallschlaeger, Synod representative to the Creator team. The committee has met with four candidates for face to face interviews. The team is now planning their second face to face interviews. The Call Committee will firm up third interview questions on April 24, taking a brief break during Holy Week.

Old Business:

Puget Sound Energy Audit: Marcie has left messages and no one at PSE has returned her calls. Katrina suggested she contact a different division.

Constitution: Tom, Katrina and Ruth will review the updated version.

New Business:

Synod Assembly at the end of May: Representatives Katrina, Judi Richardson, Rich Heineman, Monica Hurley, Keith and Elaine will attend.

Holy Week Offering (Thursday/Friday) will be donated to victims of the Oso landslide.

Thank You letter received from Living Stones Ministry. Creator donated \$1,100 to their ministry.

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

Tom made motion to adjourn.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 9:15 p.m.

In His Service,

Sara Mahnke

Council Secretary Elect

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: May 12, 2014

Snacks/Devotions - Ruth