

Creator Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
June 16, 2014

Present: Rexanne Graham, Ruth Perkins, Dave Anderson, Katrina Minton-Davis, Tom Barr, Sara Mahnke, Pastor Elaine Swigart, Dean Ramberg

Guests: Tiana Gaulke

Absent: Marcie Reid, Dean Ramberg, Keith Marshall (excused)

Meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Devotions/Prayer: Dave shared a devotion on steward leadership based on Jeremiah (vs 9) and an article by Ralph Jacobson on stewardship (steward is servant or slave put in temporary leadership of someone else's property) and opened the meeting with prayer.

Staff update: Tiana Gaulke - Just wrapped up Sunday School this past week. Committed teachers and good year. 2 teachers for next year Sunday school so far.

Gearing up for Vacation Bible School - already 135 registered. Rotate Kindergartens in with regular curriculum but keep them separate from big kids. Keith is going to run a curriculum and use the sixth graders as his team and then Terri is trying to plan a field trip for them at the end. Didn't have enough volunteer staff to do 6th Grade Rocks this year. Could still use more adult leaders for VBS.

Julie - Office Ministry is going very well. Heading into summer now and anticipating that the workload will ease up a bit and will be able to tackle some projects such as updated phone directory and office organization. Very thankful to Pastor Elaine and Intern Keith for their contributions to a positive work atmosphere for all the staff. Bookkeeping continues to be a bit challenging due to inconsistency of giving month to month. Would like to see a more accurate representation in the bulletin of the financial state, showing the difference between planned ministry expenses and actual spending which is considerably less due to low funds. Concern as we enter low summer giving months.

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

Pastor's Report: The busyness of Easter season has abated, but the church is still alive and active. This past month has seen a lot of activity in the church. I still go to text study each week, have staff meeting every other Wednesday, meet regularly with Keith and plan worship and other activities in the church.

This month saw a lot of baptisms, adult and infant. This is always exciting in the life of a church.

I attended both the Southwest Washington Synod meeting and the meeting of Olympia Presbytery, continuing to be connected to both denominations - Presbyterian and Lutheran.

Most of the team meetings this month had to do with getting ready for the light summer months and planning for the Mission Fair as well as Fall programming.

Keith and I continue to enjoy the Thursday morning Bible Study. We are digging into the Book of The Revelation.

I had quite a few hours spent in pastoral counseling this month - more than usual, as well as a memorial service and a lot of calling and one member in the hospital. It has been a busy month of pastoral care.

I enjoyed meeting with the Stephen Ministers this month bringing with me a speaker on Ministering to those going through divorce. This is such a special ministry and I am delighted to be part of it. It was great, too, to be part of The Affirmation of Baptism of our Confirmation students. What a joy to be part of their growing into the life of the church.

We completed this month with the Ministry Fair yesterday at the church. Although we did not have a lot of people sign up to join Ministry Teams, we did have a lot of people visit the tables and find out how much we do here at Creator, both in the church and the community. It was a success. Summer is usually a slower time in the life of the church, but there will still be worship, worship planning, pastoral calling and counseling, VBS, Bible Studies and the ongoing work of the church. I will be taking some vacation time and study leave as well as attending a two day conference in Seattle.

I am excited about our experimental 8:00 am worship service. Most of the people who said they will be coming to it said they often do not come to the 9:30 in the summer months. I am hoping we can keep the attendance up at both services.

The Adult Education Team will be hosting a New Member picnic at my home in July. We are doing this in place of the Companions on the Journey that was successful in January and February, but probably not a good idea in the summer months. So far we have 12 people coming (out of a possible 44 - members, their families and team members and their families).

Intern Report: Taught a class "Lutheranism, Culture, and Beyond." In the class I presented ideas about culture, Lutheran theology, and my hope for the church in the future.

Looking ahead to teaching a class later this summer on the Augsburg Confession. I have some interest in that the class. Times and dates TBA.

Pastor Elaine and I finished my final evaluation. I will be working on the final with the Intern Committee tomorrow night.

Was honored by being asked to be the speaker at the confirmation student's night of celebration. Attended Synod Assembly. A great time of worship and to catch up on the business of the SWWA Synod.

Continue to preach, lead worship, and attend committee meetings.

Continue to meet with people in their homes for pastoral visits.

