

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

Thursday, May 12, 2011

6:30 p.m. monthly church council meeting in the office

Members present: Mike Roark, Becky Beck, Fran Munday, Sue Liemohn, Kasondra Day, Gail Bloxham, Pastor Dan Nordin, Tom Olson, Patrick Bresnahan, Greg, McGarry, Pastor Maria Pederson, Ben Bjornson, Sherry Allenspach, Susan Fanucci

Members excused: Lois Mayabb and Sheri Bachman

Guests: Ellen Kramm, Mark Kramm

Devotions: Greg McGarry led us in devotions on Chapter 13 of What Really Matters

President Tom Olson called the meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Ellen Kramm and Mark Kramm passed out copies of the revised church constitution that Ellen has been working on for the past year. The purpose of the revision is to make the document more "user friendly". Ellen Kramm explained that the Preface explains the merging of three documents - the constitution, the by-laws, and the continuing resolutions. Council members were urged to read pages XI – XII and to write down suggestions of additions and/or corrections to be given to Ellen Kramm at the June meeting.

**Secretary's Report:** A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the April minutes as written.

### **Team Reports**

**Youth:** Gail Bloxham reported that she has met with Brad to discuss youth activities. Next week there is a hiking trip to Taylors Falls planned. June is the NOISSIM (mission spelled backwards) event and later this summer there will be a Warrior Retreat in the BWCA in Northern Minnesota.

**Property:** Patrick Bresnahan reported that grass cutting has started and general outdoor cleaning up is happening including repairs to the sod where snow plowing did damage. A dead tree has been cut at the chapel. Repairs to the pump have almost been completed. It was proposed that a gutter be installed above the ramp at the chapel. It was suggested by the Hard Hats that more trees be planted along the fence line at the chapel if any ash trees die. Patrick Bresnahan is constructing a base with wheels to move the marble altar out of the Ministry Center. The altar will be moved to an undetermined site at this time. The matter will be brought to the Executive Team pursuant to C12.11.AO4.

Jerry Ryding has spoken to Tom Olson about the parking lot light problem. Sometimes the lights are on in the daytime. Solutions are being pursued.

**Long Range Planning:** Members are Pastor Brian Fragodt, Tom Olson, Ben Bjornson. Ben Bjornson reported that the committee is trying to consolidate all the things that make our congregation special into a few basic statements. Examples: you matter, we care. Then there will also be a communication piece and an action piece of the statement.

**Finance and Treasure's Report:** Sherry Allenspach reported all the bills were paid on time for April. The income is still short of the budget and will become more of a problem as the summer progresses. A deficit is projected by July. (This is an annual problem.) Soon the finance committee will be writing the budget for the next fiscal year. There will be a temple talk this coming weekend to encourage folks to not forget their church's needs even if they are out of town. The purpose of the temple talk is to be proactive before the finances are in crisis. It was suggested that perhaps we need to budget realistically. Motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to approve the treasure's report.

Pastor Dan Nordin brought up hospitality and it's use as a fundraiser. Different groups are competing for limited funds. A bit of a competition has developed as to who serves on which weekends. A committee of Pastor Dan Nordin, Sherry Allenspach, Becky Beck, and Greg McGarry will look into different ways to allocate funds and eliminate competition for finite dollars.

At 7:57 p.m. a motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously for a closed meeting. At 8:03 p.m. the meeting was reopened.

### **Old Business:**

Conversations with Council (second Sunday of the month) will be after the June council meeting. It was suggested that the congregation be reminded by a verbal announcement that council members will be in the gathering space after each service.

**Council Vacancies:** One adult and one youth positions are open and need to be filled. The terms are until the September annual meeting.

**Senior Housing:** Jerry Ryding is investigating the possibility of restarting the senior housing project on the church property.

**May 8, 2011 Minneapolis Area Synod Meeting:** Pastor Maria Pederson reported that there was a wonderful speaker that will also be speaking at the September 17th WELCA event. Congratulations were extended to Michelle Reichow for being elected Vice President to the bishop and to Susan Fanucci for being elected to the Global Mission Table (committee).

Many celebration moments were shared.

**New Business:**

No mail.

**Annual Meeting:** A motion was made, seconded and passed unanimously to set the annual meeting for Sunday, September 25, 2011. (The fall worship schedule begins on Sept. 11, 2011.)

**Preschool:** The Executive Team met with the preschool committee before the council meeting. In 2005 the council voted to make the preschool a ministry of the church. Other ministry directors' (youth, Sunday school, music, etc.) salaries are budgeted into the general fund. If preschool is a church ministry the director's salary should also be part of the general fund. It was suggested that a protocol is needed in order to make equitable financial decisions between all of the church ministries.

**2011-2012 Budget:** It is important that program staff be given realistic directions about how they make out a budget for the next fiscal year.

**Volunteers for June meeting:**

Goodies- Greg McGarry

Devotions- Mike Roark

Motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Susan Fanucci