

Bethany Lutheran Church Council Report

1. Reported By: Pastor Ruth Ann Loughry
2. Organization: Clergy
3. Date: 5.24.2011
4. Report Purpose and Scope:
Pastoral and Programmatic
5. Summary for Council:
 1. Celebrating Be the Blessing! What an amazing spirit filled day! Many, many thanks to Jess and the BTB team for designing, dreaming, organizing, calling, and attending to all the details to move 750 people in service to God and community. This is the kind of event that can change the ethos of a congregation. Even though it happened once, the effects can be on-going: understanding of 'service', acceptance of neighbors, call to action, compassion, outward gaze beyond Bethany walls. This is what Rick Rouse was talking in his sermon about being missional!
 2. I am so thankful to work with gifted colleagues. Kevin, Rit and Joni wrapped up the program year with style and energy. The annual Ice Cream Social and Carnival was fun in spite of the weather. Confirmation ended with great feedback from our parents and students. We narrowed our focus this year with concrete themes. The content and delivery systems were stronger than ever.
 3. Synod Assembly was excellent this year. We enjoyed Dr Rossing who discussed the theme, 'Our Daily Bread' and the claimed rapture of May 21. Plans are in progress as the synod prepares to elect a new Bishop at next year's assembly. The attendees will present an adult learning opportunity on an upcoming Sunday.
 4. It's been a rather heavy pastoral care month, with a couple of difficult funerals. The resurrection holds us!
 5. Thank you to all worked hard on the new budget and it's passing at the Annual Meeting on May 15. It was a team effort.
6. Detailed Plans or Next Steps:
 1. Rit is busy finalizing details for Vacation Bible School. We are grateful for all the adult and teen volunteers who drive that week of learning and fellowship. I'm excited for children to learn about Jesus' life and context as a young boy / man.
 2. Kevin and Tory are wrapping up details for the Equador trip. It will be another life changer for participants.
 3. We are continuing to give orientation to Janet Mortinsen, our new Director of Health and Wellness. It is clear that Janet will bring many gifts to our congregation with skill and care.
 4. The decision has been made to continue XYZ through the summer months. For many of the participants, it is one of their few social outings during the week. This doesn't incur a drain financially. Kathy Shearer, who currently acts as host, will continue in that position.

Bethany Lutheran Church Council Report

5. Pastor Ron's 30th Ordination Anniversary is this coming Sunday, May 29. We will mention him in the prayers. On a designated Sunday (likely August) we'll recognize him in worship and with a reception. Please thank and continue to support Pastor Ron. He is a gifted leader with vision and passion for the future of Bethany.
6. In addition to Ecuador and the WELCA Triennial, I will be focusing on some visions for faith formation and small groups this summer. A couple of short trips away are in my plans as well.
7. How are you praying and playing this summer? God's peace, Pastor Ruth Ann