

Creator Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
May 12, 2014

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

Guests: Virginia Winger, Terri Heckroth

Absent: Katrina Minton-Davis (excused)

Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Devotions/Prayer: Ruth shared a devotion on Mark 9:35 based on servant leadership. Ruth opened the meeting with prayer.

Staff update: Virginia Winger - Has been able to get most of the Holy Week services up on the website. We currently have four website curators and each takes one week of the month. The curators are Eric Nussell, Amanda Kroha, Donna Hinkley, and Virginia.

Lifetouch is scheduled to come in August to do new member photos for the upcoming pastor. Summer project is to update from PowerPoint to ProPresenter 5 for worship. Summer service is a great time to do this as we only have one service. With ProPresenter 5 the information is stored in the cloud so all the people who touch the service (music, prayers, etc) can access it at anytime and from anyplace, making workflows easier for office staff. Also adds the ability to add better pictures, and other media items and we have the ability to make changes at the last minute if needed.

Terri Heckroth - Youth Led Worship went great. New confirmands to be accepted new week. Currently working on a new idea for VBS for the 6th graders. Working on a way to continue to fund and keep relationships with our international contacts where we have served. Thinking of "noisy offering". The main goal is to help keep those we've served around the world in prayer and to continue to give some support.

Mariner's game on June 13 for Family Event

Family Picnic Day - Fellowship has agreed to help and do this as an entire church picnic. June 21 is the scheduled date at this time.

Talking and working on planning on a student led class in the fall.

Mission Trip plans are going well. Still working on fund raising and spiritual awareness.

Audit Report: Janice outlined audit process and gave recommendations for correction of items found that were difficult to reconcile to make the process easier and more straightforward. Ruth moved to accept the audit report, Dean seconded. Motion carried. Actions - Many of the smaller recommendations have already been discussed with bookkeeper and are being implemented to make the audit process easier next year. Eleven recommendations were made by the audit team to make

future audits easier to reconcile and to make sure our processes are well defined. One recommendation is to consider hiring a bookkeeper or church auditor to come in to review our processes and recommend changes to streamline workflows and tracking of funds. Target date for larger workflow process items to be addressed is September 1.

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

#### Pastor's Report:

- April was the month for Holy Week and Easter, so it was rather busy for everyone. Busy, but rewarding.
- We finished up the Lenten Prayer services with some wonderful shared stories by members. The theme for Lent was, "I Want Jesus To Walk With Me." The stories, witness and revelation of the speakers' lives had a powerful impact on everyone who came.
- Following up with some of the people from the New Members Class who were not baptized was a great experience. Walking with them on their faith journey, talking with them about their new faith and excitement about joining our family has been so rewarding. By the 8th of June we will have baptized four adults and seven children and infants! This is Good News indeed.
- Two people who decided not to attend the New Members Class actually had need of pastoral care. I think it gave them a new understanding of the church that they could be cared for and not have to "join the church" for the church to reach out to them.
- Thanks to the kind invitation of Katrina, I was able to speak at the Kiwanis Club of Bonney Lake's annual Prayer Breakfast. It was good to get Creator's name out there and to meet some people outside the church with the Good News.
- I continue to work with the Stephen Ministry Team and am hopeful that we can start a new class of Ministers in the fall and place all of them with care receivers.
- I try to get to as many team meetings as I can each month. If I am not at the actual meeting, then I am in contact by phone or with the staff attached to the team. Some wonderful things are happening in this church, as I am sure you know.
- Keith and I finished up our work with the Confirmation Class and gave them their final "exam" on May 7. Both of us are convinced that the best thing that we can do for them is to help them build their faith story. Knowing Bible Content and the Catechism is important, but not nearly as important as their relationship with God and their growth in the Spirit. Our final exam was a question and answer battle between the boys and the girls (they all won candy bars) and four written questions about what it means to be confirmed, what it means to call Christ "Lord", and what they will do to stay connected with Creator now that they are members.
- I continue to work with Judi Richardson, Call Committee Chair, and Mike Rutkosky (former transition team) to plan ways that we can continue to help the congregation move through the transition process. We will be doing three more fireside chats around the topic "Leadership in the church". Since these will be in early June, we are hopeful that it will challenge people to stretch themselves and move into positions of leadership in the church.

- I am excited about the "God's Work, Our Hands" day of service that the Church and Society Team is willing to sponsor for the fall. Although I may not be here to see its fruition, I believe it can be a wonderful way to take the church into the community.
- Supervising Keith has been such a joy, watching him grow into his calling as pastor has been wonderful. I was so proud of his project and how it was received by the congregation. Many hearts were moved and changed by those two nights. We spent two days (actually 24 hours) at a Supervisor/Intern retreat and were thrilled to see how much God had worked in both the Supervisors lives and the lives of the Interns since we last met in October.
- As we move into the late spring and early summer months I hope to continue calling on our elderly, sick or hurting parishioners as well as those who have become inactive over the past few years. I am getting varied responses from those who have drifted away. So far, none have left angry; most have just gotten out of the habit of church.

