

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of East Bethel
19001 Jackson Street Northeast
East Bethel, MN 55011

Thursday, April 14, 2011

DRAFT TO BE APPROVED AT THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING

6:30 p.m. – monthly church council meeting in the Music Room

Members present: Greg McGarry, Tom Olson, Sherry Allenspach, Fran Munday, Becky Beck, Sheri Bachman, Pastor Brian Fragodt, Lois Mayabb, Gail Bloxham, Gary Kortemeier, Pastor Dan Nordin

Guests: Cindy Delmonico, Kay Carlson, Brad Mills

Members excused Ben Bjornson, Mike Roark

Devotions: Sherry Allenspach, Chapter 12 of What Really Matters

President Tom Olson called the meeting to order.

Secretary's report: Motion was made, seconded and approved to accept the minutes as written.

Guest, Brad Mills, presented proposal on behalf of Mitch Teidke to open a coffee café called 3rd Place Café. This is would be an Eagle Scout project for Mitch. Considerations include:

- Cost to Our Saviour's would be zero. Mitch would raise money to build furniture, etc.
- Would be open and welcoming to all ages
- Not a fundraiser. Run by Youth Board and profits, if any, will be dispersed at the discretion of the Youth Board.
- Problem with space during funerals, weddings, etc. This could be positive in that it is a welcoming area.
- Ideas for decorating space include could include electric fireplace , lego play area for kids, artwork (from local youth), coffee shop concerts
- Coffee served is Caribou plus smoothies and tea.
- Hours would be Sunday's and Wednesday's to start.
- Staffed by youth
- CONCERNS: accommodating seating during Sunday hospitality, special events, etc. Tables do not fit the décor of rest of church and not suitable for some events held, such as women's tea party. Another concern is on Wednesday night that the additional noise would disrupt the bible study series that share that area of the gathering space.

Glen Allenspach made an AMAZING pot that looks very similar to the pot in which the Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered. He has given this as a gift to the church. Suggestions are needed with how to display.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Stewardship: Greg McGarry reported that the team finished the "Journey of the Heart" bookmarks. These will be inserted in the bulletins on Easter Sunday and given to each guest.

Mutual Ministry: Fran Munday reported there will be a meeting with the pastors on April 27th and then their first meeting is scheduled for May 15th.

- Preschool: Gary Kortemeier reported that there are currently 42 students enrolled. They are looking for additional ways to advertise to, hopefully, increase the enrollment. Pastor Brian had chapel with them today.
- Divorce Group: Lois Mayabb reported that over the past several months no one has shown up, but this last month two participants were in attendance. These individuals mentioned they were worried about trust and Lois assured them that what was said in the meetings was held in confidence.
- Grief Support Group: Fran Munday said this group is similar to the Divorce Group and there have not been many participants, but at the last meeting there were a couple of participants. She also mentioned she received a call that there were a couple of students that needed copies of Justice of Marlys for book reports they are doing.

Patrick Breshnahan has put wheels on the marble alter at the Ministry Center so it can be brought over to the Jackson Street location. However, this was discussed at the March meeting when it was decided that the alter was too heavy to keep at the Jackson Street location. In March a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously passed to seek a storage space for the marble alter until a permanent location is identified or Phase 2 has been built.

Discussions from the book IT:

- Ever have a church that had “it” and lost “it”? What happened?
 - Senior pastor left and incoming pastor did not have same connection to congregation and almost lost what was there (youth, excitement)
- What did “it” feel like and what are some qualities experienced and appreciated?
 - Feels like family
 - It moves you
 - Holy Spirit takes over
- What part of our ministry has “it”?
 - Communion being given by lay persons and not just the pastors
 - People are empowered here
 - Pastors
 - Climate of encouraging the various gifts of the people
 - Grace is shown here
- Other churches that had everything, but did not have “it”? What happened?
 - Not welcoming
 - Now allowed to take communion
- People who have “it” – what about them is contagious?
 - Confidence
 - Willingness to share themselves

Reviewed strengths of Our Saviour’s:

- How we make members and visitors feel when they come here
- How we reach out
- Quality pastors
- Building relationships

Next steps:

- Long Range Planning group will be meeting on how we can communicate better
- Small group to meet to identify who we are: “We’re the church that cares”

Sherry Allenspach reported that the outstanding bills from March of \$6,460 have now been paid. After Easter giving typically goes down and this will be communicated to the congregation following Holy Week. Sherry gave a special thanks to Kay Carlson for all the help she gives the finance team.

OLD BUSINESS:

Ministry Center: Interest in building has increased since the price was dropped.

Pastor Housing Allowance: Pastor Dan Nordin requested that his housing allowance be amended to the maximum allowed of \$40,000. This does not change the budgeting figures. This is an adjustment to the March meeting in which the housing allowance for Pastor Dan was \$27,000. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to amend Pastor Dan's housing allowance amount to \$40,000.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mail Bag: Nothing

Council Resignation: Al Fritsinger has resigned from council. Council will be accepting nominations to replace Al's position. Any suggestions should be given to Tom Olson.

"IT" Book Plan: Asked for donations to offset the cost of their book. The cost of each book was \$10.19.

Approval of 2011 Confirmands: A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to approve the list.

City Council: Town Hall meeting will be held April 27th at the Senior Center. It was encouraged that each council member attend at least one city council meeting to show a presence of Our Saviour's.

Senior Housing: Since water and sewer will happen it was suggested that a committee be formed to start the process of planning the housing project. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to form a committee.

Mission Funds: \$955.40 funds still available. Suggestion was made to donate \$300 to the North Anoka County Emergency Food Shelf and \$200 to Pre School to use towards advertising. A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously approving these donations.

Coffee Café: Our Saviour's supports the efforts of the Youth Group to continue in visible ways to further the missions and vision of the church, unfortunately, there does not exist a semi permanent facility for the coffee shop at this time.

Devotions for April: Becky Beck – Chapter 13 from What Really Matters

Goodies for April: Fran Munday

9:10 P.M. motion was made, seconded and unanimously approved to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Bloxham