I had my final interview with the synod's candidacy committee. At that meeting I was approved for Ordination in the ELCA.

Will be gone for vacation Sunday July 23rd and will be preaching at Hope in Enumclaw August 3rd.

Treasurer's Report: Spent some time with Julie on Audit results. Many items have already been addressed. Statements time periods have already been adjusted. Some other items will need Council input and action. Tom volunteered to look into Power Church costs.

May was a low giving month so some of the gains from the past two months have been diminished. Actual giving for May was \$25,565 and May expenses were \$31,814. Bulletin items regarding the budget need to be as current as possible.

Ministry Team Reports:

Church in Society - The team met in June 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 - Are working on planning a fun multi-generational for each events

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 - Tawny will do an article on Adult Ed for Stewardship. Will continue to highlight Ministry Teams in the Prayers of the Church.

Invitation and Outreach - They are currently making their summer plans. Filling the welcome center but more importantly manning the 'creator" booth at several summer events including Bonney Lake Days.

Finance - Nothing new this month.

Stephen Ministry - They will be continuing their twice monthly meetings during the summer. They are also planning for a small summer gathering celebrating the past year. They will again be looking for new members.

Foundation Fund Ministry - Foundation Fund met on May 29. Checks for the funds to be disbursed in 2014 (Luther Seminary for Megan Dahn and 2015 Holocaust Conference at PLU) were available and signed. The team recommended adding team members to the information available on the website so anyone who might need further information about the Foundation Fund would know who

to contact. The team continued to work to update the *Governing Rules and Procedures* of the Foundation Fund.

Call Committee - The committee is continuing their work in the *Call Process*. Visits have been made to churches of candidates under consideration for call to Creator. The team is scheduled to have 3rd face-to-face interviews next weeks. The team has been in a bit of recess for the last two weeks as there were several members with *Graduations*, end of the school year activities, and *Father's Day* plans. They will begin meeting regularly again this next week and hope to have a candidate to recommend in the near future.

Preschool - End of year is completed and they are continuing to accept registration.

Advocacy - Nothing new this month

Old Business:

Bulletin - Decision was made to remove the *General Fund Balance* from the weekly bulletin, as it doesn't give a very broad picture and instead highlight *Congregational Ministry Plan* estimated Giving and Estimated Ministry Expenses.

New Business: *Congregational Meeting*

- *Constitution changes* - Ruth will present proposed changes to the Constitution at the congregational meeting.
- *Election of Council Members*: The slate of candidates to be presented for council elect positions are:
 - President Elect - Ron Noborikawa
 - Treasurer Elect - Kevin Davis
 - Secretary Elect - Jan Shabro
 - Director of Operations Elect - Nikole Spenny
- *Ministry Team Leaders*:
 - Church in Society - Paula Eismann and Stephanie Nehser
 - Stewardship - Monica Hurley
 - Adult Education - Tawny Mitchell
 - Fellowship - Petra Karr
 - Y&F/Children's Education - Jen Heineman
 - Property - Mark Freisthler
 - Worship - Dean & Leah Ramberg
 - Small Groups - Melinda Shunk
 - Invitation & Outreach - Mike Rutkosky
 - Stephen Ministry - Deborah Anderson and Cindy Totten
 - Advocacy - Dave Anderson
 - Foundation - Chris Grigg
- *Letter for New Sabbatical Seed Grant Program* - In an effort to support Sabbatical for Pastors and AIM the SW Synod has developed a *Seed Grant Program* specifically for congregation who do not have an existing Sabbatical Program for their pastors or AIMS. The grant would cover the

majority of the expense for the first sabbatical. The letter and document explains the process for application.

- Synod Assembly Report: Katrina, Amazing Worship Session. Breakout Sessions "4 Greetings before you sit down". 1.parking lot greeters, 2.greeter, 3. someone in Narthex, 4. sanctuary before they sit down. Show guests restrooms, and nursery. Name-tags - don't always make belonging.
- Council Members should pass along official records to the new officers and can turn keys into the office.

Good of the Order: Tom thanked all the outgoing council leaders for their work.

Rexanne shared briefly her experience on her pilgrimage on the Camino and gave each council member a gift to remind them of their on personal journeys.

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

Tom made motion to adjourn.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 8:55 p.m.

In His Service,

Ruth Perkins

Council Secretary

Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting: July 14, 2014

Snacks/Devotions