#### Intern Report:

- The highlight of the past month is completing my intern project. Much of my time was consumed with planning these experiences. Both worships were well attended and I received positive feedback from both. A number of people have asked if they can be continued in the future. I am pleased that those who attended were blessed by the experiences and desire to continue them in the future.
- Pastor Elaine and I attended the final Region 1 Intern Retreat. This was a great time to connect with other Interns and Supervisors. We discussed Assignment and First Call with the Region 1 coordinator, the process of leaving well, and other topics related to the second half of internship.
- I have attended a number of ministry teams this past month. These have included Worship, Adult Education, Youth and Family. I also attend for the first time both Church in Society and the Foundation Fund.
- I have been asked by the Youth Team to introduce a program I implemented at Christ Lutheran for 6th grade VBS. Rather than having the kids participate in the regular VBS program, I would lead extra field trips and events with the 6th graders during the VBS schedule. It was a success for me in the past and I hope it will be the same at Creator.
- I will be teaching a two week series during coffee talk titled "Lutheranism, Culture, and Beyond." The classes will take place on June 1st and 8th.
- I am looking ahead to preaching at Trinity Lutheran Church in Enumclaw May 25th. This was my home congregation as a teenager.
- I will be attending the SWWA Synod Assembly May 16-17. I have been asked to serve as the timekeeper.
- I continued to be blessed by serving in this place!

Treasurer's Report: Lenten Offerings were \$4335, which was split with 1/2 to ELCA World Hunger and 1/2 to local food banks. The Oso Donation was \$2117 and that was sent to Lutheran Community Services N.W. to serve the area impacted by the mudslide. Large Easter gifts which made April good month overall. Giving exceeded expenses by \$7, 454.00. Marcie moved to accepted the Treasurer Report as presented, Ruth seconded. Motion carried.

#### Ministry Team Reports:

**Church in Society** - The team met in May and donated funds to the following organizations: Bonney Lake/Prairie Ridge Food Bank and Backpack Program, Sumner Food Bank and Backpack Program, Open Hearth, Bread for the World, and Lutheran Community Services. The team also discussed participating in the ELCA "Day of Service" which would involve the congregation spending a day doing service projects in the community, thus taking the church into the community (walking our faith). There will be a sign up to determine the interest in doing this project. We are also looking for a chairperson, which should be in place by June 1. It will also involve determining projects in the community which we could do, with chairpersons for each of those projects, and projects would need to be scheduled by August 1. The national church is doing this on Sunday, September 7, but Creator may determine to do it on a different date.

**Fellowship** - Working on planning picnic for June 21 with YFM.

**Stewardship** - Will meet next week on Wednesday to review and evaluate the stewardship plan from this year and work on wrapping up the plan for this year.

**Youth & Family** - See items covered in Youth Director report above. In addition a Sunday High School Class is being designed with a target date of implementation in the Fall. A sub-group has been formed to work on the design of this with the goals of: Complimenting other education, help them gain tools to connect with church as young adults, have their own space.

**Property** - No report

**Small Groups** - No report

**Worship Team** - Working on Summer worship.

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

**Invitation and Outreach** -Mike Rutkosky will be doing a presentation at the Synod in May on how to build a strong welcome center program.

**Finance** - No update this month.

**Stephen Ministry** - They are continuing their training with current members and finalizing plans for the up coming year.

**Foundation Fund Ministry** - The Foundation Fund team meet on April 24 and decided on disbursements of funds for 2014. 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.

**Call Committee** - Currently the CallCommittee is meeting on a weekly basis. At this time we have completed 2nd face to face interviews and will begin visiting congregations that candidates are currently serving. This will probably take most of the month of May. Committee will see where they are at that point and initiate further steps as necessary. The Committee is also planning, with Pastor Elaine, to present another Fireside Chat, dealing with leadership, leadership at Creator, and how to become a leader of an involved follower. This Chat is scheduled for three different times, which should allow the congregation and opportunity to schedule a time that works best for them. The dates are June 1, 12:15 PM (light lunch), June 3, 7:00 PM (dessert), and June 5, 11:30 AM (light lunch). We see this as a good transitional piece of work and especially helpful just prior to elections at Creator.

Old Business:

Constitution Update - Tom moved to accept proposed constitution as submitted/proposed by sub-committee. Sara seconded. The changes are made to reflect the updated Model Constitution of the ELCA that was adopted in 2013. Will be presented to congregation at June 22 meeting.

Ruth proposed updating ByLaw C13.05.01 to have the Audit report due to council with-in 90 days of the year-end closing of the books. Rexanne seconded. This is the bylaw that the congregation voted to update in December however the date selected for the audit report to be presented to council is not realistic based when the church books are closed and the amount of time and work it takes to perform the audit. This change of date the audit report is due will also be presented congregation at June 22 meeting for a vote.

New Business:

Foundation Fund - Rexanne moved to approve recommendations from the Foundation Team for distribution as follows: Meghan Dahn - Seminary Support - Books and Board \$2215.79 and PLU 2015 Holocaust Education Conference - \$750.00. Ruth seconded. These recipients were the only applicants this year.

God's Work Our Hands - The ELCA church wide date for this event is September 7, 2014. Church in Society is working on this along with Pastor Elaine and Keith, and they are looking for someone to lead the project at Creator.

Approval of Confirmands as members: Ruth moved to accept the confirmation class of 2014 as new members next Sunday. Rexanne seconded. Jacob Gehri, Jonah Hemmen, Laurel Jessop, Claire Lowe, Chloe Mitchell, Samuel Reid, Claire Robinson, Jackson Russell, Cade Stober, Hannah Swettenam, Brynn Wilbur, Russell Wilson.

Hot water concern - There was concern that the water in the restrooms was too hot. The hot water must be a certain temperature for the new dishwasher in the kitchen to run. Mark will look into the water temperature.

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

Tom made motion to adjourn.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 9:05 p.m.

In His Service,  
Ruth Perkins  
Council Secretary

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: June 16, 2014

Snacks/Devotions - Dave